

WEST SUFFOLK BAPTIST CHURCH

16 January 2022

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Hymn #3 Holy, Holy, Holy”

OT Scripture Psalm 119:1-24

Hymn #55 “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

NT Scripture Matthew 13:1-23

Hymn #397 “I Know Whom I Have Believed”

Message: “The Secret and Hidden Wisdom of God”
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Hymn #495 “Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

Benediction

This Evening: “Faith to Face Affliction”
Hebrews 11:23-27

Wed Evening: The Mystery of Providence
(The Work of Providence for the Saints)

Next Week: “Building on the Foundation Laid by God”
1 Corinthians 3:1-15

A note for parents of small children: Our church encourages its members and our visitors to include their children in our worship services. We understand that this practice will result in some distractions from time to time, and that forbearance and patience are required by all. Our foyer and all classrooms are equipped with speakers in order to serve as worship service behavior training areas or as cry rooms, as necessary. Please be mindful of others who may be being distracted from worship and avail yourselves of them.

The Wisdom of God is that attribute whereby He produces the best possible results with the best possible means. God’s wisdom is infinite and eternal. It is conceived of by us as selecting the highest possible end, the manifestation of His glory; and then in selecting and directing, in every department of His operations, the best possible means to secure that end. This wisdom is gloriously manifested to us in the great theaters of creation, providence, and grace.”
— A. A. Hodge

Calvin understood true religion as fellowship between God and man. The part of the fellowship that moves from God to man Calvin called *revelation*; the part of the fellowship that moved from man to God, which involves man’s obedient response, he called *piety*. Such piety functions through God’s grace by faith and involves such devout acts as childlike trust, humble adoration, godly fear, and undying love. Calvin’s piety, like his theology, is inseparable from the knowledge of God. The true knowledge of God results in pious activity that stretches its goal beyond personal salvation to embrace the glory of God. Where God’s glory is not served, piety cannot exist. This compels discipline, obedience, and love in every sphere of the believer’s life. For Calvin, the law give love its mandate and content to act, to obey God out of discipline, and so to live to His glory. Indeed, love is the fulfilling of the law. Thus, for Calvin, true piety is both a vertical (God-ward) and horizontal (man-ward) relationship of love and law.

“Puritan Reformed Theology” - Joel Beeke

Not only does the Spirit *inspire* the Bible, He also *illuminates* it to its readers. Scripture teaches that apart from God’s grace, it is impossible for us appropriate God’s word for our salvation. As with natural revelation in Romans 1, our sinful inclination is to suppress the truth, to exchange it for a lie. So Paul says that when the Jews read the law of Moses without Christ, “a veil lies over their hearts” (2 Cor 3:15). In such darkness, we need God’s light to see His Word properly. The Bible is objectively God’s Word. The work of the Spirit is to make us understand and apply it.

“Systematic Theology” - John Frame