

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church
Foundations Class
Week 3 – March 21, 2021, First Principles Review

Resources Available

- *Westminster Standards*
- *Christianity and Liberalism* by J. Gresham Machen
- “Five Points” by John Piper (first two chapters)
- *Grace and Glory* by Geerhardus Vos
- *The Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life* by John Calvin
- *God Transcendent* by J. Gresham Machen
- *Pilgrim’s Progress* by John Bunyan – GCP children’s edition
- *The Religious Life of Theological Students* by Benjamin Warfield
- *First Catechism for Children*, GCP edition
- *Persuasions* by Douglas Wilson

1. Reformed Theology: What It Is and Why It Is Important

Cf. *A Brief and Untechnical Statement of the Reformed Faith* by B.B. Warfield

- a. The Formative Principle of Calvinism:

- b. Theology = Speech (Logos) about God (Theos).

- c. Reformed = Reforming church back to standard of God’s Word

2. The Heart and the Mind: What God Has Joined Together, Let No Man Separate

Cf. *The Religious Life of the Theological Student* by B.B. Warfield

- a. Articulating our goal:

- b. Protestant Doctrine of Vocation:

- c. Implications

3. The God Who Is

Cf. *Why I Believe in God* by Cornelius Van Til

- a. Everything, even the ability to have an academic argument(!), hinges upon God.

- b. The unbeliever claims “neutrality,” but this is a self-deceptive claim at best.
- c. The totality claims of God and of the Christian faith: there is no part of the believer’s life untouched by Christ (just as there is no part of the unbeliever’s life untouched by his unbelief).
- d. Not content to argue for a bare notion of God, but God as defined clearly in the Bible. Any other “god” is someone who can be approached on our terms because he is a “god” of our own construction.
- e. The unbeliever deep down knows the God of the Bible and wants to avoid this God. Romans 1:18-20
- f. The unbeliever needs CHRIST—the God whom we know by virtue of creation and whom we seek to suppress is the only one who can solve the problem we have created— and he willingly solved our dilemma in the sacrifice of his Son.

4. What is True Ministry, Biblically Defined?

Cf. The More Excellent Ministry by Geerhardus Vos

Sermon on 2 Cor. 3

- a. *There is a straightforwardness, a simplicity in preaching, which is proportionate to the preacher's own faith in the absoluteness and inherent truthfulness of his message.*
- b. New Covenant ministry is bound up with the person and work of the Savior.
- c. That ministry is to bring men face to face with the glory of the exalted Christ
- d. Paul’s New Covenant ministry is “a ministry of abundant forgiveness and righteousness.”
- e. The personal quality to New Covenant ministry

It was a reason for profound satisfaction to Paul that he needed not stand in the midst of the congregation of God as another Moses, partaking of a light from God in which the others could not share, solitary in his splendor, but that the larger share of what he affirmed of himself had through him become the possession of the simplest believer, a transfiguration of spirit like his own by the beholding of the Lord. Refracted from numberless mirrors, the light multiplied and intensified itself for each on whom it fell. Nevertheless, even so a measure of incommunicable distinction remained.

5. Family, Church, and State: Three Institutions UNDER God

Cf. *The Christian World Order* by John Murray

a. The family

“...ordinance of marriage with which the family begins. The history of this world is strewn with the wrecks caused by the abuse and distortion of the sex impulse... When sin wreaks its havoc here, when the sanctities, that guard and ennoble family life are desecrated and when family honor is laid in the dust, then all social order is out of joint and degradation reigns supreme in every realm.”

b. The Church

c. The State

6. Building AND Defending: Controversy in the Church

Cf. *The Good Fight of Faith* by J. Gresham Machen

“Everywhere we see the great apostle in conflict for the preservation of the church. It is as though a mighty flood were seeking to engulf the church’s life; dam the break at one point in the levee, and another break appears somewhere else. Everywhere paganism was seeping through; not for one moment did Paul have peace; always he was called upon to fight.

7. What Does the Church Exist to Do?

Cf. *The Christian View of Missions* by J. Gresham Machen

What is the Church? What is her task?

- **What is the Church:**
- **What is her Task:** Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)
- **Means:**

At the very heart of the real Christian missionary message is the conviction that every individual hearer to whom the missionary goes is in deadly peril, and that unless the message is heeded he is without hope in t Preaching Jesus Christ! As a Savior from divine wrath and from the awful bondage of sin. As the fulfillment of a glorious divine promise, as the culmination of a mighty divine plan shown in God’s written Word. His death and resurrection from the dead

8. What Happens When Human Reason Seeks to Usurp God's Word

***Cf. Total Depravity and Business Ethics* by Richard Gaffin**

a. Total depravity:

“The Bible **never** relativizes sin. To do so, it should not be forgotten, relativizes the gospel and gives rise to cooperate schemes in which we presumably contribute, no matter how minimally or covertly, to our own salvation.”

b. Common Grace:

The essence of common grace is one of divine restraint of: His wrath and judgment, Sin itself, and its consequences

REVIEW OF ROSARIA ARTICLE - Intersectionality