

May 12, 2013

TIME OF REFLECTION

“Men cannot get off from the notion, that it is for some goodness or service of their own, either done or expected to be done, that God accepts and receives them into favor.”

~Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) in his sermon
“Pardon for the Greatest Sinners” (Psalm 25:11)

“For Your name’s sake, O Lord, ^{[[1]]}_{SEP} Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.”

~Psalm 25:11 (NASB)

“All those who do not at all times trust God and do not in all their works or sufferings, life and death, trust in His favor, grace and good-will, but seek His favor in other things or in themselves, do not keep this [First] Commandment, and practice real idolatry, even if they were to do the works of all the other Commandments, and in addition had all the prayers, obedience, patience, and chastity of all the saints combined. For the chief work is not present, without which all the others are nothing but mere sham, show and pretense, with nothing back of them... If we doubt or do not believe that God is gracious to us and is pleased with us, or if we presumptuously expect to please Him only through and after our works, then it is all pure deception, outwardly honoring God, but inwardly setting up self as a false [savior]...”

~Martin Luther (1483-1546) from “A Treatise on Good Works”

“Outwardly you keep the law with works out of fear of punishment or love of gain. Likewise you do everything without free desire and love of the law; you act out of aversion and force. You’d rather act otherwise if the law didn’t exist. It follows, then, that you, in the depths of your heart, are an enemy of the law.”

~Martin Luther from the preface to his Commentary on Romans

“The truth is not in the middle, and not in one extreme, but in both extremes.”

~Charles Simeon (1759-1836), English clergyman

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “Transforming Grace: A Whole New Way of Living Before God”

Pastor Don Willeman

SERMON PASSAGE – *Selections from 1 John (NASB)*

1 John 1:5-10

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

1 John 4:10, 16-21

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

¹⁶ We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

1 John 5:1-4, 21

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

²¹ Little children, guard yourselves from idols.