

Song of Songs 2:4a

First RPC Durham

I. Exposition of the Text

- A.** The Whole Book
- B.** The Surrounding Passage (vv 3-6)
 - 1) Structure
 - 2) Interpretation of verses 3-6:
- C.** Our Particular Text
 - 1) *The banqueting house*
 - 2) The character of this banquet hall: (a) Large; (b) Communal (1 Cor 10:17); (c) Kingly; (d) Majestic; (e) Affectionate
 - 3) The content of this hall: (a) Food (Mt 4:4); (b) Wine; (c) Ultimately, the Lord Himself

II. Doctrines from the Text

- A.** Christ must bring us in to His banquet hall
 - 1) We are unworthy because of our sin
 - 2) We are unable because of our sin nature
- B.** The glory of Christ is found in that this is His banquet hall
- C.** The grace of Christ is found in that He delights to bring His Bride into His hall
- D.** The Banquet House speaks of the wine of Christ's Blood
 - 1) Shed for us five times: (a) in His circumcision to fulfill the Law for us, (b) in the Garden to begin suffering the anguish of God's wrath for us, (c) in His scouring by whose stripes we are healed, (d) in His passion to make atonement for our sins, (e) and in His pierced side to show the double grace accomplished in His death (justification and sanctification), as well as to show the efficacy of the sacraments as signs and seals of righteousness just as blood and water flowed from His side.
 - 2) The Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:25)
- E.** Here we have the Risen Christ
- F.** Christ is able and willing to save us
 - 1) As seen in the wedding of Cana, Christ is able to make the best wine (Jn 2:9-10)
 - 2) Christ is able to fill the house of wine with His guests (Mt 22:2-10)

- G.** Worship is covenantal
- H.** Worship is filling
 - 1) The Lord's Day at the beginning of the week
 - 2) The Lord's Supper fills us with grace (Jn 6:53-57)
- I.** Worship is upward in attention
- J.** Worship is forward in anticipation (Rev 19:9)

III. Answering Objections to the Text

- A.** But how can I know that I have entrance into this banquet hall (Mt 22:11-13)
- B.** But what if I am in the house of mourning rather than the hall of feasting? Take heart, for:
 - 1) There is the witness to Christ in our sufferings (Col 1:24)
 - 2) There is the comfort of Christ in His sufferings (2 Cor 1:5)
 - 3) There is the blessing of Christ in imitating Him (Eccl 7:2)
 - 4) There is the maturing in Christ through sufferings (Ex 17:1-6)
 - 5) There is the anticipation of Christ in the end of our sufferings.

IV. Uses (Applications) from the Text

- A.** Let us consider the great benefits of the banquet hall of Christ in this life (Psa 104:15)
- B.** Let us consider the great benefits of the banquet hall of Christ upon our death (1 Cor 13:13)
- C.** Are we not convicted of many sins?
 - 1) The sin of drunkenness, which prefers the worldly house of wine to the heavenly (Eph 5:18)
 - 2) The sin of self-sufficiency, as if we could bring ourselves to Christ's banqueting house; or, even worse, as if we would prefer our own house of wine to His.
 - 3) The sin of discontentment, neglecting that we have all we could ever need or desire in Christ.
- D.** Let us, therefore heed the warning: For if we shall not be brought into the house of wine by Christ, we shall be the winepress which He treads (Isa 63:3)
- E.** Let us be renewed in this covenant with God, delighting in Him and walking in holiness.