

Song of Songs 2:1-3

First RPC Durham

I. The Glory of Christ (v 1a)**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) The Rose as the most excellent of flowers, so Christ is set forth in His glory.
- 2) Sharon as the most excellent of places, brings forth the most excellent of flowers (Isa 35:1-2)

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) Christ, along with the Father and Spirit as true and very God, is exclusive in His excellencies of glory (Larger Catechism 9; Rom 11:36).
- 2) Christ is exclusive in His salvation (Jn 14:6).
- 3) Christ is glorious in both His eternal generation and incarnation (Jn 1:1-3, 14; Heb 1:3a)
- 4) Christ is glorious in His holiness (Isa 6:1-3; Jn 12:41)
- 5) Christ is glorious in His accomplishing of our redemption (Lk 2:10-14)
- 6) Christ is glorious in His ongoing reign as Priestly King, converting sinners and sanctifying His Church (Isa 4:2)
- 7) Christ is glorious in His exaltation (Rev 5:11-14)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) You are to know Christ in His glory (Ex 34:30; Psa 34:5).
- 2) You are to praise Christ for His glory (Psa 147:1)
- 3) You are to proclaim Christ in His glory to one another as the Church (Song of Songs 5:16b; Isa 40:9).
- 4) The nations are to honour Christ as the King of kings (Psa 72:10-11)

II. The Loveliness of Christ (v 1b)**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) Christ is the lily in His loveliness (Song of Songs 5:16a).
 - a) He is adorned with the beauty of His holiness (Psa 29:2)
 - b) He is adorned with the beauty of His compassion (Heb 4:15; Acts 9:4-5; Mk 10:21).
- 2) Christ is the lily of the valley in His security.

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) Christ Jesus, along with the Father and the Spirit as One God

in three persons, is exclusive in His being our Comfort (2 Cor 1:3b, 1:5; Jn 14:16; Heidelberg Catechism 1).

- 2) Christ Jesus is the lily of the valley in His humiliation (2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:6-8).
 - 3) Jesus is the lily in the valley of sin and judgment (Jsh 7:23-26; Isa 65:10; Ho 10:12b)
 - 4) Jesus is the lily in the valley of suffering (Isa 22:1)
 - 5) Jesus is the lily in the valley of the shadow of death (Psa 90:10, 23:4a; Song of Songs 6:10a; Rom 8:38a, 39b).
- C. Use from the Text: God is to receive our praise and obedience even in the valleys (Mt 11:28-30)**

III. The Church's Call in Christ (v 2)**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) The Church is denoted likewise as a lily for her holiness in Christ.
- 2) The Church is the lily among the thorns of the world, by which is meant the wickedness of those in their sins (Gen 3:18)
- 3) The Church is the Bride of Christ among the daughters [of men] (Gen 6:2).

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) We have no loveliness in ourselves, but only that which is imputed to us through faith (Song of Songs 1:5a)
- 2) The Church is to be contrasted to the world.
 - a) In our holiness:
 - b) In our meekness
 - c) In our identity (Song of Songs 4:10; Rom 8:17).
- 3) The Church can expect great suffering in this life.
- 4) Yet the Church is comforted by the particular love of Christ that we receive (Eph 3:17b-19)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We, as Christians, not to live in isolation.
- 2) We, as Christians, are not to compromise with the world (Titus 2:11-12)
- 3) Be prepared for the thorns of this world (Mt 13:22; Phil 3:10).
- 4) We are to look to the hope we have in Christ (Ezk 28:24)