

Theme: Christians pray to God to be protected from Satan and his temptations, humbly recognizing our need for God and His grace to sustain us.

## I. Foolishness In the Face of Battle

- A. The Civil War begins in earnest at Manassas
- B. Both sides thought it would be a lark and over soon
- C. Northern ladies and gents came out for a picnic to watch
- D. Ended as they fled the area in terror - rude awakening
- E. 4 years, 500,000 dead, countless wounded in the war
- F. Gross underestimation of warfare, their own strength
- G. How do we face our enemy, our warfare?

## II. A Prayer for Help in the Face of Battle

- A. The link with the previous petition  
And **forgive us our debts**, as we forgive our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup>And **lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matthew 6:12–13 KJV
  - 1. We had just asked for forgiveness for past sins
  - 2. We now ask for protection from future sins
  - 3. We recognize that sin is an ever present problem!
  - 4. Christians never outgrow this - a lifelong struggle!
- B. The battle - testing, trial and temptation  
And lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from evil: Matthew 6:13 KJV
  - 1. πειρασμός can mean temptation, testing, trial

- 2. Basic idea is “attempt to learn the character of something”
- 3. Nuance is determined by the purpose of the tester
- 4. Some examples showing range of meaning
  - a. Test or trial of our faith - 1 Peter 4:12  
Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery **trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 1 Peter 4:12 KJV
    - 1. This is not a temptation to do evil, but test and trial to make them abandon the faith
    - 2. It is the trial of persecution that is in view
  - b. Temptation to disobey God and do evil  
And when the devil had ended all the **temptation**, he departed from him for a season. Luke 4:13 KJV
    - 1. This was not persecution, but temptation to disobey the Father
    - 2. It was a trial of Jesus, but with purpose to entice Him to sin
- 5. Usually understood as temptation here because of ‘evil/Evil One’ in second part of the verse  
And lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from **evil**: Matthew 6:12–13 KJV
- 6. When trials turn to temptations in battle  
Blessed is the man who perseveres under **trial**, because when he has stood the **test**, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> When **tempted**, no one should say, “God is **tempting** me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he **tempt** anyone; James 1:12–13 NIV

- a. Trial (v12) is πειρασμός; tempt (v13) is verb form
- b. v12 is clearly trial - note the word 'test' (δόκιμος)
- c. v13 is clearly tempt to evil - trial becomes temptation
- d. Our culture will do this this - pressure us to cave in and sin - it must be resisted

### C. Our enemy - the evil one - Satan

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from **evil**:  
Matthew 6:13 KJV

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from **the evil one.**' Matthew 6:13 NIV

1. Does this refer to 'evil' or 'the evil one'?
2. The Greek phrase τοῦ πονηροῦ can be either
3. I think most likely Jesus is referring to Satan - THE evil one

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, **the evil one** comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path...<sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of **the evil one**, Matthew 13:19, 38 NIV

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from **the evil one**. John 17:15 NIV

I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome **the evil one**. I write to you, dear children, because you have

known the Father.<sup>14</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome **the evil one**. 1 John 2:13–14 NIV

4. This means our struggle is not against humans - even under persecution - but against Satan

### D. Summary of this petition

"Do not lead us into a testing of our faith that is beyond our endurance, but when testing does come, deliver us from the Evil One and his purposes." - Donald Hagner

## III. A Humble Prayer Looking To Christ

- A. This is a humble prayer recognizing our own weakness  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matthew 6:13 KJV

1. This prayer is a recognition of our own weakness
2. A recognition that we need God's help in our battle

### B. Looking to Jesus in our struggle with sin

1. The doxology - God's strength & majesty!  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: **For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.** Matthew 6:13 KJV

- a. Doxology not in oldest copies of prayer, including manuscripts and the fathers
- b. But it is in very old manuscripts - including Washingtonianus and Didache
- c. Probably not original to Matthew, but may go back to Jesus, and certainly very early church

- d. And it is clearly a biblical idea!
- e. If you want to hear more - come next Saturday!

2. Jesus has overcome testing, trial and temptation for us!

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted** in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14–16 NIV

- a. Jesus was tempted (same word) in every way, just like us
- b. But he never gave in - even once!
- c. And He is now our High Priest interceding for us that we might be forgiven
- d. Through Him we come to God and receive help!
- e. Look to Jesus for help!

3. Jesus has overcome and defeated Satan for us!

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity **so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil** — <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become **a merciful and faithful high priest** in service to God, and that he might **make atonement for the**

**sins of the people.** <sup>18</sup> **Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.** Hebrews 2:14–18 NIV

- a. Jesus has broken Satan's power - for us!
- b. He is our High Priest - making atonement
- c. He is merciful and faithful to intercede for us!
- d. He gives us help in our own testing, trial, and temptation!
- e. Look to Him - He is all you need!

#### IV. Applying the Word

##### A. The struggle against sin and Satan

1. Friends this is a lifelong battle
2. We should never be cocky - we are weak
3. We will fail many test, give in to many temptations
4. But if we cry out to God - He will deliver us!

##### B. Coming to the Table to receive strength

1. Here we come to receive forgiveness for past sins
2. Here we see that Christ has battled for us - and won!
3. Here we come to receive strength for our own future battles
4. Come and receive forgiveness and strength from Christ today!

## Praying For Our Deliverance

Matthew 6:13 KJV

February 2, 2014

Communion

2 Timothy 4:18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:18 NIV

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matthew 6:9–13