

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

November 10, 2013

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

WEDNESDAY 13TH AND THURSDAY 14TH: Luncheon (11am-2pm); *To order takeout or delivery:* BazaarLunch@gmail.com; Silent Auction; parish gifts, Garden Shop, Crafts (in the mall); Church Tours; Noon organ recitals. **Credit Cards accepted.**
THURSDAY ONLY: 10 am-2pm, Cranmer Hall: White Elephant, Treasure Room, & Books

RECEIVING SCRIPTURE RIGHTLY

(SECOND OF TWO PARTS)

In a line from his 1814 Bampton Lectures at the University of Oxford, then-Regius Professor of Divinity (and later Bishop of Durham) William Van Mildert provides us with our first piece of advice in learning to receive Scripture rightly. Reflecting on a portion of John 7.17, "If any man shall do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God," Van Mildert says the phrase 'if any man be willing' is of paramount importance in the Christian search for truth, and refers most properly to "the specific character of a person free from prejudices unfavourable to the object of inquiry, and prepared, nay desirous, to profit by its researches." In other words, in order to receive the things of God rightly, we must be free of prejudice against God and the Scriptures; and not only that, but we have to *want* to profit from our study. As Thomas Cranmer wrote, centuries before Van Mildert, "[Just] as drink is pleasant to them that be dry, and meat to them that be hungry, so is the reading, hearing, searching, and studying of holy Scripture to them that be desirous to know God or themselves,

and to do his will."

So it is that the first consideration in rightly interpreting the Scriptures is to determine whether or not we recognize and appreciate their authority. As Archbishop William Laud wrote, "The credit of the Scripture... depends... upon the author himself, and the opinion we have of his sufficiency, which here is the Holy Spirit of God." In other words, the Scriptures might have been authored by God, but it matters a great deal whether or not we accept them as such. Thus the first question that ought to precede the interpretation of Scripture is, "*Why*, exactly, am I picking up this book? What do I hope to get out of it? Am I prepared to receive it humbly, to learn about myself and about God? Am I prepared to adjust my faith, hope, and love according to *its* contents, rather than set my own understanding against it?" More concisely, one may ask, "In picking up this book, am I eager to encounter my Lord and my God, or am I seeking an opponent or a debate partner?" True understanding will come only to those who are sympathetic, rather than hostile, to the content of the Scriptures, and to their author. It is a

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STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site:
www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. John C. Helmken II

USHER CHAIRMAN: Dr. James S. McClellan, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lisa and King Simkins by Marshall, Lynah, and Wesley Stone.

And in loving memory of G. Philip Morgan, Jr. by his family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff
Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings, Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Mrs. Jeremy W. Bergstrom, Mrs. J. Justin Watson

ACOLYTES

8:00 Lindsay Pindar
10:30 Chris Dixon
Mikel Kelly
Patrick Perrie, Turner Stevens
Finn Repella, Philip Inglesby

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Robert J. Merritt, Jr.

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Dr. Bergstrom *Upper School Forum* in Fellowship Hall (near piano)
- Fr. Dunbar: *Reading the Word of God in the Spirit*, Reading Room.
- David Noble: *Shakespeare makes love AND war in the history plays*. Third Floor middle classroom on the right.
- Jack Wray: on the *Book of Daniel* 3rd floor classroom on the left at the back

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

No meetings this week, due to the Bazaar

PARISH KALENDAR

Monday- Friday

8:15 a.m.—*Morning Prayer*

5:30 p.m.—*Evening Prayer*

In addition on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. — *Litany*

10:00 a.m.—*Sung Eucharist*

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS

If you have NOT received an *Estimate of Giving* (pledge) card, and you wish to make a pledge, please notify the Church office. You can notify us of your intentions by phone, by post, or by email to the Church Financial Secretary, rschmidt@stjohnssav.org

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

matter of the will, not of knowledge.

A second consideration in interpretation involves the relationship of the whole to the parts. That is, we cannot read one part of Scripture so that it contradicts the whole of the Bible. But more than simply saying that ‘the whole’ refers to all the pages between the two covers of your KJV, as is usually meant nowadays, we do even better to understand that the ‘whole’ is contained most fully in the Rule of Faith, that is, the traditional, apostolic understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ. This is the approach that Christ himself taught when he said to the Jews, “had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me” (John 5.46). Testimony to the Rule of Faith is found in the Scriptures and the Creeds, most certainly, and also in the works of great Fathers of the Church such as St. Athanasius, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and the like. The classic Prayer Books of the Anglican tradition, especially the Eucharistic prayers, are another wonderfully rich apostolic reflection on the person and work of Christ. If our interpretation of Scripture doesn’t harmonize with “the form [or pattern] of sound words” (2 Tim 2.13) as found in the Apostles and Fathers of the Church, and in accordance with our prayers, then our reading is in serious danger of shipwreck.

A third consideration on how to receive Scripture rightly involves the basic tools of literacy and, again, a close and sympathetic attention to the actual text which lies before us. Engage Scripture on its own terms. What does it *actually* say, and *how* does it say it? What are the author’s own goals in writing? They are often

explicit, sometimes implicit. A sensitive reader often will come to a more-or-less correct understanding simply by paying attention. A careful reader will also watch for movements and shifts in the author’s presentation, and through these quite often be able to discern the outline or structure of the text.

Finally, getting back to the apostolic method for the right reading of Scripture, no reader (or interpretation) ought to stand alone. As St Peter tells us, “[Know] this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1.20-21). Those who desire to receive Scripture rightly, and who hope to be changed for the better in the process, will seek to understand the text within Scripture’s native land and among its friends, that is, the church. Only by reading with other Christians, in a parish committed to the ancient Rule of Faith and united in its shared love for Christ, can we arrive at an understanding of the Scriptures that has any substantial correlation to the truth. And it is only through such reading that Scripture will be “drink [which] is pleasant to them that be dry, and meat to them that be hungry.” JWB

CHAPEL CLOSURE

Moisture has wicked into the floorboards of the chapel, causing them to buckle; and a portion of the foundations along Whitaker Street has collapsed. Until repairs can be made, *all services will take place in the church.*

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, p. 223

A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

"A Taste of the Bazaar" - Advance Sale of Preserves

9:30a.m.-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (Cranmer Hall)

9:30-10:15 A.M.: ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. TO END OF SERVICE: PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

(Activities in Cranmer Hall for children during the 9:30 education and/or 10:30 service times)

10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN # 153 *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*..... Ratisbon

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer Prayer Book 3-7

Versicles and Responses 7-8

VENITE, EXULTEMUS DOMINO (Hymnal #610)..... 9

Psalms 142 and 143 518

First Lesson: Isaiah 55 *The fruitfulness of the word of God* *insert*

BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE (Hymnal #623) 11

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:3-12 & St. Matthew 18:21-26..... 223, 224

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal # 634)..... 14

Apostles' Creed 15

Versicles and Responses 16

Collect For The Day 223

Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace 17-20

HYMN # 402 *O Word of God Incarnate*.....Munich

The Sermon..... Fr Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *O King, All Glorious* Healey Willan

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #287 *Give Praise and Glory unto God*..... Elbing

ORGAN: *Toccata for Organ*..... John Weaver

Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service. If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.

12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Church) Collect, Epistle, Gospel p. 223