

## **Selected Puritan Readings**

Conversion turns the balance of the *judgment*, so that God and His glory outweigh all carnal and worldly interests.

It opens the eye of the mind, and makes the scales of its native ignorance fall off, and turns men from darkness to light.

The man who before saw no danger in his condition, now concludes himself lost and forever undone--except renewed by divine grace.

He who formerly thought there was little hurt in sin, now comes to see it to be the chief of evils! He sees the stupidity, the deformity and the filthiness of sin; so that he is affrighted by it, loathes it, dreads it, flees from it, and even abhors himself for it! Romans 7:15; Job 42:6; Ezekiel 36:31

He who could see little sin in himself, and could find no matter for confession--now sees the rottenness of his heart and the desperate and deep pollution of his whole nature. He cries, "*Unclean! Unclean! Lord, purge me with hyssop, wash me thoroughly, create in me a clean heart!*" He sees himself altogether filthy, corrupt in both root and branch. He writes 'unclean' upon all his supposed virtues and good works. He discovers the filthy corners that he was never aware of, and sees the blasphemy, and murder, and adultery that is in his heart, of which before he was ignorant.

By Joseph Alleine (1634-1668)

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

### Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Hebrews 4:12-13

Song #327 ~ Every Promise

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 50:1-23

Song #15 ~ Behold Our God

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:1-19

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 13:8-10

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #225 ~ The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me

Psalm 1:3

He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not  
withering; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

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## Text: Romans 13:8-10

**Theme:** Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

**Introduction:** Although verses 1-7 and 8-10 seem disconnected, Paul connects these two sections by the idea of obligation. In verse 7 Paul says to give the government what is owed to them. In verse 8 Paul says to “owe” nothing to anyone except to love one another. We have an obligation to our government and to our neighbor.

I) Present yourself as a sacrifice by loving your neighbor (v. 8-10).

A. Love your neighbor by paying your debts (v. 8a).

1. Paul’s primary concern is not about going into debt (cf. Exod. 22:25; Psalm 37:26; Matt. 5:42), but rather about loving your neighbor.
2. Do you delay your payments, especially towards the poor (cf. Deut. 24:15)? For example, you may have a contractor working on your house. When he finishes most of the project, pay him a partial payment. Don’t hold onto the full payment while he finishes the touchups. This is not showing love to your neighbor.

B. You are under obligation to love your neighbor (v. 8b).

1. “Let your only debt that is unpaid be that of love—a debt which you should always be attempting to discharge in full, but will never succeed in discharging” (Origen).
2. The Law requires love towards your neighbor. The farmer was forbidden to glean from the corners of the field or to pick the fruit that had fallen on the ground (cf. Lev. 19:9-10), so that the poor could harvest some of the food.

3. Christ commanded the disciples to love one another just like He loved them (John 15:12). Then Christ identifies the depth of this love—to lay down your life for your friend (John 15:13). Even though you will likely never be called on to sacrifice your life, we are under obligation to love one another (John 15:17).

C. To love your neighbor is to fulfill the Law (v. 8c).

1. To love your neighbor is to fulfill the Mosaic Law, but no one has always shown love to his neighbor—even after regeneration. It’s possible that Paul is talking about our future state, but the context does not support this (cf. v. 11-13).
2. Since Christ did not come to abolish the Law (cf. Matt. 5:17), we are still under obligation to obey it. Our obedience to the Law does not change our status before God—our justification. In Romans 6, Paul asks whether we can continue in sin. The obvious answer is “no”. We have died with Christ, therefore, we can no longer live to our sin—we have a different master.

D. What does it mean to love your neighbor (v. 9)?

1. To obey the 10 commandments is to love your neighbor.
2. Love your neighbor by not lusting after her in your heart (cf. Matt. 5:27-30). Love your neighbor by not murdering him in your heart (cf. Matt. 5:21-22). Love your neighbor by not stealing from him. Love your neighbor by not coveting what she has.

E. Does loving your neighbor exclude anything (v. 10)?

1. To love your neighbor means that you never do wrong to them in any way. You actually put their interests above yourself (cf. Phil. 2:3).