

Selected Puritan Readings

"To which I may add this dilemma to our Universalists:—God imposed His wrath due unto, and Christ underwent the pains of hell for, either all the sins of all men, or all the sins of some men, or some sins of all men. If the last, some sins of all men, then have all men some sins to answer for, and so shall no man be saved; for if God enter into judgment with us, though it were with all mankind for one sin, no flesh should be justified in His sight: 'If the Lord should mark iniquities, who should stand?' Ps. 130:3. We might all go to cast all that we have 'to the moles and to the bats, to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty,' Isa. 2:20-21. If the second, that is it which we affirm, that Christ in their stead and room suffered for all the sins of all the elect in the world. If the first, why, then, are not all freed from the punishment of their sins? You will say, 'because of their unbelief; they will not believe.' But this unbelief, is it a sin, or not? If not, why should they be punished for it? If it be, then Christ underwent the punishment due to it, or not. If so, then why must that hinder them more than their other sins for which He died from partaking of the fruit of His death? If He did not, then did He not die for all their sins. Let them choose which part they will."

The Death of Death in the Death of Christ (pgs. 61-62)

~ John Owen (1616-1683)

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ John 10:11-18

Song #155 ~ My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 27:1-34

Song #15 ~ Behold Our God

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 12:17-19

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #133 ~ He Will Hold Me Fast

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 12:17-19

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

- I) Present yourself as a sacrifice by responding differently to wrongs done toward you (v. 17).
 - A. What does Paul mean when he refers to evil?
 1. Christ used a similar idea to refer to someone who physically harms you (cf. Matt. 5:38-39). In response to this physical harm, the Christian does not take matters into his own hands.
 2. David was literally being hunted by King Saul. Twice, David had the opportunity to take King Saul's life, but instead David spared King Saul (1 Samuel 24:4-7; 26:8-10).
 - B. This important command is often repeated in the Bible (cf. 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9; Prov. 20:22; Prov. 24:29; Matt. 5:38; Luke 6:29).
 - C. Paul, who was a Roman citizen (Acts 16:37), and Silas were treated harshly at Philippi. Yet, in response to this unfair treatment, Paul and Silas sang hymns (Acts 16:25). Then, an earthquake caused the jail to open up, yet none of the prisoners escaped. This response was a powerful display of the Gospel (Matt. 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12, 15). Notice the guards response, "What must I do to be saved?"
 - D. Instead of responding with evil towards others, we ought to think about how to respond with good (v. 17b). Paul is likely quoting Proverbs 3:4. In verse 3, Solomon refers to kindness. When we respond with kindness towards others, in spite of their evil, the world notices.

- II) Present yourself as a sacrifice by striving to be at peace with everyone (v. 18).
 - A. The harmony that Paul described in verse 16 is clarified in verse 18. Paul is not saying that we should think the same about right and wrong, but rather, that we should strive to remove any obstacles that would hinder peace.
 1. For example, we unnecessarily bring up politics to an unbeliever. When you are striving for peace with all men, you will limit your discussion of controversial topics (i.e. Covid or environmentalism) to things that really matter—like the Gospel.
 - B. There will be times when it is impossible to be at peace with all men. You are heading in a different direction (cf. John 16:33).
- III) Present yourself as a sacrifice by never taking your own vengeance (v. 19; Deut. 32:35; Lev. 19:18; Prov. 20:22, 24:29).
 - A. God will pour out His wrath whenever He chooses.
 1. He may pour out His wrath in the present day (cf. Rom. 1:18).
 2. He may pour out His wrath to later generations (cf. Gen. 15:16).
 3. He may wait to pour out His wrath at the Great White Throne judgment (cf. Rev. 20:11-15).
 - B. Vengeance does not belong to you.
 - C. Remember that you deserve God's vengeance because of your sin! But instead, God sent His only Son to take the wrath which you deserved (Rom. 3:23-24).