



Hidden in Plain Sight

2 Corinthians 13:14

QUOTES:

“In many ways this benediction is the most profound theological moment in the Pauline corpus...It is not difficult to see why such a profound moment of theology – in the form of a prayer for the Corinthians – should be the single most appropriate way to conclude this letter. What Paul wishes for them is all of this, and nothing less.” Gordon Fee

“Only by seeing our sin do we come to see the need and wonder of grace. But exposing sin is not the same thing as unveiling and applying grace. We must be familiar with the exponents of its multifaceted power, and know how to apply it to a variety of spiritual conditions. Truth to tell exposing sin is easier than applying grace; for, alas, we are more intimate with the former than we sometimes are with the latter. Therein lies our weakness.”
Sinclair Ferguson

“The preachers’ commission is to declare the whole counsel of God; but the cross is the center of that counsel, and the Puritans knew that the traveler through the Bible landscape misses his way as soon as he loses sight of the hill called Calvary.” J.I. Packer

“The New Testament gives us two yardsticks for measuring God’s love. The first is the cross (see Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:8-10); the second is the gift of sonship (1 John 3:1).”
J.I. Packer

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly that God’s love is the source, not the consequence, of the atonement...God does not love us because Christ died for us; Christ died for us because God loved us. If it is God’s wrath which needed to be propitiated, it is God’s love which did the propitiating.” John Stott

“When we think of Christ dying on the cross we are shown the lengths to which God’s love goes in order to win us back to himself. We should almost think that God loved us more than he loves his Son! We cannot measure such love by any other standard. He is saying to us: I love you this much. The cross is the heart of the gospel. It makes the gospel good news: Christ died for us. He has stood in our place before God’s judgment seat. He has borne our sins. God has done something on the cross we could never do for ourselves. But God does something to us as well as for us through the cross. He persuades us that he loves us.” Sinclair Ferguson

“But in Paul, power is not to be thought of merely in terms of the miraculous, the extraordinary...Paul understood the Spirit’s power in the broadest possible way.”
Gordon Fee

“Something is incredibly wrong when the words we hear outside of Scripture are more powerful and more affecting to us than the inspired word of God.” John Piper

“What it means to be ‘spiritual’ is profoundly tied to the cross, and nothing else. More precisely, to be spiritual, in this passage, is to enjoy the gift of the Holy Spirit – and this means understanding and appropriating the message of the cross, ‘God’s secret wisdom.’ Those who are most mature are most grateful for the cross and keep coming back to it as the measure of God’s love for them and the supreme standard for self-denial.”
Don Carson

Next week: Trinitarian Christian Living; Q & A Session