**Sunday, March 11, 2012**

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**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Prayer of Invocation** – Psalm 27

***We have gathered together today, O Lord because our spirits long to come into your presence. You alone are the
hope and joy we seek for the living of our lives.  You alone are the salvation we long for.***

***O Lord, do not turn away from us, but come and dwell in our midst today. Reach into every heart and soul that has assembled in this place and be gracious to us. Answer our heartfelt prayers and send us away to proclaim the glory of your name in all the world.***

***And God’s people said, “Amen.”***

**Call to Worship –** Psalm 107 (*congregation read underlined text*)

***O let us give thanks to the Lord,******For the love of God will never end.******Let we who love God be unashamed to declare it,******Because God has answered our cries for help.******The Lord our God has met our every need,******We will therefore proclaim the love of the Lord!***

*Join me as we openly sing loud praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and declare His mighty salvation to all!*

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

**I am Not Ashamed of the Gospel** –*Romans 1:16*

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

*Listen to the closing words from a sermon preached by John Piper in 1998…the topic is “I am not ashamed of the gospel”…*

*How do people shame you today for believing and sharing the gospel? It's not exactly the same as the way they did in the '60s. I heard Alistair Begg say recently that his unbelieving friends criticized him in the '60s because they did not believe that the gospel was true. In the '90s they criticize him for claiming that there is any truth. In other words, today the shaming is not to say that you are wrong, but to say that you are arrogant if you think others are wrong. Not that you have bad thinking, but that you have a bad attitude. Not that your worldview is defective, but that it is passive. The greatest weapon of shaming today in the world of religious claims is the accusation that you are intolerant and therefore mean-spirited and egotistical.*

*To that we must steadfastly respond: It is the most loving thing in the world to tell the truth about the way of salvation. If Jesus has said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me" then, for the sake of love, we must pay our debt to the world, and despise the shaming of the "tolerant" '90s and tell them, "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." The gospel of Christ alone is the power of God unto salvation.*

*You will be shamed, but you need not be ashamed. Because the message of God's saving work in Christ is the only final triumphant message in the world. Short-term pain. Long-term gain. For the joy (of salvation!) set before you, take up your cross, follow Jesus, be shamed and despise the shame.*

**Song of Worship** – *I Love to Tell the Story*

**A Puritan’s Prayer** –*God Enjoyed*

*“O God, attend me in every part of my difficult and trying pilgrimage;
I need the same counsel, defense, and comfort I found at my beginning.
Let my religion be more obvious to my conscience,
more perceptible to those around.
While Jesus is representing me in heaven, may I reflect him on earth,
While he pleads my cause, may I show forth his praise.”*

*May we always remember the words from Deuteronomy 10:17, “The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God” and may we always be a reflection of Christ on earth, unashamed to tell others of how great He truly is.*

**Song of Worship** – *How Great Is Our God*

**Offering**

**Instruction in Soul Winning *– Charles H. Spurgeon (From the book, “The Soul Winner”)***

*Brethren, we have no conception of what God could do by this company of believers gathered in the Tabernacle to-night. If now we were to be filled with the Holy Ghost, there are enough of us to evangelize London. There are enough here to be the means of the salvation of the world. God saveth not by many nor by few. Let us seek to be made a benediction to our fellow-creatures; and if we seek it, let us hear this directing voice, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." You men and women that sit before me, you are by the shore of a great sea of human life swarming with the souls of men. You live in the midst of millions; but if you will follow Jesus, and be faithful to Him, and true to Him, and do what He bids you, He will make you fishers of men. Do not say, "Who shall save this city?" The weakest shall be strong enough. Gideon's barley cake shall smite the tent, and make it lie along the ground. Samson, with the jawbone, taken up from the earth where it was lying bleaching in the sun, shall smite the Philistines. Fear not, neither be dismayed. Let your responsibilities drive you closer to your Master. Let horror of prevailing sin make you look into His dear face who long ago wept over Jerusalem, and now weeps over London. Clasp Him, and never let go your hold. By the strong and mighty impulses of the divine life within you, quickened and brought to maturity by the Spirit of God, learn this lesson from your Lord's own mouth: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." You are not fit for it, but He will make you fit. You cannot do it of yourselves, but He will make you do it. You do not know how to spread nets and draw shoals of fish to shore, but He will teach you. Only follow Him, and He will make you fishers of men.*

*Perhaps I speak to an attentive hearer who is not converted at all. Friend, I have the same thing to say to you. You also may follow Christ, and then He can use you, even you. I do not know but that He has brought you to this place that you may be saved, and that in after years He may make you speak for His name and glory. Remember how He called Saul of Tarsus, and made him the apostle of the Gentiles. Reclaimed poachers make the best game-keepers; and saved sinners make the ablest preachers. Oh, that you would run away from your old master to-night, without giving him a minute's notice; for if you give him any notice, he will hold you. Hasten to Jesus, and say, "Here is a poor runaway slave! My Lord, I bear the fetters still upon my wrists. Wilt Thou set me free, and make me Thine own?" Remember, it is written, "Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out." Never runaway slave came to Christ in the middle of the night without His taking him in; and He never gave one up to his old master. If Jesus make you free, you shall be free indeed. Flee away to Jesus, then, on a sudden. May His good Spirit help you, and He will by-and-by make you a winner of others to His praise!*

**Songs of Worship –** *Footsteps of Jesus/I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

**Message** – *“The Christian Soldiers Delight”*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 4:18-25*

* *95% of Christians have never been instrumental in winning a soul to Christ.*
* *Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”*
	+ *Whatever a man delights in, that is what his time & thoughts will be consumed with.*

***3 priorities in following Christ: Following, Fishing, & Fame.***

1. ***Following*** *(verse 19)*
	1. *A good soldier always follows his commander.*
	2. *Following Christ is costly (James & John walked away from a very good business).*
	3. *Following Christ costs you time, treasures, family, etc.*
	4. *You must know doctrine first, then duty will follow (your belief will determine your behavior).*
	5. *Priority has to be one of, if not the top aspect of following Christ. (“Immediately” – verses 20, 22)*
	6. *As we follow Christ, He takes over our entire life (clubs, TV, jobs, etc.)*
2. ***Fishing***
	1. *Just as a man uses a line, pole, and bait to fish, we are the instruments in His hands to “catch” souls for Christ.*
	2. *If we, as Christians, desire what everyone else desires, there is no difference in our lives.*
3. ***Fame*** *(verse 24)*
	1. *“His fame spread throughout all Syria”*
	2. *As Christ displays His work in us, His fame will go forth in the world.*

**Time of Prayer**