



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

THE JUST BALANCE

Being corrected to the measuring standard of Christ



A just weight and balance belong to the Lord; all the weights of the bag are His work.

Proverbs 16:11

The Merchant Bag

and the stones of measurement inside

. . . all the weights of the bag are His work.

Proverbs 16:11

- The Honest Stone vs. The Cunning Stone
- The Truth Stone vs. The Emotions Stone
- The Word of God Stone vs. The Experience Stone
- The God Stone vs. The Selfish Stone

The Balance of Scales



A just weight and balance belong to the Lord; all the weights of the bag are His work.

Proverbs 16:11

A false balance is abomination to the LORD; but a just weight is His delight.

Proverbs 11:1

Diverse weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.

Proverbs 20:23

You shalt not have in your bag diverse weights, a great and a small. You shalt not have in your house diverse measures, a great and a small. But you shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure you shall have: that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God gives you. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 25:13-16

Famous Balance Doctrines

- Sovereignty vs. Free Will
- The Righteousness of Law vs. The Saving Power of Grace
- Suffering vs. Prosperity
- Doing Good Works vs. Resting in Salvation
- The Importance of Purity vs. The Beauty of Liberty
- The Authority of the Text of Scripture vs. the Divine Governance of the Holy Spirit
- Submitting to Earthly Authority vs. Civil Disobedience
- Organized Government vs. Individual Freedom

. . . Things are as they are, whether we like it or not. It is our business to find out how they are, accept them as they are and then make our teaching conform to them as they are . . . when Truth has been revealed in the Word of God, our business is to find out what that truth is, and in all of our teaching [and living] conform to that truth. We are not to edit or change it, but to let it stand just as it is.

A.W. Tozer

The Full and Right Expression of *Church Government* VS. The Full and Right Expression of *Spiritual Gifts*

Can the Two Work Together?

Or must they always be at enmity one with the other?

The Challenge

You can't pick sides on this one. You need to seek a just balance. Because both are clearly commanded

Corinth

The Church Splattered with Controversy

1st Corinthians: Chapter One

Paul Shares His Reason for Writing

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11

So, What are the Contentions?

Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 1:12-13

Pastor Paul Has His Hands Full with Corinth

- **Contentious and Denominationally-minded** - making every peripheral doctrinal theme a dividing point while forgetting the doctrinal theme that is the most important
- **Arrogant and Puffed-up** - thinking they are immune to correction and are free to live out their Christianity any way they see fit
- **Controlled by the Flesh, Babes** - carnal and controlled by self's passion for comfort, control, and recognition
- **Sexually Immoral** - exercising their "liberty" in Christ in a manner that feels good to them though it may harm others

- **Aggressively separating from all sinners the world over** - hyper-eagerness to please God out of distancing from all that is sexually immoral
- **Taking each other to court** - allowing the secular world to make decisions in regard to the church
- **Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols** - Enjoying liberty at the expense of another's conscience
- **Unwillingness to give up anything** - their rights, their earthly pleasures, their possessions, and their control over their life
- **Refusing to cover the head properly** - showing shocking disrespect and dishonoring to their God-given authority
- **Handling communion with utter disregard** to the preciousness and sacredness of it - diminishing the value of the shed blood of Jesus
- **Chaotic and disorderly in their use of spiritual gifts** - out-of-control tongue-talking and prophesying
- **Women jumping ahead of the men** - dishonor and disrespect, undermining God's clearly appointed leadership
- **Audacious questioning of the resurrection** - after all that's pretty preposterous to think that people can rise from the dead

The Two Ditches and the Centerline

#1 - The Liberty Ditch - *just a little to the left*

The Christian Sadducee

#2 - The Law Ditch - *a little to the right*

The Christian Pharisee

Love

the missing ingredient in Corinth

And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:31

Though **[I aggressively defend the doctrines of Peter]**, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though **[I vigorously argue on behalf of the conclusions of Apollos]**, but have not love, I am nothing. And though **[I animatedly champion the exhortations of Paul]**, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

The “Love” Christian - *right down the middle*

The *Christian* Christian

Love Harnesses Liberty

—————
Love Fulfills the Law

—————
*Only That which Flows out of the Power of Heavenly Love
is worth anything in the Grand Landscape of Eternity*

The Anatomy of Love

God’s Nature of Humble, Selfless Giving

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples . . .

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, **if ye have love one to another.**

John 13:35

All of Us Need to Check Our Merchant Bag

Do we have any light stones that we are putting on the scale?

- Spiritual Gifts?
- Church Governance?
- Sovereignty?
- Free Will?
- Suffering?
- Prosperity?
- The Righteousness of Law?
- The Saving Power of Grace?
- Doing Good Works?
- Resting in Salvation?
- Purity in Christ?
- Liberty in Christ?
- The Text of Scripture?
- The Active Voice of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus

Do you have a light stone in your bag?