

THE GOLDEN COUNSEL OF CHRIST

Rev. 3:18-20

Introduction: Christ says, "I counsel Thee".

Isiah calls Him "Wonderful, Counsellor."

He is our Heavenly Advocate, Lawyer, Counsellor, Advisor. No One else knows how to give good counsel better than Jesus, and no advice should be more earnestly followed.

I. In verse 18 He counsels us to purchase from Him spiritual possessions.

1. Like the Laodiceans, we must first recognize our poverty and need.

2. We do not purchase Christian character with money; Isaiah said, "Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." The gifts and graces of God are obtained by faith.

3. Notice WHAT marks of character we need.

A. The wealth of spiritual riches.

B. The raiment of Christian righteousness.

C. The enlightenment of Christian discernment.

"The world is still deceived with ornament. In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt, But, being seasoned with a gracious voice, Obscures the show of evil? In religion, What damned error, but some sober brow Will bless it, and approve it with a text, Hiding the grossness with fair ornament? There is now vice so simple, but assumes Some mark of virtue on his outward parts: Thus ornament is but the gilded shore To a most dangerous sea; the beauteous scarf Veiling an Indian beauty; in a word, The seeming truth which cunning times puts on To entrap the wisest."

Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice

4. Jesus is "the very image (character) of God. Heb. 1:3

The Supermacy of character is found in Xt.

"He is a path; if any be misled;
He is a robe; if any naked be;
If any chance to hunger, He is bread;
If any be a bondsman, He is free;
If any be but weak, how strong is He!
To dead men life is He, to sick men, health;
To blind men sight, and to the needy wealth;
A pleasure without loss, ~~orion ed bluora eolun~~
A treasure without stealth."

~~esounding of as almighty as the day of~~

II. Christ counsels the Laodiceans to repent.

1. They must first recognize their wrong attitude of v. 17.

2. The basic wrong of the church of Laodicea was that it had lost the supremacy of Xt. It had not degenerated into a society of unbelievers, and it was not a hot bed of vice. But there was not enough faith in it to give it a ~~ever~~ ^{ever} tepid testimony. The trouble was that Jesus was on the outside and not in the midst.

3. Repentance is often preceded by rebuke and chastisement, but these are signs of the love of Christ.

III. Christ counsels us to hear his voice, and open the door of our heart.

1. Hearing the gospel is the first step toward salvation.

2. Christ pleads for admission to our heart, but we must open the door ourselves.

3. In Holman Hunt's well-known picture, there is no latch on the outside.

IV. Christ counsels us to be an overcomer.

1. "No man is any use to the reign of God who puts his hand to the plow, and then looks back." Lk. 9:62, Moffatt.

2. Acts 28:14, "And so we came to Rome."

3. Gal. 5:7, "Ye did run well, who did hinder you?"

^{story} A little dog which watched the east + lunchbox when a forest fire came.