

The Pastor and the World, Pt. 4: An Attitude of Dependence on God

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We come to the final part of how the Christian should use the world-by an attitude of dependence on God.

In 1 Timothy 4:5 Paul says that the creatures of God which we eat are "sanctified by the word of God and prayer." Our thanksgiving at meals is one way that we honour God. However, honouring God and depending on him goes far beyond saying grace at meals.

The word prayer specifically means appealing to someone in power to take action. It reminds us that since God is the Creator and Lord of this world, we are dependent upon Him and receive all things by His grace alone. We express this dependence in

continual prayer for God to supply the needs of his people.

Praying without ceasing involves humility. To lift up your soul to the Lord daily is to take the posture of one who cannot get what he needs and desires on his own strength. Whereas sinners look to the power, riches, and oppressive schemes of men, God tells us that men are lighter than air on his scales, and we must instead trust in the Lord and pour out our hearts before Him (Psalm 62:8-11).

This dependence teaches us contentment, for it is the exact opposite of the entitlement mentality that says, "I deserve these good things. And I deserve better." If God created the world, then he has the right to do with it as he pleases. He is the Lord, and we are his servants, created for his glory and for his pleasure. John Calvin said that Christians "should know how to bear poverty peaceably and patiently, as well as to bear abundance moderately."

A heart of gratitude, the mindset of a pilgrim, and an attitude of dependence distinguish a truly Christian use of the world from secular and pagan approaches. In union with Jesus Christ, we know the Creator of the world as our heavenly Father. Do you know Him as your loving and forgiving Father through Christ?

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