


A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY

Lesson 10
Chapter 3.9 | Chapter 3.10

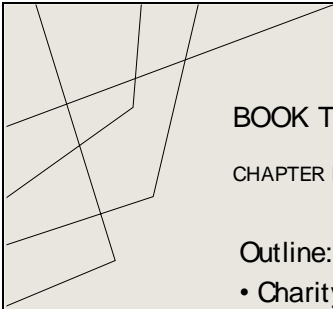


PEACE THRU CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

CLASS NINE CHAPTER SUMMARIES

<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">3.7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Forgiveness is a blessing of love. First, God’s love to us in Christ. Second, God’s love through us to one another.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">3.8</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Pride is at the core of all sin. It manifests as self-idolatry and is Satan’s goal through all temptations.</p>
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BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR

CHAPTER NINE: CHARITY

Outline:

- Charity And Forgiveness
- Small Things to Big Things

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CHARITY AND FORGIVENESS

The Four “Cardinal” Virtues

- 1. Prudence (Common Sense)
- 2. Temperance (Self-Control)
- 3. Justice (Righteousness)
- 4. Fortitude (Courage)

The Three “Theological” Virtues (1 Corinthians 13)

- 1. Faith
- 2. Hope
- 3. Charity

“the ‘Theological’ are those which, as a rule, only Christians know about.”

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WHAT IS CHARITY?


I pointed out in the chapter on Forgiveness that our love for ourselves does not mean that we *like* ourselves. It means that we wish our own good. In the same way Christian Love (or Charity) for our neighbours is quite a different thing from liking or affection. We 'like' or are 'fond of' some people, and not of others. It is important to understand that this natural 'liking' is neither a sin nor a virtue, any more than your likes and dislikes in food are a sin or a virtue. It is just a fact. But, of course, what we do about it is either sinful or virtuous.

The Things I Think About Others...

Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged."

OR

Matthew 7:20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them."



1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love.

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SMALL THINGS TO BIG THINGS

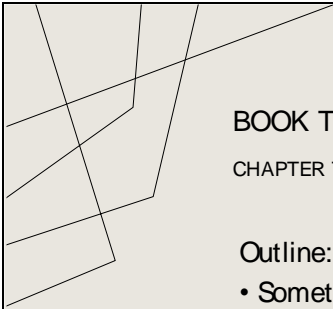
Consequently, though Christian charity sounds a very cold thing to people whose heads are full of sentimentality, and though it is quite distinct from affection, yet it leads to affection.

John 7:24 “Stop judging by outward appearance. Instead make a right judgment.”



SMALL THINGS TO BIG THINGS

Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.



BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR
CHAPTER TEN: HOPE

Outline:

- Something Else
- Three Ways

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SOMETHING ELSE

Romans 8:20-21; 24-25 For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope 21 that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

24 Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

“Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world.” (p. 135)

NATURAL LAW → HOPE

Acts 17:26-28 From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. 27 He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'Indeed, we are also his offspring.'

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

SOMETHING ELSE

It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

*Matthew 6:33
But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

THREE WAYS

1. The Fool's Way

- This person HOPES in earthly things, without realizing there is something greater beyond them. When he is disappointed, he shifts his hope to a different thing.

2. The Way of the Disillusioned 'Sensible Man'

- This person gives up on HOPE, choosing to believe that it is merely something for children. He settles into a pessimistic life of "common sense" without joy or fulfillment.

THREE WAYS

3. The Christian Way

- The Christian HOPES in a way that balances feeling with truth. The Christian sees value in earthly things, but also realizes the joy attached to them is merely a shadow of eternal joy in heaven.

I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same.'

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MEMORABLE THOUGHTS

“But the great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not.” (p. 133)

“Do not sit trying to manufacture feelings. Ask yourself, ‘If I were sure that I loved God, what would I do? When you have found the answer, go and do it.’ (p. 132)

“Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.” (p. 134)

“There was something we grasped at, in that first moment of longing, which just fades away in the reality.” (p. 135)

CLASS TEN CHAPTER SUMMARIES

<p style="text-align: center;">3.9</p> <p>Charity is the greatest Christian virtue. It is based on God's love in Christ to mankind. It is very similar to forgiveness.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3.10</p> <p>Hope points to something greater beyond the ups and down of this present world. It is very similar to faith.</p>
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