**Sunday, June 24, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *Psalm 95*

Please stand with me as we echo words of admiration from the scriptures and sing praises to our great God:

*Come, let us bow down in worship,   
 let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;   
 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.    
 If today we hear God’s voice we must not harden our hearts, we must follow Him.*

*Come, everyone, let’s sing to the Lord.*

***Let us tell the world that God has saved us.    
 Let us thank him from the bottom of our hearts.    
 Let us sing songs of praise to him.***

**Song of Praise** – *Shout to the North and the South*

**Prayer of Repentance –** *1 John 5:13 (Source: Tom Chesko)*

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

I pray that you will find your abiding rest, comfort, and assurance in the ONE who promised to forgive all your   
 sins – past, present and future – and give you ETERNAL LIFE!

**Song of Worship** – *Blessed Assurance*

**The Shelter of the Most High –** *Psalm 91*

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
 will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
 This we declare about the Lord:  
 He alone is our refuge, our place of safety; he is our God, and we trust him.  
 The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me.

I will protect those who trust in my name.  
 When they call on me, I will answer;  
 I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.  
 I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.”  
 The Lord alone is our refuge, our place of safety; he is our God, and we trust him.

**Songs of Worship** – *I Have A Shelter/Hide Away in the Love of Jesus*

**Offering**

**To Know the Crucified Christ *–****1 Corinthians, Chapter 2/Graham Ryken*

Hear the words of the apostle Paul from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2:

*And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimonyof God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of menbut in the power of God.*

We need to know the crucified Christ. This knowledge is essential for our own salvation. An example of what it means to trust in Christ alone for your salvation comes from the life of Donald Smarto, a national leader in prison ministry. Before he came to Christ, Smarto was in seminary, preparing to enter the Roman Catholic priesthood. He had developed a fascination with all the trappings of Catholic religion-the sacred rituals and the ornate vestments. One night he went out to the movies, where he saw a scene that shocked him: A bishop dressed in sacred robes was caught by a gust of wind that parted his garments to reveal what was underneath: a rotted skeleton. At that instant, Smarto's conscience cried out, "That's me!" But as he soon as he said it, he tried to deny it. He drove back to the seminary, and the whole way back he was muttering, "That's not me. It can't be me. I'm a good person!"

Frantically Smarto rehearsed his many pious deeds-his fasting, his penance, his prayers-searching for some assurance of his salvation, finding none, he went out into the corn fields, where he wandered for hours. Eventually the moon clouded over and the night became so black that he could not even see his hand in front of his face. He began to panic, and in his fear he cried out for a sign from God. As he waited, panting in the black darkness, he heard a faint humming sound. Slowly he walked toward it, until he bumped into a hard, rough, wooden post. He put his hands out to feel it. "Of course!" he said to himself. "It's a telephone pole!" As he stood there, the clouds parted, and he was able to see again. He looked up, and there, silhouetted against the moon, was the wooden crossbar that supported the phone lines. He was standing at the foot of a giant cross.

In that moment, everything Don Smarto had ever learned from the Bible came into focus, and he realized that all he needed to do to be saved was to hold on to Christ and His cross. He described his experience like this:

Now I knew, I really knew that Christ had died for me. It was coupled with the more important revelation that I was a sinner, that I was not the good person I had thought I was a moment before. All at once I embraced the telephone pole and began to cry. I must have hugged that piece of wood for nearly an hour.

I could imagine Jesus nailed to this pole, blood dripping from his wounds. I felt as if the blood were dripping over me, cleansing me of my sin and unworthiness.

If you are not yet a Christian that is what God is inviting you to do today: to know Christ and Him crucified, to trust in Him alone for your salvation. He is calling you to admit that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness, and that if you are to be saved, there is nothing else you can do except hold on to the cross of the crucified Christ.

If you have already come to the cross, do not let go! The crucified Christ is the only hope for this fallen world. As a Christian, your purpose is not to get people to conform to your lifestyle or to convince them to adopt your point of view. Your purpose is to point people to Jesus Christ, and to His cross, which alone has the power to save.

**Songs of Worship –** *In Christ Alone/Show Us Christ*

**Message** – *“You Have Heard”*   
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:27-30*

*In this great sermon, Jesus gives us the way into and the way of the kingdom. The Beatitudes teach us the path in and of the kingdom which results in Christians being the salt and the light. We have come to understand that the bases for all are the word of God, the Law. In verses 21-48 we have six “antithesis” to teach us that Jesus is not only concerned with the external but also the internal heart of man.*

**1. Secret Life**

* + Jesus, like God, has always been concerned with the heart.
  + Men love to create a system that they can keep and convince themselves that they are right with God.
  + It is the secret sins in our secret lives that keep us from Him and His people; it keeps our relationships from being pure.

**2.** **Sacred Truth**

* God has always been after the heart. He desires our attitude to be right and our actions to follow. This is not a New Testament idea but has always been the way of God.
* The Ten Commandments and Gods Laws were not the cause of mans relationship to God but rather the result of the loving relationship.
* The Ten Commandments and the Laws that flowed forth were the way to regulate a heart of love for our God.
* The Ten Commandments are the ways to define love and how it works.
* Deuteronomy 6:5, 10:12, 19-20; 11:1; 20; 26:16;28;30:11-20

**3.** **Sacrificial System & Suffering Savior**

* Who can keep this relationship? Only God; we fail every moment. The point of the law is to guide us to, in, and back to our loving God.
* Guilt: What do we do with our guilt and shame that occurs from the failures in the relationship? God gave Israel the sacrificial system that points to each of us having a need for a suffering Savior, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

**Time of Prayer**