

**“What it Means to be Reformed”; Session #82, Soli Deo Gloria – To God Alone
Belongs Glory - “The Glory of God’s Purposed Grace”, prepared by Pastor
Paul Rendall for the Adult Sunday School Class on July 10th, 2016.**

I. The Glory of God is seen in the building of Christ’s Church according to His own Purposed Mercy and Grace.

We want to look this morning at the subject of the glory of God’s purposed grace. This takes in God’s thoughts, His works and His ways in relation to all the people that He will save and bring to eternal glory. All of the thoughts of God’s purposed grace, which He shows to underserving elect sinners, come to fruition in time and space in the salvation and preservation of all of His elect people. There is great glory in this; that all of what God has purposed in relation to the redemption of His elect people, is applied to them at just the right time and way to establish His purposes in saving them, in teaching them, in leading them and guiding them through this life. And most certainly it is seen also in His spiritually preserving them unto their entrance into eternal glory.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 – “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all of your heart.” “I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.”

Matthew Henry says on verse 11 – “I know the thoughts that I think towards you. Known unto God are all his works, for known unto him are all his thoughts (Acts 15: 18) and his works agree exactly with his thoughts; he does all according to the counsel of his will. We often do not know our own thoughts, nor know our own mind, but God is never at any uncertainty within himself. We are sometimes ready to fear that God’s designs concerning us are all against us; but he knows the contrary concerning his own people, that they are thoughts of good and not of evil; even that which seems evil is designed for good. His thoughts are all working towards the expected end, which he will give in due time. The end they expect will come, though perhaps not when they expect it. Let them have patience till the fruit is ripe, and then they shall have it. He will give them an end, and expectation, so it is in the original. (1.) He will give them to see the end (the comfortable termination) of their trouble; though it last long, it shall not last always. The time to favor Zion, yea, the set time, will come. When things are at the worst they will begin to mend; and he will give them to see the glorious perfection of their deliverance; for, as for God, his work is perfect. He that in the beginning finished the heavens and the earth, and all the hosts of both, will finish all the blessings of both to his people. When he begins in ways of mercy he will make an end. God does nothing by halves. (2.) He will give them to see the expectation, that end which they desire and hope for, and have been long waiting for. He will give them, not the expectations of their fears, nor the expectations of their fancies, but the expectations of their faith, the end which he has promised and which will turn for the best to them.”

John Calvin says on verse 14: “We see that Moses there expressly reproves the unbelief of the people, if they despaired of God’s mercy and salvation, because they were torn and scattered. he therefore shews that God’s power was abundantly sufficient to collect them again, though they were scattered to the four quarters of the world. We now perceive the object of the Prophet.”

“And hence we may gather a useful doctrine, — that God in a wonderful manner gathers his Church when scattered, so as to form it into one body, however he may for a time obliterate its name and even its very appearance. And of this he has given us some proof in our time. For who could have thought that what we now see with our eyes, would ever take place? that God would in a secret manner gather his elect, when there was everywhere a dreadful desolation, and no corner found in the world where two or three faithful men could dwell together. We hence see that this prophecy has not been fulfilled only at one time, but that the grace of God is here set forth, which he has often manifested, and still manifests in gathering his Church.”