

Building Dedication

Grace Bible Fellowship

October 29, 2017

“Dedication” in the OT. *herem* = ‘a thing devoted to God.’

“*who do you say that I am?*” Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:15-18).

“Upon this rock which you have confessed – upon Myself, the Son of the living God – I will build my church. I will build you on myself, and not myself on you” (St. Augustine).

The Church embraces, upholds, teaches, and defends divine Truth that transcends fallen human minds.

The Bible describes the church as “the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

Christians fundamentally are a people wholly devoted to God.

William Law quotation

Christianity is a whole life view that affects a believer’s whole lifestyle (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17).

English Archbishop J.C. Ryle quotation

500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, October 31, 1517.

The Five Solas of the Reformation

- I. *Sola Gratia* (Grace alone)
- II. *Sola Fide* (Faith alone)
- III. *Solus Christus* (Christ alone)
- IV. *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone)
- V. *Soli Deo Gloria* (Glory to God alone)

From Protestation to Proclamation

Our Core Convictions – The foundational truths upon which Christ builds His Church.

1. ***The Glory of God*** (Isa. 43:7; John 15:8; Rom. 9:23; 1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 1:12; 5:1; 1 Pet. 4:11)

We acknowledge that God has set before all His creation the divine indelible mandate that He will be glorified in all His creation. That means that, while God loves mankind, He is most concerned about His glory being displayed than He is our own personal agendas, preferences, happiness or comfort. Having this proper perspective shapes our entire worldview, and influences everything we think, say, and do.

Mankind's Ultimate Purpose

The Westminster Shorter Catechism: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever."

We were created to glorify our Creator God.

"everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made" (Isaiah 43:7).

"the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise" (Isaiah 43:21).

Q: *What does it mean to glorify God?*

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

A: *To reflect His image and likeness in character and conduct.*

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

"So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him" (2 Corinthians 5:9).

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The Problem: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

2. *The Centrality of Christ* (John 1:4; Col. 1:16-18, 28; Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:8-11; Eph. 2:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5)

We recognize that the totality of the Bible is primarily a *reclamation story* about the glory of God in the redemption of man through the perfect life and willing sacrifice of his Son Jesus Christ for our sins. That means that as our Savior-Redeemer, Christ remains at the center of all that we are, and all that we do as we point others to Him for the hope of salvation. He is our central focus in all things in life and in ministry—*for in Him we live and move and have our existence.*

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent” (Colossians 1:16-18).

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). There is no life apart from Christ.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:4-6).

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9-11).

“And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30).

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ” (Colossians 1:28).

J. Wilbur Chapman quotation

- 3. *The Supremacy of Scripture*** (John 17:17; 8:31; Ps. 19:7-11; 119:9, 11, 104; Eph. 5:25-27; 2 Thes. 2:13-14; Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:15-17)

We affirm that the Holy Scriptures are: inspired, infallible, inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient for life and godliness. That means that the Bible is in fact, God’s Word on all matters concerning individuals and the Church. Therefore, the Bible will be the sole source for hope, salvation, growth in godliness, and will be the final arbiter in all matters being considered and in mediation. We seek its direction and purpose for our lives and for the Church. Furthermore, we shun and reject any man-centered ideas, gimmicks, techniques, conventions, or the traditions of men that exist to supplant the clear wisdom, direction, and transformational power found in God’s Word alone.

The Scriptures are the Words of God

“All Scripture is breathed out by God...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Scriptures are the means of our salvation, spiritual growth and restoration

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17).

“I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word* [or, “you have exalted your word above all your name”]” (Psalm 138:2).

“Let him who wants a true church cling to the Word by which everything is upheld” (Martin Luther).

“A theology of glory” vs “A theology of the cross.”

My conviction; my commitment:

“I take God the Father to be my God; I take God the Son to be my Savior; I take the Holy Ghost to be my Sanctifier; I take the Word of God to be my rule; I take the people of God to be my people; And I do hereby dedicate and yield my whole self to the Lord: And I do this deliberately, freely, and forever. Amen” (English clergyman Philip Henry).

King Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication for the Temple

Solomon's Benediction