

Matthew 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Analysis

This text illustrates key Reformed principles: *sola Scriptura*, *sola gratia*, and *sola fide*. The passage demonstrates how God's Word speaks authoritatively to human need, revealing both our depravity and God's merciful provision through Christ.

Historical Context

This verse originates in Jesus' ministry during a pivotal period. The first-century Jewish context included Roman occupation, Pharisaic religious authority, and messianic expectations. Understanding these factors illuminates the passage's significance.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ?
2. What false beliefs or practices does this text correct?
3. How should you share this truth with others?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς Ἀκούεις τί οὗτοι λέγει ὁ δὲ
And said unto him Hearest thou what these saith G3588 And
G2532 G2036 G846 G191 G5101 G3778 G3004 G1161

Ἰησοῦς λέγει αὐτοῖς Ναί οὐδέποτε ἀνέγνωτε ὅτι Ἐκ
Jesus saith unto him Yea have ye never read G3754 Out of
G2424 G3004 G846 G3483 G3763 G314 G1537

στόματος νηπίων καὶ θηλαζόντων κατηρτίσω αἴνοι
the mouth of babes And sucklings thou hast perfected praise
G4750 G3516 G2532 G2337 G2675 G136

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 8:2 (Parallel theme): Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Matthew 11:25 (References Jesus): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Matthew 19:4 (Parallel theme): And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

Mark 2:25 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

Matthew 12:3 (Parallel theme): But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org