

Sermon Handout
The Optimistic Church
Matthew 6:9-13

I. Introduction – The Lord’s Prayer

WSC Q102-103

Ps 103:19-22; Ps 119:41-48

II. Optimism in the early church

A falsehood we must prepare to refute: the hopeless church

I Pet 2:9-12 (Mt 5:16); II Pet 3:1-9 (Acts 2:16-17)

Consider Origen, Athanasius & Eusebius, *et al.*

(*contra* the Montanists, Tertullian, Papias [?])

(Also noteworthy are the Princeton theologians.)

III. Christ enables the church to be victorious Mt 4:1-11

Gen 3:4-19; Rom 5:12, 17-21; Heb 2:11-15

Satan’s efforts to divide the church must be resisted

II Cor 2:9-11; Mt 6:12, 14-15; II Cor 5:18-21

Be reconciled to one another.

Carry the gospel of reconciliation to the world.

Proclaim Jesus as King Ph 2:3-12; Rom 10:8-15

IV. Christ reigns from heaven until his enemies are put down

I Cor 15:19-25; Heb 10:12-13 (Ps 110:1)

Is 11:1-4; Is 61:1-3 (*see* Lk 4:16-21)

The church is charged by Jesus to do this very thing:

“Disciple the nations,” based on Christ’s supreme authority

Mt 28:18-20 (*cf.* Mt 6:10)