

b. A Matter of Guidance

(1) In vs. 13a we are given a very useful prayer concept. The worshipper confesses the honor of God's name and, along with what other matters may be on his heart, requests guidance that will move him correctly.

(2) "Lead us not into Temptation" should not suggest that God may direct us into the area of sin (see James 1 on this) but rather the prayer is to be delivered from a place of testing. Of course one of the outcomes of the testing could be sin. But the prayer is to keep us from the place of trial that may be too much for us. We understand that this is spoken to accomodate man's limited understanding...God knows how to care for us...but our desire (following yieldedness, etc., ) is not to face the testing ground.

(3) On the same tack he suggests we be delivered from "the evil one". This is a more personal reference than most English translations suggest and I think it refers to Satan himself. Perhaps the Lord's owns testing in the garden was in his mind. Deliver us from the evil one in effect asks that we be removed from the clutches of Satan. And we ask this confidently and dependently of the Father.

c. A Matter of Honor

(1) There is a problem in the Greek text and most of the better manuscripts do not have the expression of 13b. Therefore we comment on it only fleetingly for we think that, if the text is in doubt, yet the content of the idea is a solid one that can be supported in many other passages.

(2) We are dependent on his leading since it is his honor and person that are being established. With such a holy cause in view we do not find it hard to be in the company that delights itself in his will and way.