

“More Than Conquerors”

“...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” Romans 8:37.

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Saying of Andrew Murray

“God does not ask you to give the perfect surrender in your strength, or by the power of your will; God is willing to work it in you. Do we not read: “It is God that worketh in us, both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). ...learn to believe.”

“The only humility that is really ours is not that which we try to show before God in prayer, but that which we carry with us in our daily conduct.”

“We must make humility the chief thing we admire in Him.”

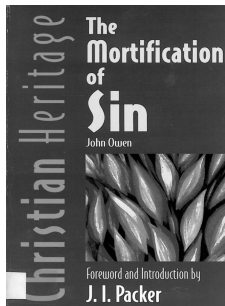
“Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God. Beware in your prayer, above everything, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do.”

Take and Read

From Our Library

The Mortification of Sin—By John Owen

John Owen insisted on the importance of the Christian dealing effectively with their sinful tendencies and attitudes. He believed that God, through his Word and Spirit, had provided the guidelines and the power for this to be achieved. In this classic work, the famous Puritan shows the need for Christians to engage in a life-long battle against the sinful tendencies that remain in them, despite their having been brought to faith and new life in Christ. Owen is very insistent that believers cannot hope to succeed in this battle in their own strength. He sees clearly that the fight can be won only through faith in Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Fighting sin with human strength will produce only self-righteousness, superstition and anxiety of conscience. But with faith in Christ, and with the power of the Spirit, victory is certain. In this book, John Owen effectively dismisses various excuses for not engaging in self-scrutiny and yet avoids the current trend of self-absorption. In so doing he provides principles to help believers live lives of holiness. The temptations in times like Owen’s and ours are obvious on every side; the remedy to them is clearly pointed out in this practical and helpful book.



Review

“I owe more to John Owen than to any other theologian, ancient or modern, and I owe more to this little book than to anything else he wrote.” **J.I. Packer**

“I expected this book to be a burden on my back, yet it lifted the burdens right off. Owen’s insight is useful, immediate, and scriptural. All may be benefited by his wisdom for countering sins’ influence. **Michael Spotts**

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Reading from A.W. Tozer

God is always first - and will surely be last

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, says the Lord” (Revelation 1:8).

God is always first, and God will surely be last! In the plan of God, man is never permitted to utter the first word nor the last. That is the prerogative of the Deity, and one which He will never surrender to His creatures.

Man has no say about the time or the place of his birth; God determines that without consulting the man himself. One day the little man finds himself in consciousness and accepts the fact that he is. There his volitional life begins.

Before that he had nothing to say about anything. After that he struts and boasts, and encouraged by the sound of his own voice he may declare his independence of God. Have your fun, little man; you are only chattering in the interim between first and last. You had no voice at the first and you will have none at the last! God reserves the right to take up at the last where He began at the first, and you are in the hands of God whether you will or not.

Adam became a living soul but that becoming was not of his own volition. It was God who willed it and who executed His will in making Adam a living soul. God was there first!

And when Adam sinned and wrecked his whole life, God was there still. Adam’s whole future peace lay in this - that God was still there after he had sinned. It would be great wisdom for us to begin to live in the light of this wonderful and terrible truth: God is the first and the last!

Catechism Corner

Question 70 What is repentance to life?

Repentance to life is a saving grace, (Acts 11:18) whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sins, (Acts 2:37) and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, (Joel 2:13) does with grief and hatred of his sin turn from it to God, (Jeremiah 31:18,19) with full purpose to strive after new obedience. (Psalms 119:59)

Question 71 What are the outward means whereby the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

The outward and ordinary means whereby the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of Christ's redemption, are the Word, by which souls are begotten to spiritual life; Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Prayer, and Meditation, by all which believers are further edified in their most holy faith. (Acts 2:41,42; James 1:18)

Question 72 How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convicting and converting sinners, (Psalms 19:7) and of building them up in holiness and comfort (1Thessalonians 1:6) through faith to salvation. (Romans 1:16)

A Devotion from the Puritans

Church Attendance: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..." (Hebrews 10:25).

In the sanctuary you have the openings of the Gospel treasury: there are the golden candlesticks, which bear the burning, shining tapers, whose light and heat diffuse themselves through all within their reach who are receptive of them; the gifts and graces, the affections and experiences, of Gospel ministers are in their communicative exercises.

There God the Father sets and keeps his heart and eye; there the Lord-Redeemer walks by and amongst his commissioned officers and representatives, dispensing warmth and vigour through their ministry to hearts presented to him at his altar; there does the Holy Spirit fill heads with knowledge, hearts with grace, and all our faculties and Christian principles with vigour.

There mysteries are unfolded, precepts explained and enforced, promises fulfilled, souls improved...And there, through the Angel of the Covenant's moving upon the waters of the sanctuary, are soul-distempers and consumptions healed. And there you are informed, acquainted with, and confirmed in, what my instruct you in, and encourage you unto ...

There all is known, obtained and exercised. There you may fill your heads with knowledge, your hearts with grace, your mouths with arguments, your lives with fruitfulness, your consciences with consolations, and your whole selves with those experiences of divine regards to soul concerns ...

Keep, then, to these assemblies; that you may duly know whom, what, why to love; and how to suit yourselves, in spirit, speech and practice toward God, yourselves and toward each other ...

Matthew Sylvester, Puritan Sermons, Vol.4, pp.469-470.

To our Catholic Friends

Are You a Saint?

On June 16, 2002, some 500,000 devotees gathered in Rome to witness Pope John Paul II proclaim the Capuchin monk Padre Pio, a saint. This event is a fresh reminder of how much the Roman Catholic Church has departed from the teaching of the Bible, as can be seen by the following comparison.

Who are the saints?

To most Roman Catholics, the Saints are the comparatively few departed Catholics who had been canonized by the Vatican.

But the Bible says that all true believers are saints. For example, the apostle Paul writes, "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse." He addresses Christians by the titles "saints," "faithful" (believers), and "brethren." Clearly he considered all believers in Christ as saints.

When are they called saints?

Rome says, only after their death, when their case is studied and an official proclamation is made by the Pope.

The Bible says, all Christians are saints during their lifetime. On innumerable occasions the living Christians are called "saints" in the New Testament, even though they were subject to error and sin.

Why are they saints?

Rome says, because they practiced heroic virtue. They attained their own salvation by their prayers and good works.

The Bible says, all Christians are "sanctified (made saints) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). They are saints because of the work of Christ for them, not because of their religious efforts. Christians are called to live holy lives not to become saints but because they are saints already.

How are the saints recognized?

Rome says, you need an infallible magisterium to identify true saints, and that only after a complicated and lengthy procedure is followed which includes the proof of miracles.

In the Bible the disciples of Christ freely call each other "saints." They are not recognized by some supernatural power but by their faith in Christ, godliness and love for one another.

Dear reader, I ask you in all seriousness, "Are you a saint?" I hope you can answer with confidence, "Yes, I am a saint, by the grace of Christ."

Dr. Joseph Mizzi