Personal Renewal: Biblical Principles and Spiritual Practices or *On Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing* #5

- 1. Pray
- 2. Housekeeping
- 3. Recap:
 - a. Returning to our first Love
 - i. Rev 2:4-5 (p. 1028)
 - b. Personal Renewal as Recommitment or Rededication of Love
 - i. Definition of Love: Seeking the good of the other for the sake of the other.
 - 1. For humans, love is a *choice*.
 - ii. Repentance metanoeo
 - c. Problem: Sin
 - i. Disordered Love
 - 1. Aptitude vs. Ability
 - 2. Recall from week #1 Distractions/Complacency -> idolatry
 - a. Busy/Tired
 - b. Creature Comforts
 - c. Distracted
 - d. Enchanted
 - ii. Two Cities:
 - 1. City of Man (World/Flesh/Kingdom of Darkness)
 - 2. City of God (Kingdom of God/Heaven/Light/The Church)
 - a. City of God in the midst of the City of Man
 - i. Cf., 1 Peter 2:11 (p. 1015)

- 4. Questions
- 5. Holy Scripture/The Great Tradition and the Discipline of Study
 - a. Psalm 1 Read it together (*BCP19* p. 270).
 - i. Trailhead Psalm
 - 1. Purpose: "Instruction" (torah) in the Way (derek)
 - a. *Torah* = Law? Yes, but no.
 - b. Richard Hooker on the Lawes
 - i. Eternal
 - ii. Natural
 - iii. Revealed
- 6. Metanoeo To change one's mind, i.e., to repent.
 - a. Rev. 2:5 (p. 1028)
 - b. Cf., Romans 12:1-2 (p. 947); John 8:12, 31-36 (p. 894)
 - c. Coinherence of Head and Heart
 - i. The Great Commandment Mark 12: 29-30 (p. 849)
 - 1. Cf., Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (p. 151)
 - a. *leb* = heart/intellect
 - b. ...on your heart...teach them...(Tradition/content)
 - c. Knowledge *about* for the sake of knowledge *of*.
 - ii. "The heart never takes the place of the head: but it can, and should, obey
 - it." The Abolition of Man, C. S. Lewis

- 7. Holy Scripture/The Great Tradition's Role in Metanoeo
 - a. Back to Psalm 1
 - i. Instruction in the Way...to Salvation
 - 1. Little *w* words to *W* Word
 - a. Jesus on the Cross as Fullness of Divine Revelation
 - 2. Parables of Hidden Treasure and Pearls
 - a. Matt 13:44-46 (p. 819)
 - b. Jesus as content of Scripture
 - i. Res and signum
 - 3. St. Irenaeus and the Hypothesis of Scripture
 - a. King vs. fox
 - b. Rule of Faith/Tradition as hypothesis
 - c. 2 Thess 2:15 (p. 989) coinherence...
 - d. Cf., 1 Cor 11:2, 23 (p. 958); 15:3-5 (p. 961)
 - i. John 16:12-15 (902)
 - 4. Usefulness of Scripture
 - a. Hebrews 4:11-12 (p. 1003); 2 Tim 3:16-17 (996)
 - i. Enchantedness?
 - b. Not sola but prima Scriptura
 - i. "The English Reformation was 'consonant to the words of Christ and the writings of the apostles, *and the testimonies of the catholic fathers*."¹ Bishop John Jewel (1567)
 - ii. "the Church of England in her public and authorized Doctrine and Religion" looks to Scripture as "her main and prime foundation" but also "relieth upon the consentient testimony and authority of the *bishops and pastors of the true and ancient Catholic Church*; and it preferreth the sentence thereof before all other curious and profane novelties."² – Bishop Francis White (1564-1638)
 - iii. Proper context for interpretation is the Church and her Tradition.
- 8. Disciplines
 - a. Study
 - i. What?
 - 1. Great Tradition
 - a. Holy Scripture; Fathers; Theology; Church History
 - i. Bible Reading plan BCP19 p. 734-763
 - ii. On the Apostolic Preaching St. Irenaeus
 - iii. Confessions St. Augustine
 - iv. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought* Robert Louis Wilken

¹ Quoted from, "Is the Anglican 'Reset' Truly Anglican," Hans Boersma, Gerald McDermott, and Greg Peters. Published on Firstthings.com. Retrieved on June 21, 2023

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- b. *lectio divina*
 - i. lectio
 - ii. *meditatio*
 - iii. oratio
 - iv. contemplation
 - 1. Pierced by Love, Hans Boersma
- c. Guard your hearts by guarding your minds!
 - i. Colossians 3:1-3 (p. 984)
 - ii. Philippians 4:8-9 (p. 982)
- d. Read good books
 - i. Tolkien and Lewis, obviously
 - ii. Michael O'Brian
 - iii. (Western) Classics