

Selected Puritan Readings

Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.

[Contentment] is the inward submission of the heart.... Not only must the tongue hold its peace; the soul must be silent. Many may sit silently, refraining from discontented expressions, yet inwardly they are bursting with discontent. This shows a complicated disorder and great perversity in their hearts. And notwithstanding their outward silence, God hears the peevish, fretful language of their souls. A shoe may be smooth and neat outside, while inside it pinches the flesh. Outwardly there may be great calmness and stillness, yet within amazing confusion, bitterness, disturbance and vexation....

If the attainment of true contentment were as easy as keeping quiet outwardly, it would not need much learning.

~Excerpts from *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*

By Jeremiah Burroughs

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Revelation 15:1-8

Song #233 ~ Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 44:1-26

Song #48 ~ O God, My Joy

Scripture Reading: Psalm 45:1-17

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 13:1-2

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #196 ~ His Robes for Mine

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 13:1-2

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

I) Present yourself as a sacrifice by submitting to your authorities (v. 1-3).

A. Everyone is to submit to their authorities (v. 1).

1. Christians must submit to their government. The wife is to submit to her husband. Children are to submit to their parents. Citizens are to submit to police. Employees are to submit to their employer.

2. We ought to submit to our authorities, even when they are overstepping their bounds. Claudius, an Emperor of Rome, wrongfully evicted the Jews from Rome sometime around 50 AD (cf. Acts 18:2). Paul wrote Romans around 57 AD during the reign of Nero. Around 64 AD Nero would begin to persecute Christians. Even though both Jews and Christians would be treated unfairly, Paul admonished them to submit to their authority.

3. There is one exception—when your authority tells you to do something which is clearly against God (cf. Acts 4:17-20; Genesis 39:7-9; Daniel 3:12-18).

B. We must submit because God ordains all authorities.

1. Every authority—even wicked ones—are established by God and must be submitted to (cf. Dan. 2:21, 37-38; Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; Dan. 5:21; Prov. 8:15-16; Jer. 27:5-6; Is. 45:1-7).

2. What does it look like to submit to your authority?

Peter lays out what a submissive wife looks like in 1 Peter 3:1. Her behavior is such that she can win over her husband without even a word. Submitting to authorities is not simply referring to our actions, but also our inner thoughts.

3. Children ought to give careful attention to the instruction of their parents (cf. Prov. 1:8-9; Eph. 6:1-3; Ex. 20:12; Jer. 35:5-19). To submit to your parents is to give careful attention to their counsel.

C. Since God set up all authority, if you resist, you are resisting God (v. 2).

1. When Israel demanded a king, the prophet Samuel was offended. He felt like they had rejected him, but actually they had rejected God (1 Samuel 8:5-9).

2. How do we, as Christians, resist our government authorities? How can we respectfully submit?

D. Those who resist receive judgment (v. 2).

1. Not only do you receive judgment, you actually act as your own judge condemning yourself. You can translate verse 2 as “bring judgment on yourself.”

2. Ultimately, when you resist authority, you are defying Christ’s authority. You are denying His Lordship. When the kings of the earth rejected His Lordship, He laughed at them (Psalm 2:1-12). Those who resist receive the wrath of God (Psalm 2:11-12).