

April 30, 2020

Good afternoon, Everybody.

The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works (Psalm 145:9 NASB).

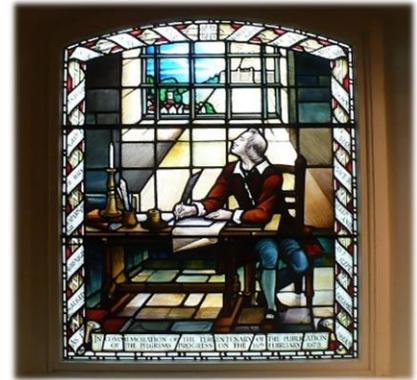
Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626), who was appointed “head” over the company of translators responsible for Genesis through II Kings in the King James Version, was a celebrated linguist. So skilled was he in fifteen different languages that it was thought that he might *almost have served as an interpreter general at the confusion of tongues*.

I mention Andrewes because of an extended comment which he made on the translation, *over*, in the verse above (Psalm 145:9). Andrewes knew well that the Hebrew preposition (עַל *al*) is capable of many different renderings, including *above*. But Andrewes felt that *over* was much to be preferred in this verse. I want to let you read his reasoning for yourself.

All that are *above* are not *over*. It [God’s mercy] is not *above* only, as an obelisk or a Maypole, higher than all about them, but have neither shadow nor shelter. No good thing they do! [But] mercy hath a broad top, spreading itself *over* all. It is so *above* all, as it is *over* them too. As the vault of this chapel is *over* us, and the great vault of the firmament *over* that. . . . And this to the end that all may retire to it and take covert. It is *over* them and they *under* it.

That’s good, isn’t it? It’s one thing to think of God’s mercy as high and towering up above all His works. But another to think of it as not only soaring for *altitude* (as Andrewes expressed it) but also expansive for *latitude* (his word also), so that there is nothing *above* which it not only towers but also *over* which it doesn’t arch like a vast, universal shield.

Truly this would have to be the case for any of the human race to be able to continue to exist at any level other than in dismal, degraded daily terror of the stroke of the Devil. *He is a murderer from the beginning*. . . (John 8:44). How many hundreds of millions would be already moldering in graves many years ago



if Satan had been given his entire murderous way? What if the whole world had been fully, Divinely handed over into the hands of his terrors? Tolkien's Mordor and Hitler's Thousand-Year Reich could be little worse.

It is most certainly true; *the LORD is good to all, and His mercies are **over** all His works.* How much more all of us, who have fled for shelter to His beloved Son?

Last Night's Meeting

I trust that you were able to listen in to the information meeting last night. If so, you know how abundantly the Lord has provided for us in the first quarter of the year. More of His mercies.

There was evidently some unofficial "voting" going on as Jeremy Frederick gave the treasurer's report. Great participation from two of our newest members and two wonderful wannabes (smile).



A Way to Pray

Many years ago, when Doug and Caroline Becker returned from a year of missionary work in Scotland, brother Doug brought back a gift which I treasure and which is lying open beside me as I write. It's a book signed by the 19th-century Scottish preacher, Alexander Whyte.

This particular title was one which Whyte wrote as a tribute to Lancelot Andrewes. It includes what are called, Andrewes' *Private Devotions*. They were originally written by Andrewes in Greek and Latin for his own devotional exercises, and never intended for publication, of course, being *private*.

Among them are various kinds of prayers evidently used by him for each of the days of the week. Today, Thursday, is the fifth day of the week. Andrewes' opening petition for this day, the fifth day, is a portion of Psalm 90:14, which was one of our yearly theme verses sometime ago.

Satisfy us early with Thy mercy, O Lord.

His mercies are **over** all His works (Psalm 145:9). . . . *Satisfy us early with Thy mercy, O Lord* (Psalm 90:14).

Can you affirm the first line? And then pray the second feelingly?

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick