

## Prayer Of Agur

No. 272

### Introduction.

- I. James once asked this question. (Jas. 4:14).
    - A. He answered by saying. (Jas. 4:14). James impresses on our minds that life is brief and it can be taken away at any time.
    - B. **Moses** also taught a similar lesson. (Psa. 90:10).
      1. In view of the brevity of life, Moses prayed to God. (Psa. 90:12).
      2. Moses teaches that by recognizing that our days are short that we may get a heart of wisdom.
      3. It is so important that in the short time we have on this earth that we learn what is really important.
  - II. **Several hundred years after Moses penned the 90<sup>th</sup> psalm Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs.**
    - A. As we examine that book we find that Solomon was the principle author of this inspired book of wisdom, but he was not the only author.
    - B. The 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of Proverbs was written by another wise man by the name of Agur.
      1. Most likely many of us are now asking, **“Who is Agur?”** We have heard of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, and many others, but never Agur.
      2. **We know almost nothing about this man.** We only know he was the son of Jakeh, but because we do not know who Jakeh was that is not much help. The words **“do not refuse me before I die”** may imply that he was an old man or felt for some other reason that death was near.
      3. **Really all we know about Agur is his prayer, but you can learn a great deal about a person when you listen to him pray.**
        - a. We have all heard many people pray and we get the impression they are boasting or that they are talking to the audience rather talking to God. We reached this conclusion because the words are tailored more for the audience than God.
        - b. But when listen to Agur pray, we hear this humble man praying not to preach or impress, but to seek the help of the Almighty God of heaven.
    - C. I would like for us to study “The Prayer Of Agur. “
    - D. The prayer of this man is found in Proverbs the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 7-9.
- 7 Two things I asked of Thee, Do not refuse me before I die: 8 Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me**

neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, 9 Lest I be full and deny Thee and say,

**"Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.**

D. Agur, the inspired penman, here made a wise request.

1. It is a request that shows much about his **character**.
2. It is a request that show his **maturity**.
3. It is a request that we should **prayerfully consider** and learn its powerful lessons.

I. **Deliverance From Moral Contamination** - Agur prayed for deliverance from moral contamination.

A. He prayed, **"Keep deception and lies far from me."**

B. He wanted no part of "deception" or "falsehood." He was an honest and upright man who wanted to please God.

1. None of us like to be victims of deception though we often become deceived.

<b>Satan &amp; Allurements Of Sin</b> - Deceiver (Rev. 12:9). Heb. 11:25; Matt.4:8, 9.	<b>False teachers.</b> (Matt. 7:15)
<b>People who pretend to be our friends</b> , but are really using us and exploiting us.	<b>By riches</b> Jesus spoke of "the deceitfulness of riches." (Mk. 4:18, 19). Riches can lead us into all kinds of evil and promise a false security. (1 Tim. 6:10; Lk.12:15-21).

2. **We do not like to be deceived**, and it is vital that we be not deceivers.

- a. We must not be false friends, but true friends.
- b. We must be the kind of friend that is true and seeks to build others up rather than using and deceiving them.

C.. **Agur also wanted deliverance from lies.**

He knew <b>God hates lies.</b> (Exod. 20:16; Prov. 12:22).	The New Testament warns against lying (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:8).
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D. **We need to pray, like Agur, that deception and falsehood be removed far from us.** We must not lie and must not be involved in the lies of others.

II. **A Moderate Livelihood** - Agur prayed for a moderate livelihood.

A. He prayed, **"Give me neither poverty nor riches."**

1. This is a very wise prayer, but a prayer that is strange to most of us.
2. None of us want poverty, but most of us want riches.

3. Spent more than 50 years in church - heard thousands of prayers, but never this one.

B. Agur clearly gives the reason for not wanting poverty, **“lest I be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.”**

1. Men most often blame God for their poverty. If they are poor they are tempted to curse God for their circumstances.

2. **Absolute poverty also may lead us to do things we would not otherwise do.**

a. Many who say, “I would never steal” might change their minds if they are starving and their children are starving. Many who say, “I would never steal” might change their minds if they cannot get medicine and other essentials for themselves and their families.

b. **Jesus taught us to pray for the essentials of life.** (Matt. 6:11; 7:7-11).

C. **Agur requests that He be not rich.**

1. He gives the reason, **“Lest I be full and deny Thee and say, “Who is the Lord?”**

2. **Agur knew the rich often forget God and feel no need for Him.** He did not want to be rich because of the great danger involved. He did not want anything that would separate him from God. He knew it would be hard for a rich man to be saved.

3. **Jesus taught the same thing.** (Matt. 6:19, 20; 19:16-22, 23-24, 26).

4. **Jesus did not mean by this statement that no rich man will enter into heaven, but He did mean that it will be extremely difficult for the rich man to be saved.**

a. It will be hard for the rich man to be saved because most rich people **trust in their riches** rather than God.

b. It will be hard for the rich man to be saved because most rich people **forget about God.**

c. It will be hard for the rich man to be saved because most rich people **spend their time pursuing money** and enjoying it rather than worshiping and serving God and seeking the lost.

d. It will be hard for the rich man to be saved because most rich people **share very little of what they have with the poor.**

1) Yes, some rich people give money to the poor. Yes, some rich people give to charities.

2) Most, the vast majority of rich people, hoard their money and when they spend their money they spend it on themselves.

3) The rich want bigger homes, more cars, more trips, more luxuries of every kind. They live lavishly and give crumbs to the poor. They often resent the poor and feel like they deserve to be rich and the poor deserve to be poor.

## **Conclusion.**

I. **Brethren, most people have never seriously considered the requests of Agur,** but if we had only 2 requests to make it would be hard to improve the requests he made to God.

A. Let us pray that poverty will not come upon us that we might not be disgruntled against God and perhaps be led to cheat and steal to survive.

- B. Let us pray that riches come not our way that we be not tempted to forget God and others. Let us only seek worldly things in moderation.
- C. Let us live our lives wisely by spending our days loving God and keeping His commandments.
- D. Let us remember these words found in **Micah the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter**. (Mic. 6:6-8).

**6 With what shall I come to the Lord And bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? 7 Does the Lord take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my first-born for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?**

- E. Let us also remember these words. (Deut. 10:12-13).

**12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?**

- F. Remember **the apostle Paul** also said. (Col. 3:1, 2).

II. As we close this lesson, I pray all of us will be loving and humble and grateful and obedient. I pray all of us will focus on what is really important that heaven may be ours.

- A. Those in Christ Jesus are encouraged to continue to live close to God.
- B. Those outside of Christ are encouraged to come to Christ and make Him the Lord and Savior of your life. Submit to Christ in faith and repentance and be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins. Then live daily for the Master. Come as we stand and sing.

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