

EPIPHANY 5

THE COLLECT

O LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may evermore be defended by thy mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. What are God's people here called?
A. His C _____ and _____
(Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians2:19)
2. In what do we pray God continually to keep his church?
A. In His true _____ (Ezekiel 36:27)
3. Upon what only do we lean?
A. Upon the _____ of his heavenly _____ (Ps. 62:5)
4. By what may we hope evermore to be defended?
A. By God's mighty _____ (Isaiah 26:4)

INTRODUCTION.

Our lesson today is about Collects in general. What is the meaning of the term *Collect*? The Collects are so called either because the substance of them is *collected* out of the Epistles and Gospel, or because they are a brief *collection* of all things necessary for soul and body. Many times in these lessons you will notice that scripture readings are listed to show you where a Collect's phrase is supported in the Bible. (If there is no scripture listed, it is not because there is no supporting scripture, but more likely there is simply not enough room to print it on the page.)

Are the Collects in general of great antiquity? Yes. Most of them are at least 1300 years old, and many of them older. These prayers have been tested and prayed by Christians for centuries. Why is this important? It is often helpful to have a written prayer guide our thoughts and remind us to pray for things that we might otherwise forget. Also, it is comforting to pray these prayers that have stood the test of centuries. We can be assured that when we pray them, we are in accord with God's will.



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I. COLLECTS CAN USUALLY BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE PARTS:

Part 1: We address God. The address to God at the beginning of a collect was in earlier times always addressed to God the Father. Eventually the opening address was sometimes made to the Son or to all three persons of the Godhead. The conclusion (see below) will change accordingly.

Part 2: We refer to a glorious attribute (or attributes) of God, or to one of his saving acts.

Part 3: We make our petition. (this is what we are asking for)

Part 4: We give the reason for asking.

Part 5: We conclude. The universal ending was “through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord” because all depends on Him. Now, depending on how the address is worded, one of a few traditional concluding phrases will appear at the end of a given collect. These include:

“... through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.”
(addressed initially to God the Father)

“... who livest and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.”
(addressed to Jesus)

“... who livest and reignest, one God, world without end.”
(addressed simply to God — e.g., Trinity Sunday collect)

“... through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

“... to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be honor and glory, world without end.”
(addressed to God the Father; the *whom* refers to Jesus)

**These (5) parts are not always in the same order, and occasionally a part may be missing.*

II. MATCH THE PHRASES IN TODAY'S COLLECT TO THEIR PART.

Part # _____ **O LORD,**

Part # _____ **we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion;**

Part # _____ **that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may evermore be defended by thy mighty power;**

Part # _____ **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Which part is missing? Part # _____)

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