

The Life of God in the Soul of Man

Henry Scougal

Scougal was born in 1650 into a godly family. In 1673 he became the minister of a local church. He only served as a pastor for one year because the university he graduated from (King's College) unanimously recalled him back to be the professor of divinity. He served in this position for almost four years. In the year 1678, a few days before his 28th birthday, he died of tuberculosis.

This book was written in the year 1677 as a letter of "spiritual counsel" to a friend. It was then passed on and exchanged hands a few times until it arrived in the hands of one, Gilbert Burnet, who thought it should be printed and shared with the world.

Part 1

Section 1- _____ about Religion

"I cannot speak of religion but I must lament that, among so many pretenders to it, so few understand what it means..."

Before we can understand what true religion is, we must know what it is not. There are 4 main errors men make when it comes to religion. The question must be asked, "What is true religion?" People usually answer this question in 4 different ways:

1. Error 1 -It is simply being _____

"Some place it in the understanding, in orthodox notions and opinions, and all the account they can give of their religion is that they are of this or the other persuasion and have joined themselves to one of those many sects whereinto Christendom is most unhappily divided."

2. Error 2-It is about changing _____

"Others place it in the outward man, in a constant course of external duties and a model of performances: if they live peaceably with their neighbors, keep a temperate diet, observe the returns of worship, frequenting the church and their closet, and sometimes extend their hands to the relief of the poor, they think they have sufficiently acquitted themselves."

3. Error 3-It is _____

“Others put all religion in the affections, in rapturous heats and ecstatic devotion, and all they aim at is to pray with passion, and think of heaven with pleasure, and to be affected with those kind and melting expressions wherewith they court the Savior, till they persuade themselves that they are mightily in love with Him; and from thence assume a great confidence of their salvation which they esteem the chief of Christian graces.”

4. Error 4-It is having _____ and strong _____

“There are too many Christians who would consecrate their vices and hallow their corrupt affections, whose rugged humor and sullen pride must pass for Christian severity, whose fierce wrath and bitter rage against their enemies must be called holy zeal, whose petulancy towards superiors or rebellion against their governors must have the name of Christian resolution and courage.”

Section 2-What _____ religion is

If true religion is none of these things...then what is it?

“True religion is an union of the soul with God, a real participation of the divine nature, the very image of God drawn upon the soul, or, in the apostle’s phrase, it is ‘Christ formed within us.’ Briefly, I know not how the nature of religion can be more fully expressed than by calling it divine life.”