



“God is Spirit, and His worshippers must worship
in spirit and in truth.” —John 4:24

Philadelphia Baptist Church

February 05, 2012

Dear Lord! To us assembled here
Reveal Thy smiling face,
While we, by faith, with love and fear,
Approach the throne of grace.

Thy house is called the house of prayer,
A solemn sacred place;
O let us now Thy presence share,
While at the throne of grace.

—Samuel Medley
(1738-1799)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Memory Verse

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and accept-
able to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be con-
formed 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 (ESV)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hymn No. 339: *“It Is Well With My Soul”*

WORSHIP THROUGH SCRIPTURE

OT Reading: *Deuteronomy 6:1-9*

RESPONSIVE READING

Catechism of the Heart by Sinclair Ferguson

Question: What is the heart?

Answer: The heart is the central core and drive of my life intellectually (it involves my mind), affectionately (it shapes my soul), and totally (it provides the energy for my living).

Question: Is my heart healthy?

Answer: No. By nature I have a diseased heart. From birth, my heart is deformed and antagonistic to God. The intentions of its thoughts are evil continually.

Question: Can my diseased heart be healed?

Answer: Yes. God, in His grace, can give me a new heart to love Him and to desire to serve Him.

Question: How does God do this?

Answer: God does this through the work of the Lord Jesus for me and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in me. He illumines my mind through the truth of the gospel, frees my enslaved will from its bondage to sin, cleanses my affections by His grace, and motivates me inwardly to live for Him by rewriting His law into my heart so that I begin to love what He loves. The Bible calls this being “born from above.”

Question: Does this mean I will never sin again?

Answer: No. I will continue to struggle with sin until I am glorified. God has given me a new heart, but for the moment He wants me to keep living in a fallen world. So day by day I face the pressures to sin that come from the world, the flesh, and the Devil. But God’s Word promises that over all these enemies I can be “more than a conqueror through him who loved us.”

Question: What four things does God counsel me to do so that my heart may be kept for Him?

Answer: First, I must guard my heart as if everything depended on it. This means that I should keep my heart like a sanctuary for the presence of the Lord Jesus and allow nothing and no one else to enter.

Second, I must keep my heart healthy by proper diet, growing strong on a regular diet of God’s Word — reading it for myself, meditating on its truth, but especially being fed on it in the preaching of the Word. I also will remember that my heart has eyes as well as ears. The Spirit shows me baptism as a sign that I bear God’s triune name, while the Lord’s Supper stimulates heart love for the Lord Jesus.

Third, I must take regular spiritual exercise, since my heart will be strengthened by worship when my whole

being is given over to God in expressions of love for and trust in Him.

Fourth, I must give myself to prayer in which my heart holds on to the promises of God, rests in His will, and asks for His sustaining grace — and do this not only on my own but with others so that we may encourage one another to maintain a heart for God.

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

WORSHIP THROUGH SINGING

Hymn: “Jesus, Thank You”

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend,
The agonies of Calvary;
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

Your blood has washed away my sin,
Jesus, thank You;
The Father’s wrath completely satisfied,
Jesus, thank You;
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table,
Jesus, thank you.

By Your perfect sacrifice I’ve been brought near,
Your enemy You’ve made Your friend,
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.

Lover of my soul,
I want to live for You.



J.C. Ryle, “Growth in Grace” 1879

Another Mark of Growth in Grace, is increased spirituality of taste and mind. The man whose soul is growing, takes more interest in spiritual things every year.

He does not neglect his duty in the world. He discharges faithfully, diligently and conscientiously--every relation of life, whether at home or abroad. But *the things he loves best*, are spiritual things.

The amusements and recreations of the world, have a *continually decreasing place in his heart*. He does not condemn them as downright sinful--he only feels that they have *a constantly diminishing hold on his own affections*--and gradually seem smaller and more trifling in his eyes. Spiritual companions, spiritual occupations, spiritual conversation--are of ever-increasing value to him.

Would anyone know if he is growing in grace? Then let him look within for increasing spirituality of taste.



Sunday Evening Service—6PM

Why Do We Need the Puritans?

“There are two grand sides in the world, to which all belong: there is God’s side and those that are His, and there is another side that is Satan’s, and those that are his; two kingdoms, two sides, two contrary dispositions, that pursue one another.”

—Richard Sibbes
(1577-1635)

..they [the Puritans] knew they were Pilgrims passing through an alien world to his or her true country.

...There is a sense in which the foremost issue of the Puritan movement was the question of authority. The Puritans resolved the question of authority by making the Bible the final authority for belief and practice.

Why do WE need the Puritans in our twenty-first century? “The answer, in one word, is maturity!

“The Puritans exemplified maturity: we don’t. A much-traveled leader, a native American, has declared that he finds North American Protestantism —man-centered, manipulative, success-oriented, self-indulgent, and sentimental ...We are spiritual dwarfs. The Puritans, by contrast, as a body were giants.” (J.I. PACKER)

Spiritual warfare made the Puritans what they were. They accepted conflict as their calling, seeing themselves as their Lord’s soldier-pilgrims.

—*Worldly Saints*; Leland Ryken
(*Forward by J.I. Packer*)
