



Sunday, September 19, 2010: The Mountain of Covenant Blessing

Scripture: Deuteronomy 27:11-28:6; Matthew 5:1,2

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus expounds the law and calls His people into conformity to Himself.
2. Jesus applies the meaning of the law to His kingdom people.
3. He tells us of the blessed life which puts God before all things.
4. Moses received the law on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19). Blessings and curses were pronounced on mountains Ebal and Gerazim (Deuteronomy 27-28). Now Jesus preaches the law from the mount in Matthew 5-7.
5. Jesus, the sovereign law-giver, interprets the provisions of the law for His people.
6. In the sermon Jesus renews the covenant and develops its inward implications for His people.
7. Jesus did not oppose the law itself, but He opposed certain Pharisaical interpretations and applications of the law.
8. Jesus' authority did not undermine the authority of the Torah, but rather explained and applied it.
9. Everything we've received from the Lord is a gracious, undeserved gift.
10. The most zealous Christian is only giving God His due and, like John Wesley, "but an unprofitable servant."
11. There are many failures and let-downs in our Christian experience, including professors, teachers, and pastors, but we must trust the wisdom and purposes of God. Christ is our Teacher and Lord, and He can be relied upon.
12. Heresies and disputes in the church must be so that God may reveal who is approved (1 Corinthians 11:19).
13. Though someone in a position of leadership fails, we are not to throw out the office itself. Judas was a traitor but that did not negate the office of the apostle.

14. Christ gave His authority to imperfect human under-shepherds.
15. The Sermon on the Mount is still to be honoured and obeyed even though there are failures in the church.
16. We are among the new branches that are grafted into Christ (Romans 11:16-21).
17. We, the faithful of the Lord, are to be the peace-making children of the King.

Application Questions:

1. What in essence does Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount?
2. How does the Sermon on the Mount help us to understand and live in terms of the Kingdom?
3. What are some traits of our culture's practice of Christianity (i.e., moralistic therapeutic deism)?
4. Is my response to God "whatever" or am I prepared to do careful thinking on the questions of who God is and what He requires of us?
5. Since God owns us how must we be careful whose teaching we submit our minds to?
6. Am I resting in the confidence that Jesus is sovereignly building His church? How can this confidence help us to deal with sin, problems, and failures in the church?
7. How would Christ have me act today in terms of the peace-making calling of His kingdom?