

Sunday, February 10, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 95:1-2*

This is the day that you have made, Lord.

Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!

Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people:

to come to you in these moments,

to confess our sins,

to receive forgiveness and give it,

to pray and sing and listen,

to renew our fainting spirits,

to rest in all your promises.

Open our eyes to see you, Lord.

Open our ears to hear your Word.

Visit us through your Holy Spirit,

and help us to celebrate our faith. Amen.

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving

and extol him with music and song.

Songs of Praise – *How Firm A Foundation/The Solid Rock*

God's Word...A Sure Foundation – *1 John 1:8-9*

According to Jesus, the Bible is the only authority upon which we can build our lives. The Word is the firm foundation that God has given to this world; its message is the only hope for mankind. Listen to the words of Luke, Chapter 6:47-48, *"I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built."* You can be assured that God's word is our rock and our sure foundation in life.

God's Word also assures us that *if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

In humility and faith, let's take the next few moments to silently confess our sins, thanking God for the firm foundation he has supplied to us through His holy word.

Assurance of Pardon – *Ephesians 2:19-22*

Know that the Lord your God has forgiven you. Hear the words from Ephesians 2: 19-22...

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Join me as we continue singing praises to our God and King.

Song of Worship – *Take My Life*

Glory Is Due To His Name – *Psalm 96:8-9*

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

Song of Worship – *I Will Glory In My Redeemer*

Offering - *Holiness is not something we are called upon to do in order that we may become something; it is something we are to do because of what we already are.* Martyn Lloyd-Jones

The Cross of Doctrine and Practice – *J.C. Ryle/Timothy Hammons*

*Salvation is undoubtedly all of grace. It is offered freely in the Gospel to the chief of sinners, without money and without price. "By grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God—not of works, lest any man should boast." But all who accept this great salvation must prove the reality of their faith by carrying the cross after Christ. They must not think to enter heaven without trouble, pain, suffering, and conflict on earth. They must be content to take up the cross of **DOCTRINE** – holding a faith which the world despises, and the cross of **PRACTICE** – the cross of living a life which the world ridicules as too strict, and righteous over much.*

They must be willing to crucify the flesh, to mortify the deeds of the body, to fight daily with the devil, to come out from the world and to lose their lives, if needful, for Christ's sake and the Gospel's. These are hard sayings, but they admit of no evasion. The words of our Lord are plain and unmistakable. If we will not carry the cross, we shall never wear the crown.

How true Bishop Ryle's words truly are. It has been said that many Christians want the glory of the cross without the suffering of the cross. This is true in my life as well. But how many would truly be willing to

take on the doctrine's of the Bible as well? How many are willing to say 'no' to the practices of the world and endure the suffering and ridicule from the world?

Not enough, and not me. Given over to the flesh, I would readily jettison the walk of faith for the walk with the world if I were left to myself. Fortunately, I am not left to myself. This is one of the reasons that God, in His infinite wisdom, gave us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works in us to remind us of who it is that we belong to if we endeavor to pursue the things of the world, flesh and devil. Thinking that we will find happiness there, we will not. Those things are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit is opposed to those things.

Given that, should we not submit to His leadership, rule and guidance in our lives? Since God has given us such a great gift of salvation, should we not pursue the things of God?

The obvious answer is 'yes.' That being the case, let us endeavor to follow the cross of both doctrine and practice all the more. Let the world hate us as Christ said it would. It hated Him too. But I would much rather be one of His children enduring the trials of this life, than to be a child of wrath undergoing the trials of the afterlife. Let us take up our cross and follow Christ in both doctrine and practice.

Father, we praise you; through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Songs of Worship – *Be Thou My Vision/Holy Spirit*

Message – *“The First Ordination Service”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 10:5-15

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Give Me Jesus*

Benediction