

The Aim of the Distinctive Principles of the Covenanter Church

William J. Coleman



Ever since the humiliation of Christ the purpose of the Father has been his exaltation. The Son gave himself for us according to the will of the Father and was brought down even to the dust of death. Now the Father has exalted him by his mighty power to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come, and he put all things in subjection under his feet and gave him to be head over all things." The Son of man who is the Son of God is to be honored as all men honor the Father. To Him every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, to the glory of God the Father. This is the purpose of God.

The Distinctive Principles of the Covenanter Church have the same purpose, the exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is one reason why they are true and why we may expect the blessing of God on their proclamation. To work for them is to work with God.

The first of these principles is that the people of this country should "devoutly recognize the authority and law of Jesus Christ, the Savior and King of nations" in the Constitution of the United States, "the supreme law of the land," and that no citizen should swear, or vote for another to swear to support this Constitution until it recognizes Jesus Christ. That position is for the honor and exaltation of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the divinely appointed Ruler of the nations of this world. He has earned that place by his atoning blood. The Cross is worthy of the Crown. He is made King of kings and Lord of lords, the Governor among the nations, the Prince of peace. Therefore this nation and all nations, should accept his authority and obey his law.

What greater honor could a Christian citizen pay his Savior than to decline to accept his country's Constitution until it accepts Jesus Christ?

The next distinctive principle which we consider is the Covenanter's refusal to enter any Secret Society. Jesus Christ declared when on trial for his life that in secret he had said nothing. Therefore no man ever followed Jesus into a secret society. Such societies are contrary to the spirit of his Gospel, contrary to his universal law of love, contrary to the

spirit of common fairness and self sacrifice which he taught.

More than that these societies teach a salvation by good works and have no place for the atonement by the blood of Christ. According to the Bible no salvation by works is possible. Salvation is of the Lord.

How could a Christian honor Christ more in this regard than by staying out of Secret Societies, as he did, and testifying against the Empire of Secrecy.

The third and fourth principles concern the worship of God. The first is that we sing Psalms exclusively in the worship of God. These Psalms are the "word of Christ," inspired by his Spirit and appointed to be sung. As far as we know Jesus sang them himself in the days of his flesh and so did his Apostles. The "psalms, hymns and songs" commended to the church by Paul were all "spiritual," that is, inspired by the Holy Spirit. No other book of songs is found in the Bible and no one was inspired or appointed to write other songs.

How can a Christian honor Christ more than by singing what he sang and what he inspired and appointed to be sung?

The fourth distinctive principle held by the Covenanter Church is that the

praise of God be sung by the voice, which has a soul back of it, without instrumental accompaniment. Musical instruments in worship were peculiar to the temple, were played by Levites and were connected with the sacrifices. The Christian Church was founded on the synagogue where instruments were never used. Jesus used no instrument in worship, nor did Philip, Peter, or Paul. The Christian Church did not use instruments at all for seven hundred years after Christ and they were not common until the thirteenth century.

How could a follower of Christ honor him more than to sing praise as he did? May we not expect the blessing of God to come upon those who hold and disseminate principles and practices directly aiming at the exaltation of his Son, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ?

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



THE WITNESS COMMITTEE
of the **Covenanter Church**

2325 Osgood Street Pittsburgh 14, Pa.