



A Philosophical Commentary on These Words of the Gospel, Luke 14.23, Compel Them to Come In, That My House May Be Full

By Pierre Bayle

Liberty Fund Inc, United States, 2005. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The topics of church and state, religious toleration, the legal enforcement of religious practices, and religiously motivated violence on the part of individuals have once again become burning issues. Pierre Bayle's Philosophical Commentary was a major attempt to deal with very similar problems three centuries ago. His argument is that if the orthodox have the right and duty to persecute, then every sect will persecute, since every sect considers itself orthodox. The result will be mutual slaughter, something God cannot have intended. The Philosophical Commentary takes its starting point from the words attributed to Jesus Christ in Luke 14:23, And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be full. Bayle contends that the word compel cannot mean force. From this perspective, he constructs his doctrine of toleration based on the singular importance of conscience. His point is not that coercion usually is ineffective in matters of faith but that, even when effective, it is wrong because it ignores the indispensability of the free...



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