
Sermon Notes

November 1, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

A New Reformation: Glory to God Alone

Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Reformation

- ❖ A. W. Tozer: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."
- ❖ The church of today faces great challenges in keeping the glory of God at the center of all she is and does
- ❖ The church always stands in need of reformation
- ❖ The five battle cries of the Reformation
 - Scripture Alone
 - Christ Alone
 - Grace Alone
 - Faith Alone
 - Glory to God Alone

Knowing God

- ❖ C. H. Spurgeon notes that thinking about God improves and expands the mind
- ❖ Knowing God deeply, personally, and intimately ought to occupy a central place in all we do
 - no people ever rise higher than their idea of God
 - we need to arrange our lives so we can regularly withdraw from the distractions that surround us and meet our God in adoring silence

The Wisdom and Knowledge of God

- ❖ Paul glories not in what he knows about God, which is considerable, he glories in how little he actually understands about God
 - God's wisdom and knowledge are unsearchable/unfathomable
 - God is so vastly different than us
 - He is in a league of His own
- ❖ *How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

Glory to God Alone

- ❖ “Glory to God alone” is a succinct statement of a Christian world view
 - having our minds shaped and controlled by these words will serve us well
 - “Reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God.”
- ❖ The phrase *all things* points to the doctrine of creation
 - God is the source of all things
 - all things exist for Him and are designed to bring praise to Him (Colossians 1:16-17)
 - creation is from God, through God, and for God
 - our lives are meant to join all the rest of creation in declaring God’s glory and proclaiming His handiwork (Isaiah 43:7, 61:3, 48:10-11)
 - God is jealous for His glory
- ❖ The phrase *all things* points to the doctrine of the Gospel
 - like the created universe, salvation is from God, through God, and all for God’s glory
 - salvation is **from** God... only God could plan it

- salvation comes only **through** what God has done for us in Jesus Christ
- though we reap eternal benefits from it, salvation is designed **for** the purpose of bringing glory to God
 - the far-reaching effects the Reformation had on transforming culture (work ethic, education, civic and economic betterment, revival of music and the arts)
- ❖ James Montgomery Boice: “Holy desires come from a holy God. They are created in you only through the working of God’s Spirit.”
 - we can do nothing apart from God’s Spirit
 - all that we accomplish is intended for God’s glory alone

Personal Application

1. What comes into your mind when you think about God? What does this reveal about you?
2. Does knowing God deeply, personally, and intimately occupy a central place in all you do? What, if anything, needs to change so that it will?
3. How is your life linked with all creation in bringing glory to God?
4. How is your life linked to the Gospel in bringing glory to God?