

Selected Reading

So it is not irreligious, idle, or superfluous, but in the highest degree wholesome and necessary, for a Christian to know whether or not his will has anything to do in matters pertaining to salvation. Indeed, let me tell you, this is the hinge on which our discussion turns, the crucial issue between us; our aim is, simply to investigate what ability 'free-will' has, in what respect it is the subject of Divine action and how it stands related to the grace of God. If we know nothing of these things, we shall know nothing whatsoever of Christianity, and shall be in worse case than any people on earth! He who dissents from that statement should acknowledge that he is no Christian; and he who ridicules or derides it should realise that he is the Christian's chief foe. For if I am ignorant and uncertain of the nature, extent and limits of what God can and will do in me--though God, in fact, works all in all (cf. 1 Cor. 12.6). Now if I am ignorant of God's works and power, I am ignorant of God himself; and if I do not know God, I cannot worship, praise, give thanks or serve Him, for I do not know how much I should attribute to myself and how much to Him. We need, therefore, to have in mind a clear-cut distinction between God's power and ours, and God's work and ours, if we would live a godly life.

~Martin Luther, *Bondage of the Will*, 78.

Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything. For, to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.

~Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms (1521)

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Isaiah 57:15

Song #212 ~ In Christ Alone

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 54:1-7

Song #316 ~ Reformation Hymn

Scripture Reading: Psalm 55:1-23

Sermon ~ Romans 14:1-4

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #337 ~ My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

John 15:16

You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

- I. Accept your brother or sister in Christ (v. 1)
 - A. The Moral/Ceremonial context of Chapters 13-14
 - B. Not for the purpose of passing judgement on his opinions(v. 1b)
 1. *Judgement*
 2. *Opinion*

- II. The Weak in Faith (v. 2)
 - A. Historical Setting -- Jew and Gentile Christians in Rome
 - B. All things are clean(v.14)

- III. God's Acceptance of the Weak and the Strong (v. 3)
 - A. Those of different consciences ought not to have contempt for one another
 1. God's acceptance of our brother or sister with a different conscience undergirds our acceptance of them.

- IV. God is Judge, and Justifier (v. 4)
 - A. Your brother or sister doesn't belong to you.
 - B. Your brother or sister with a weak conscience will stand upright on judgement day because of the merit of Jesus Christ.