**Sunday, October 14, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** Isaiah 43:1-3, 41:10; Jeremiah 29:12, 13

Hear the promises of the Lord…

*Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name.*

*Thou art mine.*

*When thou passest through the waters,*

*I will be with thee;*

*When thou walkest through the fire,*

*Thou shalt not be burned.*

*I am the Lord thy God. Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God.*

*I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.*

*When ye call upon Me, I will hearken unto you.*

*Ye shall seek Me and find Me when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.*

Join me in exalting our God, who, despite our brokenness, fulfills his promises to love us and make us whole in Jesus Christ!

**Song of Praise –** *Standing on the Promises*

**Forgive Us Lord –** *(Source: Sojourn Music)*

Heavenly Father, we know that when you make a promise you keep it. But we fail in our efforts to follow you.

 Forgive us Lord for failing to keep our promises to you.

 In Jesus, you make us your people, but we are quick to forget who we are. We forget that you are our Father, Christ is our brother and the church is our family.

 Forgive us Lord for failing to keep our promises to each other.

 Lord Jesus, we know that when we are faithless, your promises to us are unbroken.

 Lord, have mercy on us. Though we are broken creatures who fail time after time, may the word you have spoken prevail over our sin and unbelief. Amen.

**Song of Worship –** *I Know Whom I Have Believed*
 **Obedience To Christ** *– 1 Kings 8:56-58

 Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised.
 Not one word has failed of all the good promises he has given to his people.
 May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us.
 May we turn our hearts to God and walk in obedience to him.*

**Song of Worship –** *Trust and Obey*

**You Are My Hiding Place** *– Psalm 31:19, 20: 32:7*

 *"Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You**in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; you shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues." You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

**Song of Worship –** *Hide Away in the Love of Jesus*

**Offering *(“High degrees of true assurance cannot be enjoyed by those who persist in low levels of obedience.” Sinclair Ferguson*)**

**Without Christ – *Ephesians 3:14-19/Charles Spurgeon***

*I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

What a misery it must be to be without such a Savior! I scarcely know of any two words more sorrowful than these two—"without Christ;" and yet those words are applicable, I fear, to many in this congregation; you have no heavenly Friend into whose ear to whisper your sorrow; you have no faithful Brother, or mighty Savior, to help you in your time of need. Your sins are upon you; your iniquities are written in the book of God, graven as with an iron pen, and written with the point of the diamond. The day of death will soon come, and you will have no one to help you over Jordan's swelling billows. You will stand before the tremendous throne, where the voice shall be as thunder, and the eyes of the Judge like lightning, and you shall have no advocate to plead your cause, no Redeemer to take your soul beneath his sheltering wing. There is still hope, for Jesus is the friend of sinners still. Come unto him, ye weary; hasten to him, ye laboring and heavy laden; for he shuts out none—he welcomes all who come to him, with broken hearts and downcast eyes, seeking pardon through his precious blood. O that you would come to him this morning! Ere another day shall pass away, may you have ended your career of rebellion, and commenced a course of obedience. Then will you sing with us of everlasting love; then will you rejoice with us in immutable grace; then shall our God be your God, and our heaven shall be your heaven.

**Songs of Worship –** *Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus/Jesus Paid It All*

**Message** – *“Dogs and Hogs”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:1-6*

**1. Context of the Passage**

* Jesus reaffirms the authority of ALL of God’s word.
* The Old Testament sheds light on the use of these words: dogs, holy, and hogs. (Deuteronomy 23:18, Leviticus 10;10)
* Dogs and hogs were considered unholy and unclean animals.

**2. Central Point of the Passage**

* Jesus is teaching us how to rightfully judge and discern matters with our brothers and sisters.
* In order to remove a speck from another’s eye takes clear vision, a steady hand, and a willingness to receive the help.
* We should be discerning and use proper judgment on those who turn on us during restoration – BEWARE…they may be false believers. We need not waste our time on the “dogs and hogs.” (Proverbs 9:8, 23:9)

**3. Clear Applications of the Passage**

* Church fellowship and membership: we need not abuse grace by dumbing down God’s holy truth to the “hogs and dogs.”
* If we look closely at our Lord’s life, we can clearly see that He spent His time with believers and revealed His truth to only His followers. (Example: transfiguration and resurrection)
* Discrimination should be exercised in the dispensing of the word of God. When we preach we need to make clear the true Christ – not the watered down version.
* Psalm 66:16; Be cautious when sharing with the “dogs and hogs” about the glorious holy work that God has done in your life.

**Take-away’s**

1. Let us regard God’s word as the true riches of our lives!

2. Let us learn to be content with this great treasure!

3. Let us value and strive to obtain, secure, and cultivate this great pearl to uncover its great truths! (Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 23:23
**Time of Prayer**