The Place of Repentance in Early Anglican Spirituality

Chail, maker of all thinges, indge of all menne, we knowledge & bewaile our manifold linnes and wyckednes, whiche we from tyme to tyme, moste greuously have committed, by thoughte, woode and dede, agaynste thy divine maiestic, provoking moost instelly thy wrath and indignation againste being doinges, the remembraunce of them is greuous but des, the burthen of them is intollerable: have mercie by on be, have mercie by on be, moste merciful father, for thy some our Lorde Jesus Christes sake, forgene des all that is past, and graunte that we may ever hereaster, serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour & glory of thy name: Through Jesus Christes our Lorde.

A scan of the confession from the Nashotah House copy of the first edition of the first BCP of Edward VI, 1549.

Watch: An example Sermon/Retreat Address originally given by your instructor as a part of the Lenten series offered by the faculty of the House in 2018. Note that this is not a recording of the original presentation, but a recreation after the fact. Note secondly that my specific assignment is different from the one I have given you: I was asked only to speak on "repentance as a spiritual discipline." Note thirdly that several other speakers had already addressed the topic from different angles in the weeks before my address, so this example is offered to you out of context. Note fourthly that I'm offering it to you here as a way to highlight the emphasis placed on repentance in the spirituality of the first couple of centuries of the English reformation.

Although many of the persons referenced in the address will be mentioned again later in the course, you might want to look at brief biographical entries about the ones we

may not mention again. Go to the library <u>website</u>, select the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* from the "Core Databases" tab, login when prompted, scroll down to the "search within work" box on the left side, and look up the following:

- Robert Sanderson (19 September 1587 29 January 1663) was an English theologian and casuist, Bp. of Lincoln.
- John Sharp (16 February 1645 2 February 1714), English divine who served as Archbishop of York.
- William Wake (26 January 1657 24 January 1737) was a priest in the Church of England and Archbishop of Canterbury from 1716 until his death in 1737.
- Joseph Hall (1 July 1574 8 September 1656) was an English bishop of Norwich, satirist and moralist. His contemporaries knew him as a devotional writer, and a high-profile controversialist of the early 1640s. In church politics, he tended in fact to a middle way.
- William Payne (1650-1696), author of Practical Discourse of Repentance (This one's a Wiki link.)

In Discussion

Feel free to address any of the following: the brief lectures, the encyclopedia entries, the readings from English Spirituality and/or The Study of Spirituality, the brief excerpts from Hooker provided to you in the lecture notes, or the assigned readings by Teresa of Avila and/or John of the Cross. (Remember that early posts facilitate engagement, and late posts do not: after your classmates have moved on to the next week's unit, they might even view late posts as inconveniences to be ignored! To earn full credit for participation, post early, thoughtfully, and often!)