

## **Selected Reformation Readings**

“Abel’s sacrifice was for no other reason preferable to that of his brother, except that it was sanctified by faith: for surely the fat of brute animals did not smell so sweetly, that it could, by its odour, pacify God. The Scripture indeed shews plainly, why God accepted his sacrifice, for Moses’s words were these, ‘God had respect to Abel, and to his gifts.’ It is hence obvious to conclude, that his sacrifice was accepted, because he himself was graciously accepted. But how did he obtain his favour, except that his heart was purified by faith.

‘God testifying...’ He confirms what I have already stated, that no works, coming from us, can please God, until we ourselves are received into favour, or to speak more briefly, that no works are deemed just before God, but those of a just man: for he reasons thus,—God bore a testimony to Abel’s gifts; then he had obtained the praise of being just before God.

This doctrine is useful, and ought especially to be noticed, as we are not easily convinced of its truth; for when in any work, anything splendid appears, we are immediately rapt in admiration, and we think that it cannot possibly be disapproved of by God: but God, who regards only the inward purity of the heart, heeds not the outwards masks of works. Let us then learn, that no right or good work can proceed from us, until we are justified before God.”

~ Excerpt from *Calvin’s Commentaries (Hebrews 11:4)*  
by John Calvin (1509-1564)

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

## Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Hebrews 4:14-16

Song #199 ~ How Deep the Father’s Love for Us

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 58:1-11

Song #257 ~ Look, ye Saints! The Sight is Glorious!

Scripture Reading: Psalm 59:1-17

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 14:7-9

Prayer

Lord’s Supper

Song #225 ~ The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

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## Text: Romans 14:7-9

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

I) Because every Christian serves his Master, you should accept your brother even though you have differing viewpoints on civil and ceremonial law (v. 7-8).

A. Christians do not live or die for their own advantage (v. 7-8a).

1. There is no such thing as a rogue Christian. You have a Master whom you serve. Notice that the Apostles viewed themselves as servants of the Lord (cf. Rom. 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1; Rev. 1:1).
2. When you judge rather than accept your brother or sister in Christ over issues of conscience you are acting as though the Lord is not your Master (cf. Phil 1:21).
3. What does it look like to judge your brother or sister in Christ?
  - i. The Pharisees judged the disciples for eating with sinners (Luke 5:27-32).
  - ii. The disciples judged the woman for “wasting” her money on the perfume when her money could have gone to better purposes (Matt. 26:6-13).
4. When should you judge your brother or sister in Christ?
  - i. You should judge your brother or sister in Christ when they are clearly and defiantly breaking the moral law (cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-3, 5).
  - ii. Notice that Paul is not referring to unbelievers (1 Cor. 5:9-11). I think Christians wrongfully boycott secular businesses because they misunderstand this.

B. Christians live and die for their Master because they belong to the Lord (v. 8b).

1. We belong to the Lord because He is our Creator (cf. Ps. 139:13-16).

II) Christ’s death and resurrection gives Him the exclusive right and authority to judge (v. 9).

A. Christ’s authority to judge is proven by His death and resurrection (cf. Acts 10:39-42; Acts 17:30-31).

1. Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, he has been given the keys to death (cf. Rev. 1:18).
2. Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, every person will recognize His Lordship (cf. Phil. 2:7-11).

B. Not only does Christ judge the living, but also the dead (v. 9).

1. Even the Christian will give an account of himself to God at death (cf. Rom. 14:12; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 5:6-10).
  - i. Paul is not talking about our justification—we are legally declared righteous, but there is an evaluation that occurs at death for the Christian.
2. Does it bother you when others have a difference of opinion on issues of conscience? Do you feel like you have to “win them over” to your position? If so, you have forgotten that Christ alone is your Master and their Master. Let Him evaluate them on these issues of the conscience. I suspect this may be hardest for us as parents.