**Sunday, July 15, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1*

 **God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

 **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and death and has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

Join me in singing of the love that was poured out on the cross in Christ’s death and resurrection!

**Song of Praise –** *The Wonderful Cross*

**Christ Died For Us –** *Romans 5:6 (Source: The Worship Sourcebook)*

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

 In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

**Song of Worship –** *You Are My King/Amazing Grace*

**Your Sins Will Be White As Snow –** *Isaiah 1:18*

 *Hear and receive these powerful words of peace and mercy that the Lord speaks over His children:*

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord.
 “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow.
 Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

**Song of Worship** – *Whiter Than Snow*

**Offering (“The Christian life is not adding Jesus to one’s own way of life but renouncing that personal way of life for His and being willing to pay whatever cost that may require.” John MacArthur)**

**Run With Endurance *–****Hebrews 12:1-2*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.

**Songs of Worship –** *Before the Throne of God Above/This the Power of the Cross*

**Message** – *“Your Word Is Your Bond”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:33-37*

**1. Point of the Law**

* Leviticus 19:12; Number 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21
* The point of swearing an oath was simply to give greater credibility to a man’s word and its truthfulness. The oath was needed because of the sinful nature of men which is so prone to deceit and lying.
* An oath is to call God to witness the truthfulness of a mans word.

**2. Perverted Practice**

* The Rabbinic traditions had lowered God’s high and holy standard to allow an oath for any circumstance in order to give ‘credibility” to their words. These men believed they would not be held accountable in swearing by a lesser standard than the Lords name. They believed they didn’t have to keep these oaths or if the oaths weren’t kept it was no big deal.
* Matthew 23:16-22

**3. Plain Truth – What is Jesus teaching here…what is the point?**

* Jesus is not prohibiting all oaths or swearing of an oath.

Matthew 5:17-18; God never changes

 Hebrews 6:13-20

 Jesus & Paul swear an oath (Matthew 26:63; Romans 1:9)

* Truth is everything! We cannot divide our lives into sacred and secular. Our yes be yes and our no be no! (James 5:12, Titus 2:8)
* Think of a world where a man’s word was his bond – here and now. (Leviticus 5:4-6)
* Our words are drawn from our souls. Let our hearts and minds be set upon Him and holy things! (2 Corinthians 10:5; Matthew 12:34; Malachi 3:16; Phillips 4:8)

**Time of Prayer**