

nations. And when the Church may carry out all the more freely Her mission, the State will be encouraged to continue to recognize Christ as King, which will then encourage the Church more and more, and so the cycle goes - resulting, by God's grace, in generations of covenantal faithfulness to the Lord.

VIII

The Blessing of True Worship

A blessing which follows from the peace and propagation of the Church is that blessing which comes from the true, uncorrupted worship of God. When a nation allows false and unprescribed so-called worship to endure, it will bring only shame and judgment. Such is clear from Nadab and Abihu's offering of 'strange fire' (Lev 10:1-2). But what great blessing comes upon the people when true and acceptable worship is offered (*c.f.* 9:22-24). Such blessing belongs to the nation whose God is the LORD.

IX

The Blessing of the Gospel Advancing

What great blessing is reserved for the land who covenants before Christ - in that the Gospel should advance among all the peoples. It is true that not every individual will be converted, and there shall always be tares among the wheat - yet Christ declares that He shall return to a wheat field (Mt 13:24-30). Such is the fulfillment of the Church's prayer: 'Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you' (2 Thes 3:1).

X

The Blessing of Progress

There is much talk of progress these days - it seems everything must be 'progressive'. But only true (that is, lasting and institutional) societal progress comes when the Church is not only accommodated, but upheld. A brief survey of history demonstrates the veracity of such a claim.

XI

The Blessing of Order

When a nation recognizes Christ as the King, that people also openly recognize His Law as the Law of that land. And to such a nation, they are blessed with right and good order, for the moral Law does teach us of the only and true God (Ex 20:3); the orderliness and acceptable manner of worship (20:4-6); the enforcing such worship (20:8-11); and the orderliness of all societal relationships (20:12). In an age of such hierarchical mass-confusion and wonton egalitarianism, may God bless that nation who covenants before Him with right order.

XII

The Blessing of Peace

Lastly, to the nation which covenants before Christ the King of the nations, they are granted that wonderful blessing of peace. 'And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more' (Isa 2:4). When we consider the many unjust wars and great violence upon the earth, and the blessing of peace, do not our hearts long for the 'Desire of all nations' (Hag 2:7)? May we repent of our sinful pride and perceived self-sufficiency and bow ourselves before the Lord Christ, Who 'hath... all things under his feet, and [has been given] him to be the head over all things to the church' (Eph 1:22).

Conclusion

To my fellow Christians and countrymen alike, may you consider well these blessings. But, may you consider even more so the unsurpassable and incomparable excellencies of Christ. May our nation, by God's grace, confess Christ as her King, for all authority has been given unto Him.

'Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.'



A Doctrine of Blessing: The Joy of Recognizing Christ as King of Our Nation

A Pamphlet to Encourage
the Church and the Nations
in Confessing the Excellencies
of the Lord Christ Jesus

*'Blessed is the nation whose God
is the LORD'*

Introduction

When considering and confessing the doctrine of the Mediatorial Kingship of Christ - that God the Son is, in His mediatorial office, King of both the Church and the nations - one may admittedly get lost in the 'theory' of this doctrine. Yet, recall the remarkable promise from the Lord's Word: 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD' (Psa 33:12a). While such blessing is inadequate for a true motivation for confessing that Christ is indeed King of both the Church and the nations, let us not overlook these rich truths for those lands who covenant before the LORD together.

I

The Blessing of Obedience

The greatest blessing of confessing Christ's Kingship over the nation is that it is obedient to God's Word. If there were no other blessings, this would be enough. 'So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do' (Lk 17:10).

II

The Blessing of True Morality

Another blessing, which is the fountainhead of many other blessings, is that when magistrates lead the people in covenanting before Christ the King, they place themselves under the authority not only of God, but also of His Word. Though the light of nature instructs in many areas, the Word of God most perfectly and truly instructs in true morality. Only when the whole of the moral law and the general equity of the judicial law is enforced, nations observe true morality. Then may we say, 'The LORD *is* our judge, the LORD *is* our lawgiver, the LORD *is* our king; he will save us' (Isa 33:22).

III

The Blessing of True Justice

Alongside of morality, when kings and leaders subjugate themselves to Messiah the Prince, they

may then lead them in true justice. The Word of Christ instructs in true justice, which is the weightier matters of the Law: 'judgment, mercy, and faith' (Mt 23:23). What a timeless reminder in days such as these: 'Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people' (Prov 14:34).

IV

The Blessing of True Wisdom

Following true morality and justice, when Christ is recognized as King of the nation, it demonstrates and further preserves true wisdom. 'The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom' (Prov 9:10). Thus, all kings and magistrates are commanded: 'Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling' (Psa 2:10-11). To neglect this duty demonstrates not only sedition, but folly. But to the people who humble themselves before the King of Kings, they are blessed with true wisdom.

V

The Blessing of True Rest

When the nation seeks to obey God's Law, it is then that the people, together, may be blessed with true rest - that is, the keeping of the Sabbath. The Lord's Day is a delight (Isa 58:13) and a sign of God's covenant with His people (Ezk 20:20). The Christian Sabbath is a day of blessing, and in keeping the Lord's Day holy 'there is great reward' (Psa 19:11). In that land which Christ is righteously confessed Lord of the nation, He is also known to be Lord of the Sabbath (Mk 2:28). To such a people, they shall know the blessing of true rest.

VI

The Blessing of True Liberty

To the nation whose God is the LORD, they will be blessed with true liberty. This is clear in two regards. This is clear (*i*) from Scripture, for 'Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the

Lord is, there is liberty' (2 Cor 3:17). When the Spirit of God works to bring magistrates to Christ, who then in turn lead the nation in true liberty, both for the individual and for the nation as a whole. This is also clear (*ii*) from history. In those nations where the true religion is not only tolerated but promoted, the citizens of that land most flourish - whether in their education, personal liberty or dignity. The inverse is likewise seen to be true. Those nations in which false religion and worldliness hold fast drift into decline regarding all manners of personal and societal liberty. May God grant us grace, that we should confess Christ and covenant before Him - that we may experience such true liberty.

VII

The Blessing of the Church's Liberty

A blessing even greater and weightier than personal and civil liberty is the true liberty for the Church. It is to this end that the Church prays for revival in the land - as we are commanded to pray, 'For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty' (1 Tim 2:2). It is a great blessing, indeed, upon the land when the true religion is promoted. History demonstrates the symbiotic nature of revival and reformation: when there is revival in the land, there will be reformation in the Church; and when there is reformation in the Church, there will be revival in the land. As the Covenanter Hugh McKail rightly said, for too long has the Bride of Christ been afflicted by, 'A Pharaoh on the throne, a Haman in the state, and a Judas in the Church'. But when Christ should be recognized as Head and King of both of these kingdoms - that is, the Church and the State - the Church may experience a greater liberty to fulfill Her true end, to glorify God; and Her vocation, to worship God. And when the Church may go about Her end and vocation, She may carry out all the more Her mission - to baptize and teach the