

## Preaching/Teaching with Authority

- Roman Catholic: The *Magisterium* “the Word of God, written or handed down”
- Protestant Over Reactions
  - No standard at all  
2010 - 39,000 Christian denominations (overwhelming majority Protestant) <sup>viii</sup>
  - No Creed but the Bible!
- **Recover the Rich Tradition of Catechesis**
  - NBC Confession of Faith
  - 10 Commandments
  - Apostles Creed
  - The Lord’s Prayer

## Protecting by Exclusion

- The Early Church (Word & Table) <sup>ix</sup>

The Creed was not to be written down, nor were the *competentes* to rehearse the Creed in the presence of ordinary catechumens, let alone outsiders. It was a treasure reserved for this stage of the journey... This holding back of treasured teaching and rites was an application of the *disciplina arcani* (“discipline of secrecy”). ...[do not cast] pearls before... swine (Matt. 7:6) as well as upon Jesus’s practice of teaching in parables. ... “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given” (Matt. 13: 11).<sup>x</sup>

- Fencing the Table (Open/Closed Communion)
- Church Discipline

<sup>i</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God’s presence in the wilderness* (pp. 221–222). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

<sup>ii</sup> J. Gresham Machen, *God Transcendent and Other Selected Sermons* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1949), p. 31.

<sup>iii</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God’s presence in the wilderness* (p. 220). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

<sup>iv</sup> *Ibid.* (p. 220).

<sup>v</sup> *Ibid.* (p. 223).

<sup>vi</sup> *Ibid.* (pp. 224–225).

<sup>vii</sup> *Historic Creeds and Confessions*. (1997). (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Lexham Press.

<sup>viii</sup> Packer, J. I.; Parrett, Gary A. (2010-04-01). *Grounded in the Gospel: Building Believers the Old-Fashioned Way* (Kindle Locations 1403-1404). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>ix</sup> *Ibid.* (Kindle Locations 995-1000).

<sup>x</sup> *Ibid.* (Kindle Locations 1014-1020).

Notes:

## In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#20 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) *Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 5*

*Protection by Exclusion: Jesus is the Only Way* – Numbers 18:1–7

**Sermon Outline** – August 30, 2015

### Children’s Sermon/Introduction

- ❖ Baby Rebecca... (Trying to escape the bed)

#### John 14:6

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

*No one comes to the Father except through me.*

- ❖ What about all the other people who were taught to believe something else?

*Review: (The Proper Role of Fear)*

### The Big Picture: Story & Law (1-19)

Preparing to Fight for the Promised Land (1-10)

March of Treason (11-14)

Forty Years in the Wilderness (15-25)

- Laws for the Land: Offerings, Forgiveness/Warning & Identity (15)
- The Leadership Rebellion: No Proper Fear of the LORD (16–17)

#### Numbers 17:12–13

<sup>12</sup> And the people of Israel said to Moses, “Behold, we perish, we are undone, we are all undone. <sup>13</sup> *Everyone who comes near, who comes near to the tabernacle of the Lord, shall die. Are we all to perish?*”

*“Unless you see with compelling certainty the fact that sinners cannot approach the Lord without being destroyed by his holiness, you will never understand the remedy that God has provided for our sin, which lies at the heart of Numbers 18.”<sup>i</sup>*

#### Bridge:

*“J. Gresham Machen more than half a century ago... observed, ‘There are those who tell us that fear ought to be banished from religion; we ought, it is said, no more to hold before men’s eyes the fear of hell; fear, it is said, is an ignoble thing.’”<sup>ii</sup>*

*<sup>iii</sup> The fruit of that attitude is evident all around us.”*

#### Key Idea:

*Why should others be afraid of a God in whom they do not believe when we who confess his name stand so little in awe of him?<sup>iv</sup>*

## 2 Thessalonians 1:7b–10a (We Need to Fear God)

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> *in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance* on those who do not know God and *on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.* <sup>9</sup> They will suffer *the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord* and from the glory of his might, <sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed...

### The Big Picture: Story & Law (1-19, Continued)

- The Service of the Priests & Levites (18-19)
  1. Protection by Substitution & Exclusion
  2. Embrace God Through His Appointed Mediators
  3. Protection by Cleansing

### Protection by Substitution & Exclusion

<sup>1</sup> So the Lord said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your father’s house with *you shall bear iniquity* connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons with *you shall bear iniquity* connected with your priesthood. <sup>2</sup> And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi... <sup>4</sup> *They shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you.* <sup>5</sup> *And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel. ...* <sup>7b</sup> *I give your priesthood as a gift,* and any outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

*“It was the priests’ responsibility to prevent fools from rushing in where angels fear to tread. Their ministry was to be a ministry of exclusion, protecting the sanctity of the most holy things against encroachment by profane people.”<sup>v</sup>*

### Jesus is the Only Way

Key Idea: (John 14:6)

Jesus is the true priesthood. Jesus absorbs the Father’s holy wrath for our offenses and draws near to the father for us first.

(Mt. 27:51 – “the curtain of the temple was torn in two”)

Notes:

## Hebrews 10:19–22

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, *since* we have confidence to enter the holy places *by the blood of Jesus,* <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us *through the curtain,* that is, *through his flesh,* <sup>21</sup> and *since we have a great priest* over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> *let us draw near* with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

### Jesus Gave Authority to His Church:

Jesus has given the “keys of the kingdom” to his Church. Jesus intends his church to be guarded by godly overseers and elders.

## Matthew 16:19

I will give you the *keys of the kingdom of heaven,* and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

“The task of the church is not to suggest to everyone that they are already “in” when it comes to God; rather, we need to show them that by nature they are excluded from his presence. We need to make it clear to people that they cannot simply approach God casually, with a designer coffee in one hand and a donut in the other, and wave a cheery hello. By nature they are God’s enemies, objects of his wrath (Ephesians 2:1–3).”<sup>vi</sup>

## What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven?

The preaching of the holy gospel, and Christian discipline, or excommunication out of the Christian church; by these two, the kingdom of heaven is opened to believers, and shut against unbelievers.<sup>vii</sup>

## Acts 20:27–30 (Paul to the Ephesian Elders)

<sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which *the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,* to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. [fierce wolves]

Notes: