

JOIN US FOR AN 8-WEEK STUDY OF HTPC'S

First Principles

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with a central dot and two pointed ends extending outwards.

SUNDAYS

5:45 - 7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 8

in the fellowship hall

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

**1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!**

2. Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find:
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.

4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
 grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within:
 thou of life the fountain art,
 freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
 rise to all eternity.

Officer Nomination Process

1 Timothy 3:1-15 — The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so

1 Timothy 3:1-15 (continued)

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Review of Last Week

Reformed Theology: Formative Principle of Calvinism not the doctrine of predestination, but glory of the Lord God Almighty! [of which predestination is an indispensable part] Fundamental question posed by Calvinism is not “How can I be saved?” but “How shall God be glorified?”

“I believe...”

Herman Bavinck: One generation confesses its faith; the next generation often simply believes its confessions. Dead Orthodoxy.

Our goal: Warm, vibrant orthodoxy. [Not dead orthodoxy or heterodoxy.]

God-centered, Christ-centered, warmly relational and outward-facing.

The Religious Life of Theological Students

by B. B. Warfield

Background

Benjamin Breckinridge (B. B.) Warfield (1851 – 1921) was professor of theology at Princeton Seminary from 1887 to 1921. He served as the last principal of the Princeton Theological Seminary from 1886 to 1902.

An address given at Princeton Theological Seminary, on October 4, 1911.

Main point: Religious study and/or duty bifurcated from a religious posture is futile.

1. Summary

Old Princeton Seminary: *Faith and Learning* (both/and!)

“...study...in the presence of God...not in a secular spirit...”

“...pursuing studies in the environment where God and salvation from sin are the air he breathes...” [mountain climbing]

Corporate worship.

Prayer.

2. Ministerial Training

- a. Learning: Yes
- b. Apt to teach: Yes (therefore must *know*)
instructional, not merely *inspirational*
- c. But most indispensable thing for minister:
Godliness (see NT qualifications for office)

3. BOTH a student of God AND man of God

A minister must be godly **and** learned; not mutually exclusive. (Like soldier with right **and** left leg. Otherwise, false dilemma.)

“Ten hours over your books, **on your knees**”!

Not “either—or”, but “both.”

4. Duty of Religious Study

Religion sends a man to his work [all of it!] with an added quality of devotion [to God] *Consecrate!*

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see—
And what I do **in anything,**
To do it as for Thee. [WSC #1!]
If done t' obey Thy laws,
E'en servile labors shine,
Hallowed is toil, if this the cause,
The meanest work divine.

5-7. Protestant Doctrine of *Vocation*

Our duties [all of them = the pane of glass. God's glory = what is on the other side.]

Do you think of your calling this way?

No to secular-sacred dichotomy [Middle Ages].

“...do our duty—our plain, homely duty, whatever that may chance to be.” Divine right of every workman! (e.g., Ditch diggers). “Only laziness is ignoble...Reformation banishes the idle from its towns.”

8. Studying Theology Devotionally

Study! Prepare for death by knowledge of Greek grammar! (No shortcuts; gold dust!)

Do your duty. “just studying.” “simple daily duties.” Cannot build Christian character on foundation of neglected duty.

9. Studying Theology Devotionally

“It is possible to study — even to study theology — in an entirely *secular* spirit.”

Religion sends a man to his work with an **added quality of devotion**. Religion makes a man “do his duty, do it thoroughly, do it ‘in the Lord’.”

“Can a religious man stand in the presence of God, and not worship?” (Other disciplines also, even if less directly)

All theological study as “religious exercises.” Danger if cold and impassive heart.

“...your mind with your studies, but put **your heart** into them. They bring you daily and hourly into the very presence of God. Put the shoes from off your feet in his holy presence.”

10-11. Dangers of Religious Study

- Divine things seem common because customary; like man who breathes air with no thought of God.
- “But it is your great danger **only** because it is your great privilege. Think of what your privilege is when your greatest danger is that the great things of religion may become common to you!”
- “You will never prosper in your religious life in Seminary until your work here becomes itself to you a religious exercise out of which you draw every day enlargement of heart, elevation of spirit, and adoring delight in your Maker and your Savior.”

12-14 . Corporate Worship and Fellowship

- Gathered common **worship. Hebrews 10:24-25:** “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some [“see his lip curl as he says it”], but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Prayer and worship. “...give your presence and active religious participation to every stated meeting for worship
- **Religious community:** “To be an active member of a living religious body is the condition of healthy religious functioning”
- Take heed **HOW** you hear! Joyful worship and joyful prayer. [Versus *boring* services; *boring* preaching.] “If there is no fire in the pulpit it falls on you to kindle it in the pews...Take God..” with you to the sanctuary.
- Sermons: The meal or the platter?!

15. Corporate Worship: Christ's Example

“...he entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue, on the Sabbath day.” **“As his custom was!”**

“We cannot afford to be wiser than our Lord in this matter. If any one could have pled that his spiritual experience was so lofty that it did not require public worship, if any one might have felt that the consecration and communion of his personal life exempted him from what ordinary mortals needed, it was Jesus. But he made no such plea. Sabbath by Sabbath even he was found in the place of worship, side by side with God's people, **not for the mere sake of setting a good example**, but for deeper reasons.”

16. Private Religion: Closet/Heart

“...you must keep the fires of religious life burning brightly in your heart; in the inmost core of your being, you must be men of God.”

Immensity of task; infinitude of resources.

Prayer!!

Lightheartedness. (PCA removed “gravity” from BCO 8-1 as requirement for elder; Added “hospitality” in 8-3.) Seriousness of outlook.
Greatness of issue.

17-18. Man-Made Ministers (Ugh!)

“...go through the motions...”

“I starve with hunger treading out their corn, I die of travail while their souls are born.” Preaching to others; I am cast away.

Making others twice son of hell. “Even physical waters will not rise above their source.” “THERE IS NO MISTAKE MORE TERRIBLE THAN TO SUPPOSE THAT ACTIVITY IN CHRISTIAN OUTLOOK CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF DEPTH OF CHRISTIAN AFFECTIONS.”

19. Restless Activity to Drown Out Spiritual Poverty

Yes to activity. But not as substitute for true religion. *Busy Martha v. Prayerful Mary*. [Think of present social justice movement in church; or other outward adornments which cover up inner lack. Calvin quote re: outer ostentation v. inner reality]

Pray and work! “Do you pray? How much do you pray? **How much do you love to pray?** What place in your life does the “still hour,” alone with God, take?”

20. Angels Preparing to Sound the Trumpets

“Who is sufficient for these things...Lord, make me sufficient for these things.

Pure and clear and strong notes which “may pierce to the grave and wake the dead.”

Implications for Us