

Conclusion

In this petition of the Lord's Prayer our social responsibility is directly enforced. It is therefore not a prayer that should lightly fall from our lips. To utter that petition, and then go out and engage in some business which is putting temptation in the way of the weak, is surely to make us members of that class to which our Lord addressed the solemn warning: "It is impossible but that occasions of stumbling should come; but woe unto him through whom they come! It were well for him if a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, rather than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble" (Luke 17 : 1f.). To pray, "Lead us not into temptation," and simply shirk our responsibilities to the sorely tempted members of our social order, is to make it manifest that we are kindred spirits with that group of people who are to stand on the left side in the coming judgment, and receive condemnation because of their sin of inaction: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me" (Matt. 25 : 45).