



▶ Ascending the Hill

Wisdom and Piety

Wisdom

- *Wisdom is living with skill, discipline, and discernment as holy, righteous, loving and faithful citizens of the Kingdom of God through knowing, understanding, and obeying the word of God.*



Calvin on Piety

- Piety is “that union of reverence and love to God which the knowledge of his benefits inspires. For until men feel that they owe everything to God, that they are cherished by his paternal care, and that he is the author of all their blessings, so that nothing is to be looked for away from him, they will never submit to him in voluntary obedience; nay, unless they place their entire happiness in him, they will never yield up their whole selves to him in truth and sincerity.”
 - *Institutes, Book 1*

Puritan Piety

- “English and American Puritans practiced piety as a devotion to God, expressed through lives of Christian discipleship and obedience. Their base was theological. It grew out of Reformed theology, emphasizing the wedding of doctrine and life. What one believes is expressed in how one lives. How one lives is grounded in what one believes.”
 - *Michael A.G. Haykin*

God is Omniscient

- **ESV Psalm 139:1** O LORD, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Fullness in Christ

- ^{NAS} **John 2:24** But Jesus ...knew all men, ²⁵ ... He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man for He Himself knew what was in man.
- ^{ESV} **Colossians 2:2** ... Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 1:30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
- ^{ESV} **John 1:18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

God is Omnipresent

- ^{ESV} **Psalm 139:7** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Fullness in Christ

- **NAS Romans 8:9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- **NAS Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

God is Omnificent

- **ESV Psalm 139:13** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Fullness in Christ

- NAS **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who ... begat us anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- ESV **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- NAS **Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- ESV **Ephesians 4:24** ... put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Piety in Action

- ^{ESV} **Psalm 139:17** How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.
- ¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! ²⁰ They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? ²² I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.
- ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Check Your Heart Often

- NAS **Jeremiah 17:9** "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"
- NIV **James 3:2** We all stumble in many ways.
- NIV **1 Timothy 1:15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst.
- ESV **1 John 1:8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Conclusions



Wisdom and Piety

- NAS **Job 28:28** "... 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.'"
- NAS **Psalms 139:23** Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.
- NAS **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.
- NIV **2 Peter 3:11** ... You ought to live holy and godly lives