

2-21-16 A PERFECT HATRED?

This Month we have been talking about the heart of man.. Since in this month we celebrate valentines day, we often think of February hearts.. And expressions of love.. A few weeks ago we talked about the desires of one's heart.. What you love you will pursue - barring restraints, we will do what we desire, and follow what is in our hearts. What we love we gravitate towards.. and what we hate we stay away from ... we separate from..

We considered in previous messages what unlocks the things we love and desire.. Let us look at what we should hate.. and disdain. When we hate that which is evil, the Bible says it is a perfect hatred! So this morning I want to talk to you about what the Bible calls a perfect hatred.

WHAT IS A PERFECT HATRED

Psalms 139:20 For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.
Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?
Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

Why is it we find it hard to say that it is ok to hate anyone?

It seems an apparent contradiction with such verse like..

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.
Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Did not God love the world?

How then is it that the Bible says.. there is this perfect hatred?

We will talk about that.. this morning.

HOW IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A PERFECT HATRED ?

This morning we will see why it is ok to say it is right to have this righteous indignation, this "PERFECT HATRED" towards those who hate God.

I. IT IS A PERFECT HATRED BECAUSE IT IS COMMANDED OF GOD..

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

What greater way to destroy the people of God than to get them to think that it is ok to love evil, to tolerate evil. Last week I preached a message about man's evil heart.. and I came across this philosophy of the day..

When Diane Sawyer asked Sue Klebold if she believed in "EVIL"
A strange question I thought.
Dylan Klebold's mom Susan Klebold .. says.. " I don't think so.. I don't think I do.. "

Then Diane Sawyer interviewed a Former FBI agent Ellen O'Toole, one of the world's leading profilers of the criminal brain.. who says..

"Evil is a spiritual term. and it doesn't have any legal or behavioral meaning.. so I stay away from it.. "

You see Christians have been influenced so much by this humanistic world.. that this mentality has crept into the church.. It's as if there is no such thing as evil. So evil prevails today, because people are in denial that it even exists.

GOD COMMANDS US TO HATE EVIL..

But how can we hate something if we deny that it even exists?

We define evil as a sickness that needs to be treated and can be treated. Just change the environment, conditions, and thinking and it can be dealt with.

It is the approach of modern Psychology... People feel guilty about their actions and that is the problem. Today, if a woman were to go to a Physiologist for counseling because she is no longer happy in her marriage, instead of the counsellor telling her to stay married .. she will be counseled to forget about her guilt and do what makes her happy. Many a man has had to foot the bill to pay for counseling only to have the counselor advise the wife to leave her husband and pursue what makes her happy...

There is no evil in this .. it is only better for her, why not do it.

There is no right or wrong...

How can we hate what does not exist.

GOD SAYS WE SHOULD HATE EVIL.. I BELIEVE WE ARE COMMANDED TO HAVE THIS PERFECT HATRED OF EVIL..

What is Evil? It is none other than that diabolical plan of Satan to thwart God's rulership.

Satan put it this way.. Decide for yourself what is good and evil.
Throw off the shackles of divine authority and rule..

Nothing is evil.. if a man wants to marry a man.. that is not wrong.
If a woman wants to marry a woman that is not wrong..
If a woman wants to kill her unborn baby that is not wrong..
If a woman wants to pursue someone else and wants to break her marriage covenant that is her decision..

Everything is ok as long as your actions do not violate my freedom.
No evil thoughts..
No moral actions..

Yet even the world sets limits.. because "I" don't want you to do something that would hinder ME from doing what "I" want to do..

The Bible says that God has set boundaries and limits on man. God clearly defines what is right and what is wrong.. and what is good and what is evil.

We are commanded to Hate evil.. if you hate evil it will affect the way you treat those who do evil.

II. IT IS A PERFECT HATRED BECAUSE IT IS LEADS TO HOLINESS

You are drawn to what you love..
You are repelled by what you hate..

If you love righteousness you will seek righteousness.
If you love God you will seek to be near others who love God.

I Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
I Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

THE BIBLE COMMANDS US TO BE HOLY.. YOU CAN'T LOVE EVIL AND YOU CAN'T LOVE EVIL PEOPLE AND BE HOLY!

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,

II Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

You are drawn to things and people you love ..

Hate is really a term of separation ..

When I hate something I do not allow it in my life..

I HATE PEANUT BUTTER.. so I don't eat it..
My wife hates fish so she doesn't eat it..

When someone loves what I hate they look at me strange..
When I love something and someone else hates it, I look at them strange..

But if we love God.. how can we not find it strange when people hate God..

This is a most basic area of agreement that we must have with those we are closely associated with..

If you fellowship with those who hate God it is only a matter of time than it will affect you.

Jehoshaphat was rebuked of the Lord because he violated this principle.

II Chronicles 19:2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

The reason it is a perfect hatred is that we can hate those who hate the Lord because it will protect us in this life and lead to holiness.

The word Holy means to be separate Holy .. set apart..

In the Bible there were certain items that were to be dedicated to God .. the incense that was used in the temple was to be different than anything used for common purposes.. the utensils used for worship were to be consecrated and set apart for that purpose. The priests were to be set apart and consecrated for that service.

Today, we as God's people are to be set apart and be holy unto the Lord.

The Bible says...

Be Ye Holy.. that means we need to separate ourselves from things that are at enmity to God. When we love those who hate the Lord.. that hatred for God may spill over into our lives. So how can we join up with those who hate God and not be contaminated?!

Let us think of the Word Hate.. as to mean separate from ..

Usually when we think of the word hate we think of the idea of wanting to do harm. No, it could mean that we just separate from them. Often evil men just self destruct anyway.

The Bible says that God loved Jacob and hated Esau..

Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, Malachi 1:3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

God was with Jacob.. God did not bless Esau.. and separated Himself from him..

III. IT IS A PERFECT HATRED BECAUSE IT CAUSES US TO SEPARATE US FROM EVIL

You are drawn to what you love..

You are repelled by what you hate..

If you love those who hate the Lord you will be drawn into their activities that God calls evil.. You will find yourself doing evil..

If you associate with people who drink you will find yourself drinking and getting drunk..

If you associate with people who do drugs you will find yourself tempted to do drugs..

When you associate with people who are dishonest you may find yourself being dishonest..

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

When you find it pleasurable to be with those who do things that the Bible calls evil .. you will be drawn to do what they do..

So this is why it is a perfect Hatred to be repelled from those who hate God..

But one will say I find it hard to say I hate anyone..

How can you hate someone, one would say, and be a Christian? We will get to that .. But next we need to consider..

IV. IT IS A PERFECT HATRED BECAUSE IT IS PART OF SPIRITUAL WAREFARE

What if in a war you could actually turn around and not want to fight your enemy? What would happen?

You would surrender and the enemy, who is evil, would prevail.

So the strategy of Satan is to make God's people think that he is not so bad.

The world actually sings songs on this subject..

In fact before I was saved our Band used to sing and play this song..

THEY SAY.. Have a little Sympathy for the devil..

Jeremiah 48:10 Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.

In a war, if you do not fight .. the enemy will turn around and destroy everyone you love. It is a life and death situation ..

Have you noticed that ever since we took the Bible out of our society we have not won a war since? And even when we seemingly do win we kind of feel guilty about it and in the end it is worse than if we have not fought the war at all. We never seem to finish the job.

The reason is because we feel guilty for hating anyone! Even those who hate God. We have lost of sense of right and wrong, good and evil..

Now we are faced with a group of people who hate us and this group of new enemies.. called.. Moslem radical terrorists..

And we are losing the battle against this group .. because we cannot find it in our hearts to destroy our enemies.. In fact when we go to war against these people who chop peoples heads off, have no mercy, rape.. and pillage.. we get mad at our military when they treat them harshly?

In fact we are denial that they are evil people.. Do we think if we give them democracy it will be the answer? Do we think if we love them it will be the answer? Do we think if we give them jobs that will be the answer?

War is not nice and those who play nice will lose.

IS THERE A SPIRITUAL WAR OR IS THERE NOT A SPIRITUAL WAR?

IS THERE A DEVIL WHO HATES GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, AND IS SEEKING TO DESTROY EVERYONE HE CAN OR IS THERE NOT A WAR GOING ON?

The book of Ecclesiastes says there is a time to love and a time to hate..

To hate those who hate God is a perfect hatred because it is the kind of hatred that a soldier must have in times of war.. Seeking to destroy the enemies.. Can you go to war and be nice?

It is our duty as soldiers to hate evil .. evil and those who side with evil are to be fought against.

In fact, the Bible says that when we do not set ourselves against evil, we in turn allow evil to prevail and will be punished by God!

Jeremiah 48:10 Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.

Now today .. we need to set ourselves against evil .. and fight as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. NO NOT WITH GUNS.. NOT WITH SWORDS..

Paul put it this way..

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Most Christians have surrendered to the evil philosophies of this world. We are being defeated by the enemy because we do not fight!

The sword is non other than the Word of God.. and we have surrendered our swords and are afraid to bring them out.. into the open.

When you bring it out. the enemy will flee. but most Christians hold it back and refuse to bring it out.

You say preacher.. how can we win people to Christ if we hate those who hate the Lord? How do we do this..

There is a way.. talk about it in part B of this message.. in our evening service.

INVITATION

The problem I see with contemporary Christians today is that we have bought into the world's philosophy that there are really no evil people!

When we read this passage..

Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

When we think of the word hate.. let us think of the word separation..

Are we repelled by evil .. that is a righteous hate..

Concerning this verse one commentator writes:

"Lord, thou knowest the heart, and canst witness for me; do not I hate those that hate thee, and for that reason, because they hate thee? I hate them because I love thee, and hate to see such affronts and indignities put upon thy blessed name. Am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee, grieved to see their rebellion and to foresee their ruin, which it will certainly end in?" Note, Sin is hated, and sinners are lamented, by all that fear God. "I hate them" (that is, "I hate the work of them that turn aside," as he explains himself,

HOW CAN WE AS CHRISTIANS LOVE TO BE AROUND THOSE WHO TAKE OUR LORDS NAME IN VAIN?

HOW CAN WE LOVE TO BE AROUND THOSE WHO DO THOSE THINGS THE BIBLE CALLS EVIL?

HOW CAN WE LOVE TO BE AROUND THOSE WHO SPEAK EVIL CONTINUALLY?

Think of the word hate as the word separation .. I want to separate from those who hate you!

The Bible says ..

BE YE PERFECT AS I AM PERFECT..

THERE IS A PERFECT WAY TO DEAL With THE ENEMIES OF GOD..

We need to deal with them as the Lord would direct us..

One of the reasons that the church is not having an influence in the world as it should is because we have embraced the world. We have joined with the world.. We find it hard to have a righteous disdain from evil..

Consider this is what it means

Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

EVENING MESSAGE

WHY DOES GOD CALL THIS A PERFECT HATRED

Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

Question could be asked.. how do we win people to the Lord if these things are true?

We could argue.. those who are not saved, are they not the enemies of Jesus Christ? How then will they get saved.. if we separate from them and hate them?

There is a perfect hatred.. because we should treat people as the Lord would have us treat them..

Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

V. IT IS A PERFECT HATRED BECAUSE IT WILL PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES FROM FALLING INTO SIN

If someone has a contagious disease is it love to kiss them on the lips?

The reason the Lord calls His people to have a perfect hatred for those who hate Him is to protect them from being contaminated with sin..

The worst sin .. is that sin that spreads..

The way sin spreads is by coming to close to others who are sinners..

Sickness and disease is a physical illustration of the way sin works and proliferates..

A perfect hatred is a hatred, a disdain.. a separation from evil and those who perpetuate evil.

The Lord treated the Pharisees more harshly than he did the woman taken in adultery ..

Those who spread sin are to be treated more harshly than those who have fallen victim to sin. Those who haven fallen victim to sin do not necessarily hate the Lord. They are sinners who need to be saved. There is a difference.

1. THOSE WHO COULD SPREAD SIN AND REBELLION NEED TO BE DEALT WITH MORE HARSHLY THAN THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO SIN..

I Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

I Corinthians 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

I Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

I Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

I Corinthians 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

The most dangerous sinner is the one that we fellowship with ..

We need to clean our house from within ..

The dirt that is without is of no threat, it is just outside our houses ..
It is when we let it in that it becomes a problem.

So we must deal more severely with those who can destroy us from within..

Israel was commanded to destroy the inhabitants of the land. There were a lot of heathen people around the world. They were not commanded to go to war against them. Those people could have no affect on them.

The ungodly people **in the land** could ..

They did not obey that command and because of it the nation went astray and was destroyed.

The Church is being destroyed from within.. not from without...

We have let the world in and are being destroyed because of it ..

One Commentator puts it this way as this relates even to church discipline..

Matthew 18:17. The people of God are, as much as may be, to withdraw from them as to that common society which is proper to subsist among Christians. _ Not that they should avoid speaking to them on any occasion. All manner and all degrees of society are not forbidden, but all unnecessary society, or such as is wont to be among those who delight in the company of each other. We should not associate ourselves with them so as to make them our companions. Yea, there ought to be such an avoiding of their company as may show great dislike.

Particularly, we are forbidden such a decree of associating ourselves with them, as there is in making them our guests at our tables, or in being their guests at their tables, as is manifest in the text, where we are commanded to have no company with them, no not to eat. That this respects not eating with them at the Lord's supper, but a common eating, is evident by the words, that the eating here forbidden, is one of the degrees of keeping company, which are forbidden. Keep no company with such an one, saith the apostle, no not to eat: as much as to say, no not in so low a degree as to eat with him. But eating with him at the Lord's supper, is the very highest degree of visible Christian communion. Who can suppose that the apostle meant this, Take heed and have no company with a man, no not so much as in the highest degree of communion that you can have? Besides, the apostle mentions this eating as a way of keeping company which, however, they might hold with the heathen. He tells them, not to keep company with fornicators; then he informs them, he means not with fornicators of this world, that is, the heathens; but, saith he, "if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, etc. with such an one keep no company, no not to eat." This makes it most apparent, that the apostle doth not mean

eating at the Lord's table, for so, they might not keep company with the heathens, any more than with an excommunicated person.

2. THOSE THAT ARE WITHOUT WE CAN SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH BUT NEED TO DISCERN WHO WE CAN REACH AND CAN CLOSE WITH WITHOUT FALLING OURSELVES

Jude 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

How can you hate the garment stained spotted by the flesh.. when a person is wearing the garment..

Remember it is the gospel that saves not you..
It is the Lord that saved not you...

Some have compassion.. meaning you can embrace and get close to..

Others.. who have a stained garment you throw out a life line.. because of their stained garment..

The sin that can easily be spread is the garment stained with sin..

Think of it like a contagious disease - we still desire men to be saved but the Lord does not ask anyone to seek to win someone who in turn would cause them to be tempted to sin and put people they love into a situation where they themselves would fall.

I think that this is especially dangerous for people who have children. How many families have lost their own children while trying to help others? All in the name of compassion.

I think of a pastor who used to take in foster children .. teenage girls who were in trouble. This same pastor had sons who wound up getting into trouble with these girls. Here we have an example of getting too close to people who in turn hurt his family.

I think of a missionary who took on a ministry to troubled men who were ex drug addicts and alcoholics. It was commendable that this fellow had a burden for these men, but his wife had been saved from this same background and being exposed to these men caused her to stumble and fall back into sin.

A perfect hatred for evil sin, and Satan cannot help but roll over to your dealings with people. When a person has on a stained garment it will affect how close you can get to them.

I am thinking of a friend who had a heart to win alcoholics to the Lord. He had a buddy who was having a problem so he let him stay at his house. The friend was without work.. so he left him home with his wife while he went to work. One thing led to another and his buddy wound up

having an affair with his wife and this good hearted man lost his wife and marriage in the process of trying to win others..

The stained garment should have alerted my friend that he needed to try and help his buddy at a distance rather than allow him to stay at his home.

I think many of us can give testimony that in trying to help someone, others around us got hurt because of unforeseen associations.

What is our problem? The problem is that we do not have a perfect hatred of sin.. which affects the way we deal with sinners. We do not hate the garment stained with sin.

Those who are the enemies of God have to become our enemies ..

3. *THOSE WHO ARE GOD'S ENEMIES HAVE TO BE OUR ENEMIES. THIS IS A PERFECT HATRED.. NOTE THEY ARE "GOD'S ENEMIES.. " THIS IS THE KEY!*

Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

The problem we have is that sometimes God's enemies seem to treat us nicely.. Sometimes God's enemies are likable people ..

They may please us..

They may seem nice to us..

This was the problem with Jehoshaphat and Ahab..

Jehoshaphat entered into an alliance with Ahab..

I think Ahab was probably a nice likable pleasant guy ..

THERE WAS ONLY ONE PROBLEM.. HE WAS LIKABLE.. A LIKABLE DEVIL

The prophet told Jehoshaphat..

II Chronicles 19:2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

Jehoshaphat led the nation into a destructive alliance with the house of Ahab which for generations destroyed Judah.. and caused much harm.

You see the Bible says..

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Note.. love your enemies.. just because they are a sinner does not mean they are intentionally fighting against God.

Most often we love those who hate the Lord because of the advantage it is to us.. How sad it is that we really do not see things from God's perspective!

CONSIDER WHAT PSALM 101:3 says..

Psalms 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

One writer says,

With a sincere and perfect hatred; I count those that are enemies to God as enemies to me, and will not have any intimacy with them,"

Another Commentator writes

In this sense the psalmist professes a hatred of those who were the visible enemies of God.

Psalm 139:21, 22. "Do I not hate them, O Lord, that hate thee! And am I not grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred." Not that he hated them with a hatred of malice or ill will, but with complacency and abhorrence of their wickedness. In this respect we ought to be the children of our Father who is in heaven, who, though he loves many wicked men with a love of benevolence, yet cannot love them with a love of complacency. Thus excommunicated persons are cut off from the charity of the church. They are cut off also from the society, which Christians have together as brethren. Thus we are commanded to withdraw, from such;

We find it hard to say.. this..

Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

For many it is hard to believe these verses are even in the Bible..

The enemies of the gospel would use these verses to say look here.. the Bible is no different than the radical Islamic terrorists..

No it is quite different.. The difference is that in the New Testament these same verses can be applied in a spiritual sense.

We are at war against evil..
We must avenge evil thinking..

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We are to wage spiritual war..

By being a separate and holy people we show our disdain for evil.

The Lord's Kingdom is not of this world .. if it were we would take up swords and fight .. His kingdom is yet to come .. we must fight a Holy war. Ideas, thoughts, Philosophies, Ideologies, these are what stain our lives, our hearts, and our minds.

When a person is wearing these garments stained with sin our hate is directed towards them because of what they are wearing.. Change the garments and we can embrace the same person and have compassion on him making a difference.

What you love you will embrace..
What you hate you will separate from ..

So we can say .. of those who wear the garment stained with sin..

Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

When a person wears the uniform of the enemy Satan we must go to war against such a person.

Let him take off the uniform of the enemy and lay down his weapon and then we can have compassion on that person making a difference..

Were we not all at one time in the enemy's camp? I was.. I thank God that I realized I needed to join the Lords army and leave the Kingdom of Satan and be transformed in the glorious Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ!