

## WCF Prayer:

### Chapter 21 - Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day

Gracious Lord

We praise you for the revelation that nature brings to us as it shows us that there is a God with Lordship and sovereignty over all things and all people.

We give to you Lord God the praise that such Lordship and Sovereignty commands. You are by nature good and you do well to all.

We confess our obligation to revere, love and praise you.

You call us to trust you and serve you with all our hearts, souls, and might.

Thank you that we can do this in worship.

We are so grateful that you have told us what worship is acceptable to you. We understand that our worship should be only that which you ask of us and not that of our own imaginations or devising.

Lord steer us from worshipping you in ways prompted by Satan or in ways using visible representations not prescribed by your Word, the Scriptures.

Thank you Lord for letting us know how to worship you and how that worship pleases you.

Lord, we commit to worshipping you as the only True God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Lord may we never worship anyone or anything else no matter what temptation we meet to worship angels, saints, or other creatures.

Gracious Lord, you have revealed that since the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden, we have not been able to draw close to you in worship except through a Mediator, no other mediator than Jesus Christ alone. We therefore come to you only in Christ's name.

Lord, in this worship, you grant us the gift of prayer, especially as we pray with thanksgiving.

We delight in the knowledge that these prayers are an integral part of worship. We bring our prayers of thanks in the name of the Son, and by the help of His Spirit.

Lord we know our prayers are pleasing to you when brought according to your revealed will. We want to pray Lord God with understanding, with reverence, with humility, eagerness, faith, love and perseverance in a language understandable to us.

Lord, you call us to pray for all sorts of people who presently live or will live in the generations to come. As we are tempted to pray for those who have died or for those who have sinned the sin unto death, lead us from such error.

- Lord we praise you that you have gifted us your special revelation of the Scriptures and that in worship they are to be read with a godly reverence.
- We thank you that you raise up men to preach accurately these Scriptures. Help us to listen with careful attention and in obedience as we understand, trust and revere you.
- Lord thank you that we might sing of your grace and find our hearts warmed by such melodies.
- Heavenly Father, you know your children so well. You have not only spoken your gospel to us but also given to us *visible words* in the **sacraments**. Lord help those who administer these sacraments to do so in a worthy manner and may we receive them humbly as instituted by Christ Himself.

Lord we thank you that praying, reading your word, preaching, praising and sharing in the sacraments you give us elements of worship and call us to attend to these regularly in worship.

Mighty God as we add that which is consistent with your word to our worship we include oaths and vows and solemn fasts for special seasons of thanksgiving. Please assist us to worship you in a holy and right manner.

Lord what liberty we have been gifted under the gospel that our prayers, in fact any other aspect of worship does not need to be tied to one place and that we need not be restricted in our physical position or posture as we worship. Lord you call us to be free to worship you everywhere in Spirit and Truth.

Lord we praise you that this is true when we share in private family devotion, true for our secret personal and individual devotions and true for our formal public assemblies of worship.

Lord take us through any temptation to be careless or neglectful towards corporate worship.

We recognise Almighty God that the laws of nature tell us that we should set a proportion of our weekly time aside for worshipping you our God.

We see this explicitly declared in your Word that mankind in all ages should worship you and especially on a day set apart for this purpose each week. Lord we thank you for the gift of this day of rest and directing ourselves towards you our God.

We see in your wisdom that from the beginning of creation you called us to worship and rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> and last day of the week. By grace to your people, since Christ's resurrection, you changed that day to the first day of the week – a New Covenant day to worship you with the new name, *The Lord's Day*.

- Lord we know our feeble natures, help us to be committed to that day of rest and worship.
- Lord help us to prepare for this day in such a way, that having ordered our daily chores we can be freed from these normal duties and responsibilities.
- Lord help us to prepare for and then live this day of rest as we set aside the normal thoughts that fill our working week. Lord help us lay aside even the normal means of recreation that we pursue at other times.

Assist us Living God to be committed to worshipping you on this special day of public and private worship. Lord God grant strength that we will not deviate from this worship except for true necessity and acts of mercy.

We bring this prayer with thanksgiving as an act of worship of you our God and do so in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour

Amen