



CBC Men's Fellowship

October 27, 2014

The Holiness of God

Chapter 5 – **The Insanity of Luther**

Key quotes from chapter 5 –

Luther could not go a day without sinning, so he felt it necessary to go to the confessional every day, seeking absolution. (p.103)

His mentor, Staupitz, finally grew angry and scolded Luther: “Look here,’ he said, ‘if you expect Christ to forgive you, come in with something to forgive – parricide, blasphemy, adultery – instead of all these peccadilloes ...Man, God is not angry with you. **You are angry with God.** Don’t you know that god commands you to hope?’” (p. 104)

Luther concluded that if the Great Commandment was to love God with all the heart, then the Great Transgression was to fail to love God with all the heart. (p.107)

God does not lower His own standards to accommodate us. He remains altogether holy, altogether righteous, and altogether just. (p.108)

For a good deed to pass the standard of God’s goodness, it must flow out of a heart that loves God perfectly and loves our neighbor perfectly as well. Since none of us achieves that perfect love for God and our neighbor, all of our outwardly good deeds are tarnished. (p.110)

Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that “the just shall live by faith.” That justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. (P.114-115)

Once Luther grasped Paul’s teaching in Romans, he was reborn. The burden of his guilt was lifted. The crazed torment was ended. (p.116)

Questions and statements that will help and influence our discussion on chapter 5 –

1. How can we guard against the danger of seeing only the transgression of God's Law and His absolute holiness and not seeing the grace that He extends to those who repent?
2. When we sin we not only commit treason against God but we do violence to others and ourselves. Sin is a violation of our relationship with a holy God. Consider a particular sin or broken relationship in your life. Resolve to take the appropriate steps necessary to seek forgiveness and what it will reconcile.

Questions at the end of chapter 5 –

- 1a. When you look into the mirror of God's holiness, what do you see?
- 1b. What do you learn about your and about God?
2. What do you do with your guilt about your sin?
3. What does "*the just shall live by faith*" mean to you personally?
4. How can you worship God for justifying you?