

Selected Reading

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

I entreat you to devote one solemn hour of thought to a crucified Savior--a Savior expiring in the bitterest agony.

Think of the cross, the nails, the open wounds, the anguish of His soul.

Think how the Son of God became a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, that you might live in Heaven forever.

Think as you lie down upon your bed to rest, how your Savior was lifted up from the earth to die.

Think amid your plans and anticipations of future gaiety, what the redemption of your soul has cost, and how the dying Savior would wish you to act. His wounds plead that you will live for better things."

"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness" 1 Peter 2:24

~ Albert Barnes (1798-1870)

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 62:1-8

Song #136 ~ My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 42:1-11

Song #242 ~ Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Scripture Reading: Psalm 43:1-5

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 12:20-21

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #225 ~ The Blood Jesus Speaks for Me

Isaiah 33:6

And He will be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

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Text: Romans 12:20-21

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

I) Present yourself as a sacrifice by overcoming evil with good (v. 20-21).

A. Do not stand idly by while your enemy is in need (v. 20).

1. Our tendency is to do nothing when our enemy is in need. We may even justify our indifference, but God is not pleased. God severely judged the Edomites for failing to help Israel in their time of need (cf. Obadiah 1:5-6, 10-14).

B. If the opportunity arises, help your enemy out with tangible needs (v. 20; Proverbs 25:21-22).

1. How is it possible to help your enemies? Don't forget that you were once God's enemy (Rom. 5:10), but God, who is rich in mercy, reconciled you back to Himself.

C. When we serve our enemies, it may cause them to feel the weight of their guilt.

1. There is another possible interpretation to the phrase "heap burning coals on their head." Some have taken this phrase to refer to being kind to your enemy so that God will reign down judgment on them. This interpretation is unlikely because Paul has just said not to take vengeance. This interpretation seems very close to revenge (cf. v. 19).

2. In Book 2 of Pilgrim's Progress, Contrite described the atmosphere at Vanity Fair after the martyr of Faithful. "They are much more moderate now than formerly. You know how Christian and Faithful were used at our town; but of late, I say, they have been far more moderate. I think the blood of Faithful lieth as a load upon them till now; for since they burned him, they have been ashamed to burn any more."

D. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (21).

1. Joseph understood what it was like to have enemies. His brothers wanted nothing more than to see his demise (Gen. 37:18-20). Yet, when the tables were turned, Joseph treated his brothers with kindness (Gen. 45:1-3). In fact, Joseph's brothers were concerned after their father's death that Joseph would hold a grudge (Gen. 50:15-20). Joseph could treat his brothers with kindness because he knew that God was ultimately in charge and that He planned it for good.

2. It seems foreign for us to talk about persecution, but for much of Christianity persecution has been common. When John wrote to the Church of Smyrna, he warned them of the coming tribulations. In fact some of them would die (Rev. 3:8-10). Some day this may be reality for us. How do we prepare for this? By growing in our knowledge of God—particularly the sufferings of Jesus Christ. Let us anticipate our participation in the sufferings of Christ.