

These are unedited notes, and are only for the convenience and use of those receiving the corresponding tapes.

I. Certain Principles. [Charles Hodge]

A. Scripture Contains all the Revelations:

1. We do not that Jesus or inspired men did not say or write other things, which were authoritative, but these God has preserved and transmitted to our age, and they contain all necessary for the rule of faith and practice for His church. Nothing else is to be imposed on the consciences of men.
2. Hence all unwritten tradition, decrees of the visible church; all resolutions of conventions, or other public bodies, declaring this to be right or wrong. The people of God are bound only by the Word of God. This Includes speaking on that which the Scripture is silent. The Scriptures alone have authority to bind the consciences of men.
3. This includes the attempt to “hedge” the scriptures with human commandments, to protect men from breaking the commandments of Scripture.

B. Sin is only What They Command or Forbid

1. What the Bible says is wrong is wrong—but it tells me to seek wisdom. There is natural wisdom that will ignore to my peril
2. Nothing is sinful which the Bible does not condemn
3. The Scripture are a complete rule of duty. There is no higher standard or moral excellence. Proof: Great curses are put upon those who add, or those who take away from the words of God. The Bible is a covenant; and a contract cannot be added to or taken from.

C. Each Man to Interpret:

1. The Bible is a plain book. It can be understood by anyone who makes the effort. This does not mean that there are not hard things, or that every man needs to be taught by the Holy Spirit. But things necessary to salvation and good morals are perfectly clear.
2. This does not mean that we may neglect comparing Scripture with Scripture, or making use of the means God has given: the offices of preaching and teaching, for God has given them to us for our good; but even the preaching and teaching are to be evaluated by Scripture, so every man is bound to study the Scriptures for himself. The obvious reasons are these:
  - a. Obligations to faith and obedience are personal. Responsibility cannot be transferred to another.
  - b. The Scriptures are addressed to the people: not to the officers. All the epistles are addressed to the churches, to the elect, to the congregations, to those who call upon the Lord, to the saints..., in EVERY case.
  - c. The people are commanded to search the Scriptures: John 5:39; Gal. 1:8,9; (The Galatians had a right to sit in judgment on the teaching of an Apostle; or an angel from heaven; They had an infallible rule to do this with.) Deut. 13:1-3 **If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**
  - d. This is the great safeguard to political and religious liberty.

D. Necessary to Saving Knowledge

1. The Gospel of Scripture is necessary to Saving Knowledge: People must hear this message.
2. Men do not have to know how to read to be saved, but the message of the Scriptures must penetrate their hearts by the Holy Spirit.
3. All Men are under condemnation: There is none righteous. Man’s conscience is the ear of his soul, but it never hears the voice of God. Conscience, Reason, tradition, history, all teach that sin is death, but man does not look to the living God, but turns to idols and lying images.
  - a. Eph. 2:12: the heathen are “without Christ, without hope, without God.” Given over by God: Rom. 1:21-25; “alienated and blind” Eph. 4:17-19
  - b. All men are sinners, inexcusable in impiety and immorality: they cannot be saved by anything they do:
    - (1). I Cor. 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
    - (2). Eph. 5:1-9 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of

thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

- i. Heb. 12:14: Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:
- ii. I John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

## II. Cure for the Love of the World, our great enemy: The Message of the Scriptures

- A. See Isaiah 59:21: And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. 21 As for me, this *is* my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that *is* upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever. **“The Spirit is joined to the words.”**
- B. I Cor. 2: **READ ENTIRE CHAPTER.** The natural man does not receive.... It is the spiritual man who receives. The preaching of the word is a highly discriminating occupation. Those who hear belong to God. The others do not. Those who believe have life, and are exceeding precious in the eyes of the Lord.
  1. There are two world systems: One is the city of man; for man, in terms of man, drawing its power and authority from man. It is fallen and will never rise; though man keeps trying to resurrect her. She knows only what she knows naturally, and rejects any supernatural revelation; though her citizens are free to believe whatever myths they choose as long as they do not impose them upon others.
  2. The other is the city of God: Christ is her king; the administration is of the Spirit; her laws are from heaven; Her philosophy and strength is from Heaven, where Her king is. They walk in the light of His Word, which in times past was spoken by the apostles and prophets, but in these last has spoken by His Son.
  3. The citizens of this kingdom must never forget for a moment that they belong to Jesus Christ, that His word is their law, and that their citizenship is in Heaven. They obey all the laws of the land, as their King has commanded them, but they get their life, their faith, and their hope from heaven. They worship no created thing, but God only, in His Son Jesus Christ.