

**Scripture:** 1 John 1 – 2:6

**Singing:** 397:1, 3, 5 – 277:1-3, 6-8 – 143:3-4 – 451:6, 8

Intro:

A. Though the catechism treats prayer last, it is first in salvation

B. While we get into a *praying mode* Satan will get into *fighting mode*

C. Yet there is something that hinders prayer more than Satan

### THE 5<sup>TH</sup> PETITION

I. What 5<sup>th</sup> confesses? II. What 5<sup>th</sup> asks? III. What 5<sup>th</sup> reveals?

#### I. WHAT THE 5<sup>TH</sup> CONFESSES?

A. It confesses we need forgiveness **daily** even as saints of God

1. The upright heart will sense sin in praying petition 1-4

2. Yet the reality of daily sin need not *destroy communion* with God

B. It confesses that we believe there is forgiveness with God: Ps. 86:5; 130; Is. 55; Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18

#### II. WHAT WE ASK FOR IN THE 5<sup>TH</sup>?

A. We ask for *forgiveness* of our *sins* and *debts*

1. Not just our past sins but our present ones that ‘cleave to us’

2. We ask Him for sake of Christ’s merits on cross (blood) to ‘forgive’

a. God promised to do this *instantly*: *1 John 1:9; Luke 23:43*

b. He promised to do this *continually*: *Is. 55:7-9 ... Luke 17:4*

c. He promised to do this *whole-heartedly*: *Is. 43:25; Micah 7:18; Lk. 15*

B. We ask *to know* His forgiveness through faith in His promises (Ps. 61:2 51:12)

#### III. WHAT 5<sup>TH</sup> CLOSING WORDS REVEAL?

A. This does not reveal that God’s act of forgiveness is dependent on us

B. What do these words reveal?

1. that we *have a firm resolution* from the heart to forgive our neighbors
  
2. that we have forgiven with our heart the confessed sins of others to you
  - a. think not cheap – shallow about such the act of forgiveness
  
  - b. Luke 17:5 is the only power by which this is possible!
  
3. that we have tried to seek out the offended and offending saint/sinner
  - a. Luke 17:3-4 (you are the offended) – Matt. 5:24 (you are the offender)
  
  - b. all sins that harm your relationship needs ***uncovering & confrontation***

C. These words is breathed in truth reveal God's saving grace

For encouragement & warning

*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper:  
but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*  
Prov. 28:23