

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	αἶνον			
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;

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