

The Whole Christ

By Sinclair Ferguson

Lesson 12: Conclusion

The Marrow Controversy brought into the light a problem in the church of Scotland in the 18th century. Hidden under the surface, was a creeping _____ that was undermining the gospel. The controversy that swirled around the Marrow is a controversy that every generation in the church must confront.

“This controversy has served as both a litmus test and a catalyst.”

“As a litmus test it increases our sensitivity to and unmasks the depths of the legal disposition that lingers, often hidden, in our hearts. ‘The human heart’ wrote Calvin, ‘has so many crannies where vanity hides, so many holes where falsehood lurks, is so decked out with deceiving hypocrisy, that it often dupes itself.’”

In the gospel, we are brought to the God of all grace. Our hearts are by nature _____ to the grace of God but through the gospel our wrong thoughts about God and His grace are brought into the light. In the gospel we are brought to the grace of God in Christ.

“Christ does not consider Himself to be complete apart from us...all our salvation comes to us from God the Father in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. This is salvation by grace alone, in Christ alone, through faith alone.”

The Marrow men were “bathed in a new sense of God’s graciousness in Christ” and this led to a revival in true gospel _____ in the church.

Chapter 3-The Law of Christ

After Evangelista tells the three men that they must “_____ to grow strong in the faith”, Neophytus says, “O sir, I desire it with all my heart; and do therefore, I pray you, tell me, what you would have me to do, that I may grow more strong.”

Evan. Why, surely, the best advice and counsel that I can give you, is to exercise that faith which you have, and wrestle against doubtings, and be earnest with God in prayer for the increase of it. ‘Forasmuch.’ Says Luther, ‘as this gift is in the hands of God only, who bestoweth when, and on whom, He pleaseth, thou must resort unto Him by prayer, and say with the apostles, ‘Lord, increase our faith.’”

Antinomista then concludes that the _____ of _____ are of no real value if faith is increased by God’s grace alone.

Evan. I confess it is not the means that will either beget or increase faith; but it is the Spirit of God in the use of the means that doth it; so that as the means will not do it without the Spirit, neither will the Spirit do it without the means.

Neophytus then asks what law are believer’s breaking when they sin? Are we still breaking the covenant of works? Are we still in part under that old covenant? And if so, is God’s anger still _____ by our breaking of the old covenant?

Evan. Whensoever your conscience shall tell you, that you have broken any of the 10 commandments, do not conceive that the Lord looks upon you as an angry Judge, armed with justice against you; much less do you fear that He will execute His justice upon you, according to the penalty of the covenant, in unjustifying of you, or depriving you of your heavenly inheritance, and giving you your portion in hell fire. No, assure yourself that your God in Christ will never unson you, nor unspouse you: no, nor yet, as touching your justification and eternal salvation, will he love you ever a whit the less, though you commit ever so man or great sins.”