

8-24-1945

Notes: Various Themes: Christian Worship (Fragments), 1945

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FW
1962-1963

II

Aug. 24, 1945

TEXT

THEME

W. L. G. K. M.

OCCASION

the matter of form

Christian Worship

4. Is it then entirely a subjective matter? Must we open the door to all the intensely personal, blindly emotional approaches to worship? No - ~~there~~ other factors which must enter into any consideration of the problem. - ^{Intelligible Inst.} the first is cultural - ^{not spiritual} there are standards of beauty in worship as in all other arts. ~~The~~ worship is the total selfgiving of man to God - also his cultural intelligence - ^{in form} by the standards of intelligent believers, crystallized by standards of the art of worship - established by long years of use by the saints who have gone before us - some forms of worship are better than others - to ignore these standards is to refuse to offer to God the best that we have or can do.
- so we know that a beautiful church is better than a cheap & shoddy auditorium - "Wachet auf" is better than "Jesus, howe" - the B Minor better than Stamitz's "Conquiere"
5. ~~But~~ there is the ^{second} reason for the establishment & maintenance of standards - far more important though intangible. There is an intimate & inevitable connection between the type of faith and the type of worship - between theology & culture. They cannot be separated - a cheap, sentimental form of worship will be reflected eventually in the same type of faith - interaction - man who professes "Baptized Isle" to "O ~~Erreger~~ ^{Erreger} der Jerusalem, der hochgebauten" reveals the kind of faith he has in his heart - more than that - some forms are the inevitable reflection of history or at least Schismatis tendencies - the ^{means} of a given liturgical act or symbol or form ^{very} complex - depend on its history, the words spoken or sung with it & many other factors -

Constitution

W.H. L.

III

TEXT

THEME

Aug. 24, 1945

F.W.

OCCASION

1942

Christian Worship

Exp. a man in full virtuous kneeling at a prie digne may be an idolator or he may be a humble Christian & a great ^{public} ~~hathian~~ -

6. A third factor in the establishment of standards - the main stream in ~~Orthodoxy~~ - Rome, Geneva, ^{the} ~~Wittenberg~~ - ~~differs~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{each} ~~dup~~ - both in faith & life - ^{we} ~~each~~ should be true to ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~grains~~ - not in a spirit of separatism - but in loyalty to ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~God-given~~ ^{God-given} ~~heritage~~ -

Great Worship is the expression of great theology ^{& great culture} - the ~~church~~ ^{the church} -

7. Finally - constant effort to see our worship as God sees it - in fact, a principle which should be ^{our} ~~applied~~ ^{applied} ~~more~~ ^{more} ~~regularly~~ ^{regularly} in all our thought - the Church on earth and the Church in heaven are one - we sing together before the throne - but our songs & our prayers here are earth or not the ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~form~~ ^{form} - that is carried by the cherubim and seraphim and the saints who ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~gone~~ ^{gone} ~~before~~ ^{before} ~~us~~ - our is the accompaniment, the second voice - often broken & hoarse & out of tune - but God loves it - He waits to hear it from the high halls of heaven - and ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~continue~~ ^{continue} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~wait~~ ^{wait} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~until~~ ^{until} ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~can~~ ^{can} ~~give~~ ^{give} ~~us~~ ^{us} ~~a~~ ^a ~~better~~ ^{better} ~~voice~~ ^{voice} & a greater song -

Meanwhile - a little church somewhere -

At the heart of it - the celebration of the mystery of ^{hidden} ~~existence~~ ⁱⁿ ~~God~~ - mystery is an ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~comprehensible~~ ^{incomprehensible} ~~dimension~~ ^{dimension} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~existence~~ - Ignorance & mystery are not the same things. The great academic fallacy - to equate the two - ignorance: not to know how to ~~see~~ ^{see} ~~a~~ ^a ~~virus~~ ^{virus} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~fection~~ ^{infection} - the distance to the farthest galaxy - mystery: ~~man~~ ^{man} ~~ing~~ ^{ing} ~~sent~~ ^{sent} ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~common~~ ^{common} ~~journey~~ ^{journey} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~dark~~ ^{dark} - the meaning of the Cross, etc. - worship is the accompaniment of things beyond the limits of hearing