

Readings from the Word of God

Sunday, 21 January 2024

Matthew 7:3-5

And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me remove the speck from your eye"; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Genesis 9:23

...took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

Secrets of Heaven §1079

Those who are in the faith of charity observe what is good, and if they see anything evil and false, they excuse it, and if they can, try to amend it in him, as is here said of Shem and Japheth.

Exodus 23:4-5

If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, returning you shall return it to him again. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from removing it, removing you shall remove it with him.

Secrets of Heaven §9259

Removing you shall remove it with him. That this signifies exhortation and effort toward amendment, is evident from the signification of "removing," when said of the falsity which does not agree with the good of the church, as being amendment (see above, n. 9258), and here effort toward amendment, and exhortation, because such falsity is amended with difficulty.

Secrets if Heaven §2417

There is charity in punishing the evil, for to this he is impelled by his zeal to amend them, and at the same time to protect the good, lest these suffer injury at the hands of the evil. In this way does a man consult the welfare of one who is in evil, or his enemy, and express his good feeling toward him, as well as to others, and to the common weal itself; and this from charity toward the neighbour.

Deuteronomy 24:10-11

When you lend your brother anything, you shall not go into his house to get his pledge. You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you lend shall bring the pledge out to you.