
True Spirituality

Navigating the Wilderness of the World

WISDOM

THE WAY IN THE WILDERNESS

HEAVENLY-MINDEDNESS

OUR COMPASS IN THE WILDERNESS

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

A PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS

REST & THE LORD'S DAY

AN OASIS IN THE WILDERNESS

HEBREWS 11.13-16

These all died in faith... having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland... But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

WISDOM

THE WAY IN THE WILDERNESS

SET YOUR HEART ON WISDOM

THE FATHER

A. The Power of Seduction

1. Temptation: casual sex, easy money, peer pressure (*Dame Folly*)
2. Father speaks to his son, with authority *and* compassion

B. The Power of Wisdom

1. The primary function of wisdom is to protect *vs.* temptation
2. Only God-fearing wisdom *of* whole heart: mind, desires, will
3. “*Lady Wisdom*” speaks to all
 - Warns: “*Dame Folly*” sounds & looks the same (Prov 9)

WALK IN THE WAY OF WISDOM

THE WAY

A. An open road whose direction is clear & whose end is known

“There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways.” - Didache

B. “Way” gives rise to other symbols & images

FEAR (1.7 - “*the fear of the Lord*”)

A. Fear is the right response in recognition of who God is

B. Fear is a mindset (3.6 - “*acknowledge*”)

FAITH (3.5 – “*trust in the Lord*”)

A. The goal of Proverbs is to foster faith, not self-reliance

1. Trust in the Lord is total commitment (*with all your heart*)
2. Do not trust in yourself. Man is limited & not trustworthy

B. It is to know God (“*acknowledge him*”). Heavenly mindset.

HEAVENLY-MINDEDNESS

OUR COMPASS IN THE WILDERNESS

OUR MINDSET

- A. *set your minds* - mindset, attitude, the trajectory of thinking (Rom 8.5; Php 2.5; Matt 16.23)
 - 1. Your thinking is *shaped* by the state of the whole heart
 - 2. Mind tracks in accordance with the will & the desires
- B. It's not about random thoughts. It's about your thinking.

OUR HEAVENLY MINDSET (Col 3.1-4; Php 3.19)

- A. ***above*** = Heaven
 - Heaven is both: World to come & World above
- B. Lay hold of the world & our life above, by faith (Heb 11.1)
 - Supernaturalism is key to being Heavenly-minded

OUR HEAVENLY CALLING

- A. Prophets (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Micaiah) & what they saw
- B. Worship: A foretaste of future life & means to our life above (Heb 12.18-24)
 - 1. God draws near to us by Spirit. We *draw near* to God by faith
 - Worship *nurtures* Vitality of heavenly mindset
 - 2. Sacraments, songs, prayer
 - Prayer is both the proof & the vitality of a heavenly mindset
 - 3. The Word of God—which comes from outside this world
- C. Seeing ourselves as God sees us
 - 1. Letting God & his truth shape how we see our lives
 - 2. Seeing ourselves as united to the Son (his death, resurrection)
 - Although we do not see him, we love him
 - 3. Hearing the dimensions of love

COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

A PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS

“I believe in... the communion of saints” - The Apostles’ Creed
credo... sanctorum communionem

MERE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNION OF SAINTS?

HISTORY OF “COMMUNITY”

- A. “Communitarianism”
 - Ferdinand Tönnies, *Community & Society* 1887
- B. Schleiermacher¹⁷⁶⁸⁻¹⁸³⁴: “*The church is above all else a fellowship*”
 - Emerging church: “*communities that practice the way of Jesus*”

HISTORY OF “COMMUNION OF SAINTS”

- A. “Old Roman Creed” (Apostles’ Creed)
- B. *sanctorum communionem* (“communion of Saints”) late addition

THE MEANING OF “COMMUNION OF SAINTS”

- A. Sanctorum: People or Things
- B. Historic Reformed View: Fellowship of God’s holy people
Heidelberg Catechism 55: “*What... the communion of saints?*”

“First, believers, all & every one, as members of X, have part in him and in all his treasures and gifts. Secondly, that each one must feel himself bound to use his gifts, readily and cheerfully, for the advantage and welfare of other members.”
- C. Biblical language
 1. Noun: “fellowship” (participation): Ac 2.42; Php 1.5; 2.1
 2. Verb: “to share” (contribute): Rom 12.13; Php 4.15

WHERE DOES THE CHURCH GAIN ITS LIFE?

COMMUNION WITH GOD (VERTICAL)

- A. WCF 26.1 – “*all united to Christ... [are] united to one another*”
 - First, we have union and communion with Christ
- B. From where does Church, communion of saints, *gain* its life?
 - 1. Modern theology & anti-supernaturalism
 - 2. Communion with Christ sustains communion of saints-Jn 15.5

COMMUNION WITH ONE ANOTHER (HORIZONTAL)

- A. Gifts of the Spirit - 2Tim 1.6,7; 1Cor 12.4-11; 1Pet 4.10
 - 1. All gifts are endowed by the Spirit & empowered by the Spirit
 - 2. The ‘one another’ commands (serve, forgive, comfort, love...)
- B. Our need of the body – 1Cor 12.26; Eph 4.15-16
 - Worship, (1Cor 10.17); Devotion (Acts 2.42f); Discipline (1Cor 5)
- C. Growth through Mutual Gifts & Graces of the Spirit
 - 1. The gifts of the Spirit (1Cor 12.7; 1Pet 4.10)
 - 2. The service of the Saints (Rom 1.11,12; 14.19; 1Cor 12.21)
 - 3. The Fruit of the Spirit: Love (John 13.35)

CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH ARE INSEPARABLE

- A. Christ & Church — “Head” & “Body”
 - 1. Branch & Vine (Jn 15.5); Bride of Groom (Eph 5.32, Rev 21.2f); Temple/Spiritual house (Eph 2.21f; 1Pet 2.5)
 - 2. The body derives all life from the Head (Eph 1.23; 3.19; 4.13-16; Jn 15.5; 1Cor 12.27; Eph 3.6; 4.12f; Col 1.18; 2.19)
 - 3. Body: As Members, we are united to one another, (Rom 12.4,5; 1Cor 1.10f; 6.16; 10.17; 12.12; Eph 2.15; Col 3.15)
- B. The Church is the Household of Faith
 - 1. Our love for Christ shows in love for brothers (1Jn 3.16,17)
 - 2. Love or persecute Church = to Christ (Jn 21.15-17; Ac 9.4)
 - 3. The Church is the place of Salvation – *WCF* 25.2

REST & THE LORD'S DAY

AN OASIS IN THE WILDERNESS

THE LORD'S DAY AS AN OASIS

- A. Our Journey in the wilderness
- B. We journey toward heaven, to our rest – Heb 4.8-11

KEEPING LORD'S DAY HOLY *VIA* REST & WORSHIP

- A. *via* Worship
- B. *via* Rest
 - 1. Rest from work, pleasures, self & all that burdens/drains us
 - 2. O.T. Feasts: Rest (“*deny yourself*”) – Isa 58.13; Lev 16.31; 23.2f
 - 3. The Sabbath anticipates our Eternal Rest – Rev 14.13
 - We look for the Promised Land

FAITH

A. Biblical Terms

faith, believe, trust, accept, look to (Heb 12.2; Isa 45.22); *flee to* (Heb 6.18); *lay hold of* (Heb 6.18); *come to* (Mt 11.28; Jn 6.35); *receive* (Mark 10.15; Jn 1.12; Col 2.6); *rest on* (1Cor 2.5); *commit self to* (2Tim 1.12); *build on* (Eph 2.20; Col 2.7); *put on* (Gal 3.27); *eat/drink* (Jn 6.55f); *embrace* (Heb 11.13)—*seek & find refuge, set confidence, cleave*

- 1. Variety: complexity heart's functions: Mind, Desires, Will
- 2. Trust is the heart of faith. Trust is 2-fold (*reflects* heart's will):
 - a. Trust is *Committing* – the will resolving
 - b. Trust is *Resting* – the will resigning

B. Trust is Resting

- 1. Trust is “*extraspective*” (*.v* *introspective*)
 - looking outside yourself to find what is not within yourself
- 2. It is finding your resting place in Christ

C. The Lord's Day is for Your Faith