**Sunday, November 11, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Psalms 66:2, 72:19, 145:5; John 14:12, 13; Colossians 1:11, 12*

Each week, we begin our gatherings with a Call to Worship. It’s something that the church has done throughout history. As His children, God calls us to come to the place of worship, which is into the very presence of God. Hear how the Psalmist directs this in Psalm 95:

*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;*

*let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;*

*let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

*For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

*In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.*

*The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.*

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down;*

*let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!*

Is your heart ready to heed the call of God and to worship Him in spirit and in truth? We should not miss a single opportunity to lift our voices and sing to our Redeemer. Take a moment in silent prayer to search your heart, asking the Holy Spirit to prepare you for this invitation to come and worship Him.

-Moment of silent prayer

Hear the word of the Lord:

***How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Heaven.***

 ***I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God.***

**Songs of Praise –** *Better Is One Day/How Great Is Our God*

 **Regeneration –** *A Puritan Prayer/A.W. Pink*

 Hear the words of the following Puritan prayer, which was first offered back in the 1700′s:

O God of the highest heaven, occupy the throne of my heart,
own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel desire,
let no vice or sin remain that resists your holy war;
manifest your mighty power, and make me yours forevermore.

You are worthy to be praised with my every breath,
loved with my every faculty of soul, served with my every act of life.

You have loved me, adopted me, received me,
purchased, washed, favored, clothed, adorned me,
when I was worthless, vile, soiled, polluted.

I was dead in sin, having no eyes to see you, no ears to hear you,
no taste to relish your joys, no intelligence to know you;

But your Spirit has quickened me, has brought me into a new world as a new creature,
has given me spiritual perception, has opened to me your Word as light, guide, solace, joy.

Your presence is to me a treasure of unending peace;
Nothing can separate me from your kindness,
for you have drawn me with cords of love, and forgive me daily, hourly.

A.W. Pink once said, *“People bring their bodies to the house of prayer, but not their souls; they worship with their mouths, but not in spirit and in truth. They have more regard for the laws of man than those of God, for His fear is not before their eyes.”*

Oh, Lord, may we seek to live a life worthy of your love, and worthy of our calling. Keep us, for we cannot keep ourselves; protect us that no evil befall us; let us lay aside every sin admired of many; help us to walk by your side, lean on your arm, talk with you, that we may be salt of the earth and a blessing to all.

**Songs of Worship –** *O Great God/Sanctuary*

**Offering *(“No man should desire to be happy who is not at the same time holy. He should spend his efforts in seeking to know and do the will of God, leaving to Christ the matter of how happy he should be.”* A.W. Tozer)More Than We Want To Pay – *Matthew 7:21-29/John MacArthur/C.S. Lewis*** Matthew 7:21-29

*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.*

During the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught with authority. In this particular culture, that meant He quoted nobody, He footnoted nothing. He didn't say He had gotten these truths from some eminent rabbi. He didn't say that this was an exposition of some commentary written by some respected person of another time. He just spoke with authority. It was entirely appropriate that the people should be amazed, because His teaching was indeed amazing. But what they needed was not amazement but belief, not astonishment but obedience. Jesus did not tell them all of these things for their amazement, or even simply for their information, but for their salvation. He did not intend merely to show them the narrow gate and the narrow way, but pleaded with them to enter that gate and to follow that way, which He would make accessible by paying the penalty for their sins. But most of the people only watched and listened, only heard and considered. For whatever reasons - possibly for no conscious reason at all - they decided to stay on the broad road.

C.S. Lewis gives a remarkable illustration from his own life of what the attitude is of many who hear the gospel:

*When I was a child I often had toothache, and I knew that if I went to my mother she would give me something which would deaden the pain for that night and let me get to sleep. But I did not go to my mother—at least, not till the pain became very bad. And the reason I did not go was this. I did not doubt she would give me the aspirin; but I knew she would also do something else. I knew she would take me to the dentist next morning. I could not get what I wanted out of her without getting something more, which I did not want. I wanted immediate relief from pain: but I could not get it without having my teeth set permanently right. And I knew those dentists: I knew they started fiddling about with all sorts of other teeth which had not yet begun to ache. They would not let sleeping dogs lie…*

*It is that very sort of thinking that keeps many people out of the kingdom: the price is more than they want to pay.*

*That is why He warned people to ‘count the cost’ before becoming Christians. ‘Make no mistake,’ He says, ‘if you let me, I will make you perfect.*

God wants to cure us of *all* our sins, the ones we know about and the ones we don’t. He wants to make us like Jesus, and nothing less will satisfy him. That’s why throughout our life he continues to show us more of our sin and to empower us through his Spirit to change. Our part is to respond with repentance and new obedience to conviction of sin, as difficult as it may be, and to allow his grace to transform our lives.

**Songs of Worship –** *The Look/I Surrender All*

**Message** – *“Be A Wise Builder”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:21-29*

**Take-away’s**

1. The mark of a true disciple is not simply hearing and believing but rather believing and doing.

2. The measure of a true saint of God is not just what he does on the Lord’s Day but his everyday ways.

3. Today much can be said about the measure of God’s people by what they do with the Lord’s Day.

4. Matthew 7:13-27 is our Lord’s call and invitation to enter in to His kingdom and is His strong warning to not be self deceived. He calls us to examine our hearts and direction of life. Have you entered the narrow way that produces Godly fruit?

5. Astonished! Not enough enter in!

**Time of Prayer**