



**Small Groups Pulpit Curriculum - Wednesday, April 9th**  
***"A Heart of Excellence Always Honors God's Glory Above All Things" - Malachi 1:6-14***

Switzerland's prosperity as one of the richest and most successful countries in the world is largely owed to the transformative power of the gospel during the Reformation. Through faithful French Protestants, the message of salvation by grace through faith freed people's hearts from the bondage of false religion and ignited a passion for the glory of Christ. This spiritual renewal in the early 1500s led people to use every ability God gave them to work in excellence for the Lord, creating a nation marked by faith, hard work, and a deep reverence for God's holiness. They believed Christ's beauty, purity, and order should be reflected in every aspect of their lives, so with their skills and trades, they worked with all their heart and soul believing they would present their products into the hands of Jesus. The gospel shaped and transformed Switzerland into what it is today. We, as a church and as a nation, must repent of having a low view of God, of minimizing His worth, and follow their example of esteeming the Lord Jesus and His supremacy in every area of our lives.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What are some examples mentioned in the sermon on Sunday of ways that God is being devalued in our society and our churches today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What are areas in your own life where you might be valuing yourself (your desires, time, priorities, plans, rest) and devaluing God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Read Malachi 1:6-14. Do you give the first of your income, time, energy, resources to Christ, or simply offer Him what is leftover? In what areas do you need to repent and make Christ and His Kingdom your highest value and priority?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) It honors the Lord when we have margins in our schedules Monday-Saturday so that we are alert and ready to receive God's Word on Sunday. What are some of the margins that you need to implement this week in your corporate and personal life, as a way of honoring God?

- 5) Read Romans 1:18-25. What does God show us through this passage about the danger of belittling His glory and exalting ourselves? What can happen to our own hearts and minds if we do so?
  
- 6) Read 2 Chronicles 16:9. God will strongly support those whose hearts are completely His. Your heart does not belong to your family, friends, your business, but solely belongs to the Lord. Are there any ways that your heart is still divided between your own interests and the world instead of being completely given over to God?
  
- 7) Many times, when people grow up in an abusive home, their hearts give in to self-pity and they make excuses for their laziness. They coddle themselves and settle for mediocrity, thinking they deserve an “adult childhood.” How does the Gospel break this mentality, and free people to live according to a new identity as a child of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? Is there anything in your life right now that is feeding your laziness or self-pity?
  
- 8) Jeremiah 48:10 says, “Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord lazily.” Take the time to write out the ministries you are involved in. Are there any areas in God’s church where you need to repent of half-heartedness, or offering to Christ something that is half-baked? What are the specific things you need to do this week to take initiative and serve Christ with excellence?
  
- 9) In the power of the gospel, we are freed from mediocrity, selfishness, and personal kingdom building, to live a life of self-sacrifice, steadfastness, and holiness that reflects the beauty of Christ. Right now, make a list: what is excellent in your life and what is not excellent? What weight or junk stress needs to be removed so you can serve Christ completely unhindered?