



September 16, 2018

REFLECTIONS

When the exhaustive exegesis of God's Word doesn't create people transformed into the image of Jesus, we have missed the forest for the trees. Or perhaps Jesus explained it better: "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39-40).

Jen Hatmaker

Contemporary North American author

7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess

All change comes from deepening your understanding of the salvation of Christ and living out the changes that understanding creates in your heart.

Tim Keller

Contemporary pastor and author

Counterfeit Gods

Take away, O Lord, the veil of my heart while I read the Scriptures.

Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

English bishop and scholar

GATHERING

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Call to Worship

**Psalm 124:8, NIV
Rev. Luke Brodine**

Leader:

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

All:

the Maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer of Approach

Inspired by Psalm 119

Leader:

O God, you are righteous:

All:

Transform us by your Word!

Leader:

Your judgments are upright:

All:

Transform us by your Word!

Leader:

Your precepts are unforgettable:

All:

Transform us by your Word!

Leader:

Give us understanding and we will live:

All:

Re-form us, reconcile us,
Transform us by your Word!

Come Ye Sinners

Prayer of Adoration (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

Here I Am to Worship

Prayer of Confession

(based on Psalm 119, Scottish Psalter of 1595)

All:

Gracious God, Author of all good things,
who has given your holy commands for us to direct our lives:
write your laws on our hearts by the Holy Spirit;

enable us to abandon our sinful desires,
and all the meaningless pursuits of this world,
that our whole pleasure and delight may be in your law.
Lead us always by your holy Word,
that in the end, we may attain to that eternal salvation
which you have promised through Christ Jesus, your Son. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Encouragement

II Corinthians 5:17, NIV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Heal Us, Emmanuel

Prayer for Christ's Church and the World

Psalm 5:1, 3, NIV

Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my sighing. In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

The Passing of the Peace

*The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.*

Children's Worship:

Parents who wish may send children in K5-3rd Grade to meet their leaders in the Lobby to be escorted to the Third Floor Youth Loft.

Worship through Giving

James 1:17-18 NIV

Speak, O Lord

THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 8:1-15, NIV

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ²and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

⁴While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand.’

¹¹“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹²Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Dr. Jimmy Agan

It Is Written: Jesus Wants His Father’s Word to Transform Our Hearts

COMMUNION

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 21

Leader:

What is true faith?

All:

True faith is
not only a knowledge and conviction
that everything God reveals in his Word is true;
it is also a deep-rooted assurance,
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,
not only others, but I too,
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

SENDING

Psalm 72 (Doxology)

Benediction

from Hebrews 13:20-21

Loving our community to life by pursuing gospel restoration