



WHAT'S NEXT?

Thinking Carefully About The Church in a Challenging Age

Matthew 14

34 And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. **35** And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick **36** and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Matthew 15

1 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, **2** “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” **3** He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”



Martin
Luther, 1517

Matthew 15

4 For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' **5** But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," **6** he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

Matthew 15

7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

8 ““This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;

9 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.””

Isaiah 29

11 And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” **12** And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot read.”

Isaiah 29

¹³ And the Lord said:

“Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

Isaiah 29

14 therefore, behold, I will again
do wonderful things with this people,
with wonder upon wonder;
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

Isaiah 29

15 Ah, you who hide deep from the Lord your counsel,
whose deeds are in the dark,
and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”

16 You turn things upside down!
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,
that the thing made should say of its maker,
“He did not make me”;
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,
“He has no understanding”?

Isaiah 29

17 Is it not yet a very little while
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?

18 In that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.

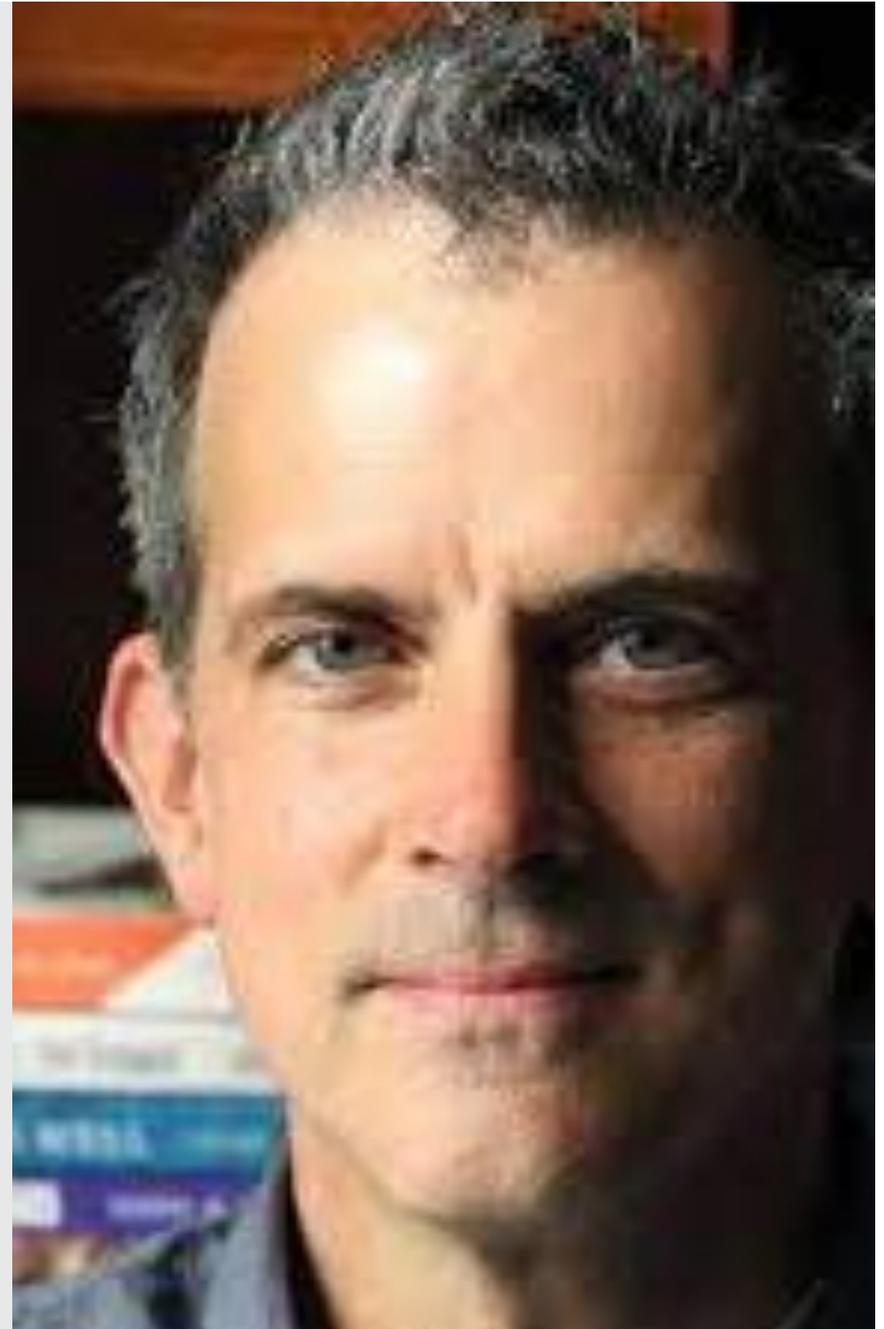
19 The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord,
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 29

20 For the ruthless shall come to nothing
and the scoffer cease,
and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,
21 who by a word make a man out to be an offender,
and lay a snare for him who reproveth in the gate,
and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right.

Timothy Gombis

"Their fidelity to their own socially constructed code of holiness over the clear commands of Scripture has deluded them into conceiving of themselves as more faithful to God than everyone else. They presume they can pass judgment on others , marginalizing them, putting others down and lifting themselves up- all based on their traditions. If they were self-confessedly imperfect people who were striving to be faithful to God's commands while teaching others to do the same, they would not have been the target of Jesus's rebuke."



Passages on the Church

- Matt. 5:13–16 -
- 9:35
- 11:28–30
- 16:15–19;
- 18:19–20
- 22:36–40; Love God and Love your neighbour
- 24:14; Preach the gospel
- 25:34–40; Feed, Water, Welcome, Clothe, Visit sick and imprisoned; Care for the marginalized
- 28:18–20; Make Disciples; Teach obedience; Baptize
- Mark 10:43–45; Serve; give your life
- Luke 4:18–19; Good news to poor, Freedom for captives, Sight to blind, Liberty to the oppressed
- 4:43–45; Preach gospel of the kingdom
- John 4:23; Worship in spirit and in truth
- 10:14–18; Lay down life for the sheep
- 13:34–35; Love one another
- 20:21; Sending; Power in the Spirit
- Acts 1:8; Witnesses; Power in the Spirit
- 2:41–47; Teaching; Breaking bread; Fellowship; Prayer
- 4:32–35; Sharing in common; witness to the resurrection; needs were met
- 5:42; teaching and preaching that Jesus is the messiah
- 6:1–7; Care for widows; ministry of the word and prayer
- Rom. 12:1–8; Exercising gifts in the body
- 15:1–7; Live in harmony; unity
- 1 Cor. 12:12–31; democratic ministry, each in his own role
- 2 Cor. 5:17–6:1; Reconciliation work;
- Gal. 5:13–15; Love your neighbour
- 6:1–2; Restoration; bear one another's burdens
- Eph. 1:22–23; Submit to headship of Jesus
- 2:19–22; Dwelling place for the presence of God
- 3:6; Unity? 'Gentiles are co heirs'
- 3:14–21; Strengthened in the Spirit; Rooted and Grounded
- 4:11–16; Exercise gifts; Unity; Maturity, Wisdom, Building each other up, love
- 5:23–24; Theosis; Christlikeness, righteousness and holiness
- Col. 1:24–28; proclaim Christ, teaching toward maturity
- 3:15–16; teaching, admonishing, singing
- 1 Thess. 1:3;
- 5:11; encourage and build up one another
- Heb. 10:24–25; Stimulate each other to good works, meet together, encourage each other
- 13:7, 17; Speak the word; Lead well
- 1 Peter 2:9–10; Chosen race; royal priesthood, holy nation - be a blessing to the world
 - Mediating presence
- 1 John 1:5–7; Walk in the light
- 4:7–21. Love

Things we are
thinking
about...

Imitation of Jesus

Attentiveness to the Spirit

Connectedness and belonging

Concern for compassion and justice

Equipping for evangelism and
discipleship