

Selected Readings

As gold is the most precious among the metals, so is faith among the graces. Faith cuts us off from the wild olive of nature, and grafts us into Christ. Faith is the vital artery of the soul: 'The just shall live by his faith' (Hab. 2:4). Such as are destitute of faith may breathe, but they lack life... When I believe God's love to me, this makes me weep that I should sin against so good a God. Faith is the mother of hope; first we believe the promise, then we hope for it. Faith is the oil which feeds the lamp of hope. Faith and hope are two turtle-dove graces; take away one, and the other languishes...

And the life of a saint is nothing but a life of faith. His prayer is the breathing of faith (Jas. 5:15). His obedience is the result of faith (Rom. 16:26). A godly man by faith lives in Christ, as the beam lives in the sun: 'I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me' (Gal. 2:20). A Christian by the power of faith sees above reason, trades above the moon (2 Cor. 4:18). By faith his heart is finely quietened; he trusts himself and all his affairs to God (Psa. 112:7).

~Excerpts from *The Godly Man's Picture*

by Thomas Watson

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 40:9-17

Song #98 ~ I Waited Patiently

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 25:1-55

Song #119 ~ I Hear the Words of Love

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 12:14

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song ~ The Look

Psalm 40:5

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which you have done, and Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.

Pastor Dan Benitez ~ 813-751-4305

www.CalvaryBaptistTampa.com

Text: Romans 12:14

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

I) Bless those who persecute you.

A. What does it mean to bless?

1. Imitate Christ by asking God to have favor (bless) upon such a one (Matt. 5:44).

2. This follows the teaching (Luke 6:28; Matt. 5:11) and example (Luke 23:33-34) of Jesus.

B. What is persecution?

1. The nature of persecution is personal—including, but not limited to, verbal insults or slander (Matt. 5:10-11).

2. The reason for persecution—"on account" of Christ. That is, for Him, for His Kingdom, for the fame of His Name.

II) Bless and do not curse.

A. What does it mean to curse?

1. Cursing refers to calling down God's wrath on someone who has personally wronged you for the sake of Christ.

i. This is the common use of this word (cf. Matt. 25:41).

ii. There are many other words that Paul could have used if he intended the idea of slander (cf. 1 Pet. 2:12).

Objection: What about the imprecatory prayers of the Psalms (Psalm 7; 35; 55; 58; 59; 69; 79; 109; 137; 139)?

i. These Psalms call for a general judgement of the enemies of God.

2. You ought not to curse someone because you are not God (Rom. 12:17, 19).

3. Since we have cursed God Almighty in our hearts, we must constantly remind ourselves when we are insulted for Christ's sake that we deserve 10,000 more insults in hell. Our motivation to bless is directly proportional to the heartfelt acknowledgement of Christ becoming a curse for us. (Matt 18:21-35)