

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

2-8-15 Ken Carlton

Title: CHIEF END OF MARRIAGE

Main Text: Psalm 45

Sermon Description: Psalm 45 is the lone wedding song in the psalter and as such, it's 17 verses are dedicated to underscoring the transcendent meaning of marriage with manifold poetic imagery. Like the Song of Solomon, the lyrical structure of Ps 45 is theatrical, character specific, and rhapsodic (expressing deep emotion in rapturous overtures and melodic beauty). The author of Hebrews cites verses 6 & 7 as revelatory proof of the divinity and supremacy of Christ, thus canonically emphasizing the Christ-centered focus of this worship and love song. For Jonathan Edwards, Ps 45 established the exegetical framework for understanding the Christocentric nature of the Song of Solomon which overlaps this Psalm in theme and imagery. This lost connection is crucial these days, as preachers are want to strip mine texts like these for carnal purposes, appealing to the flesh rather than proclaiming Christ. The 'sweetness' of reformed theology replete throughout Puritan writings finds its wellspring in these scriptural oases of lovely meditation on the ultimate meaning of love and marriage.

Heading: THE SINGULAR WEDDING SONG OF THE PSALTER COMMEMORATES...

1. THE PREEMINENT WORTHINESS OF THIS COVENANTAL OCCASION (1, 15)

- a. Artistic faculties employed (1) b. 2 palatial settings (8, 17) c. Wedding feast of the ages (Rev 19:6-9)

2. THE CELEBRATED EXPLOITS OF CHRIST THE GROOM (3-5)

- a. Militant vindication (3,5) b. Majestic cause (4) c. Intrinsic glory (4)

3. THE SURPASSING CHARACTER OF CHRIST, THE GROOM (2, 6-7)

- a. Incarnation and Trinity (2, 6-7, Heb 1:8-9) b. Union of grace (2) c. Authoritative law/justice (6-7)

4. THE DERIVED VIRTUE OF HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH (10-14)

- a. Undivided loyalty (10-11, Mt 10:34-39) b. Purity on account of the King (14) c. Raiment & favor (12-14)

5. THE SCOPE AND INFLUENCE OF SOVEREIGN HISTORY (2, 6, 16-17)

- a. Emphasis on eternal (2,6,16-17) b. Generational perpetuity (16,17) c. Multinational (17)

Close: Ps 45 commemorates the geo-political proliferation of the Gospel! The Bible does not recognize our atomized dichotomy between the Gospel as personal revelational experience and the Gospel as a global, transformational movement – it is both.

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: Covenant occasion	Theme: Groom's exploits	Theme: Character of Christ	Theme: Bride's virtues	Theme: Sovereign history	Theme: NT confirmation
Verses: Ps 45:1,15, Rv 19:6-9	Verses: Ps 45:3-5	Verses: Ps 45:2,6-7	Verses: Ps 45:10-14	Verses: Ps 45:2,6,16-17	Verses: Heb 1:8-9