

2024 May 05, Sunday School notes

1 Timothy 4:6, NKJV

If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

John 3:19-21, NKJV

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. **21** But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Calvin's Institutes; Book 2, Ch VII.6, pp354-355: We are blind and drunk with self love, and we don't even know it because we use a measure of our own making.

1 John 1:5-6, NKJV

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Isaiah 59:21, NKJV

21 "As for Me," says the Lord, "this *is* My covenant with them: My Spirit who *is* upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the Lord, "from this time and forevermore."

Romans 3:19 – 8:13

James Buchanan, "The Doctrine of Justification", p291

John 17:1-5, NKJV

17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, **2** as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He [a]should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. **3** And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. **4** I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. **5** And now, O Father, glorify Me together [b]with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

The Glory of the Communion Within the Triune God

The more we reflect on the way Scripture details the activities of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, the correspondingly fuller and richer our communion with God will become. This is at the heart of what it means to know God and to enjoy communion with Him. Just as it is inconceivable that a unitarian God could enjoy personal communion within His own being, so it is inconceivable that a Christian can enjoy communion with a God who has all kinds of attributes but can never express them within His own being. Such a god is not a living god at all, but is impersonal and static. By contrast, the God of the Bible is the living God—living in Himself, loving within His three persons, expressing all His attributes in the dynamic interplay of Father with Son, Son with Spirit, Spirit with Father, Father and Son with Spirit, Spirit and Son with Father, Father and Spirit with Son. This is what the Greek fathers of the church called perichoresis—the moving in and out of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in an eternal, self-sufficient inner cosmos of love and holy devotion, and in an endless mutual knowledge. Perhaps the nearest we get to experiencing this is in the discovery of a friendship or love in which we seem both to lose and find ourselves in the apparently unending fascination and satisfaction of knowing and being known, loving and being loved, by another person. Time itself seems either to stand still or to become like an unending stream; being seems far more significant than doing; being together becomes an all-absorbing, all-consuming, all-demanding delight (Ferguson, Sinclair. *The Trinitarian Devotion of John Owen*, pp. 39-41).