

Selected Puritan Readings

“Let us descend, if you please, into a nearer and more particular view of religion in those several branches of it which were named before. Let us consider that love and affection wherewith holy souls are united to God, so that we may see what excellency and felicity is involved in it. Love is that powerful and prevalent passion by which all the faculties and inclinations of the soul are determined, and on which both its perfection and happiness depend. The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love. He who loves mean and sordid things thereby becomes base and vile; but a noble and well-placed affection advances and improves the spirit into conformity with the perfections which it loves. The images of these frequently present themselves unto the mind and, by a secret force and energy, insinuate into the very constitution of the soul, and mold and fashion it into their own likeness. Hence we may see how easily lovers or friends slide into the imitation of the persons whom they effect, and how, even before they are aware, they begin to resemble them not only in the more considerable instances of their deportment, but also their voice and gesture, and that which we call their mien and air. And certainly we would as well transcribe their virtues and inward beauties of the soul if they were the object and motive of our love.”

~ The Life of God in the Soul of Man (pg. 23-24)

By Henry Scougal (1650-1678)

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Ephesians 5:22-33

Song #291 ~ O Church, Arise

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 13:1-28

Song #281 ~ O Great God

Prayer

Sermon ~ Matthew 16:13-20 & Matthew 18:15-20

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #64 ~ Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Revelation 19:1 After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."

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Text: Matthew 16:13-20 & 18:15-20

Theme: The church has authority to bind and loose.

- I) The local church exercises authority to bind and loose by membership and church discipline (Matthew 18:15-20).
 - A. The church never makes someone a Christian, the church only identifies those who have a confession and a life that demonstrates regeneration (cf. 1 Cor. 5:12-13).
 - B. Illustration: A US embassy does not make someone a US citizen, it only identifies true US citizens.
 - C. When a church disciplines someone out of their membership, the church identifies that individual as unregenerate (cf. 1 Cor. 5:5).
 - D. When a church adds someone to their membership the church identifies that individual as someone who has received God's Word and been baptized (Acts 2:37-41).
 - E. "To loose" is the same root word used for breaking the marriage covenant.

- II) The local church has been given authority by Christ Himself (Matthew 16:13-20).
 - A. Christ builds His church (Matthew 16:18).
 - B. Hell cannot overpower it (Matthew 16:18).

- III) Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 16:19).
 - A. Notice the singular pronouns in verse 19 even though the disciples appear to be nearby (Matthew 16:19-20).
 - B. Peter is the rock (Matthew 16:18).
 - 1. Christ is speaking in Aramaic and there is no distinction in the Aramaic (*Bar jona* in v. 17).
 - 2. Peter is regularly called Cephas—the Aramaic term for Rock (cf. Cephas in John 1:42; 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5; Gal. 1:18; 2:9, 11, 14—John, the Corinthians, Paul, the Jews).
 - 3. Peter is called a Pillar (Gal. 2:9) and a foundation (Eph. 2:20).
 - 4. Peter preached the sermon right after Pentecost (Acts 2:14).

- IV) This authority was given to the church (Matthew 18:15-20).
 - A. If someone persists in living in sin, the church is to put that person out (Matthew 18:17).
 - B. Notice the shift to plural pronouns (Matthew 18:18).