

August 11, 2013

TIME OF REFLECTION

“To even get near humility, even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert. Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call ‘humble’ nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.”

~C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

“It is the honor of Christ to save the greatest of sinners, when they come to him, as it is the honor of a physician that he cures the most desperate diseases or wounds. Therefore, no doubt, Christ will be willing to save the greatest sinners, if they come to him; for he will not be backward to glorify himself, and to commend the value and virtue of his own blood. Seeing he hath so laid out himself to redeem sinners, he will not be unwilling to show that he is able to redeem to the uttermost.”

~Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

“The will of God means death to our own will, and resurrection only when we have died to all our own plans.”

~Sinclair Ferguson (1948-present), Scottish theologian

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

~Romans 12:1-2

“Guidance, like all God’s acts of blessing under the covenant of grace, is a sovereign act. Not merely does God will to guide us in the sense of showing us his way, that we may tread it; he wills also to guide us in the more fundamental sense of ensuring that, whatever happens, whatever mistakes we may make, we shall come safely home. Slippings and strayings there will be, no doubt, but the everlasting arms are beneath us; we shall be caught, rescued, restored. This is God’s promise; this is how good he is.”

~J.I. Packer (1926-present), *Knowing God*

“And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

~1 John 2:17

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “The Guidance God Gives” – *Andrew Schuman*

SERMON PASSAGE – Psalm 25 (ESV)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly
treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast
love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my
transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and
faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and
his testimonies.

¹¹For your name’s sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

¹²Who is the man who fears the LORD?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should
choose.

¹³His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.

¹⁴The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear
him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.

¹⁷The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.

¹⁸Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

¹⁹Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.

²⁰Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.

²¹May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.

²²Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.