Sabbath Afternoon, January 3

Memory Text:

"And it came to pass, that as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." Luke 11:1

In the Lord's exemplary prayer is to be found the perfect way. There is the proper beginning, the proper place, the every-word replete with purpose and meaning—"our Father which art in heaven." Then follows the petition, "Hallowed be thy name." Then comes the petition, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth"—not in heaven, but "as it is in heaven."

Short, yet all-inclusive and without repetitions, it teaches us to approach our Father in heaven with a clear faith, which brings us into a closer bond of union with him than any other prayer. It teaches us to be submissive under our dependence on him for all our needs. It covers our sins and reconciles us to our Father, and makes us friends to our fellowmen, even to those who sin against us. It teaches us to ask for our daily bread, and not to be anxious and to labor for its coming. And finally, it leads us to ask that we can for the enlightenment of his will here on earth.

"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." Ps. – Psalm 19:12-14

Sunday, January 7

Fostering the use of the Psalms in Prayer.

"Thou art the God which doest wonders: you hast declared thy strength among the people." Psalm 77:14

"Thou hast made known unto us your strength; make a joyful noise unto God all the earth: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious. Say unto God, How terrible art thou in your works! through the greatness of your strength shall your enemies submit themselves unto thee." Psalm 66:3, 4

"The memoirs of the church contain a precious record of God's dealings with his people in times past. My brethren, allow me to commend to your study the prayers and songs of ancient Israel. The Psalms are a mine of wisdom, and the more we study the Bible, the more we shall be able to appreciate the wisdom of God, because of the wonderful changes that will take place in our characters