**Sunday, October 23, 2011**

**Welcome** - Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 46 (*Source: The Open Sourcebook* )

*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
The Lord of hosts is with us.
God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear.*

We have come here today to worship Jesus Christ, our firm foundation. Our God is revealed to us as our refuge and strength and has commanded us to respond to Him in worship. Let’s join in this worship by lifting our voices in songs of praise!

**Songs of Praise** *– How Firm A Foundation; The Solid Rock*

**Relying on Christ**

Christ’s solid & strong foundation is the key ingredient for our everyday life. In moments of uncertainty and even approaching death, we can be reminded of our foundation by preaching the Gospel to ourselves.

**The illustration from Charles H. Spurgeon says it well, “I talked with a tradesman, not long ago, who fell asleep, and I said, “You seem to have no fears.” “No,” he said, “how can I have any fears…how can I be afraid to die, since I have fed these thirty years on the strong meat of the Kingdom of God? I know whom I have believed.”**

The last phrase the tradesman quoted & found assurance in can be found in 2 Timothy 1:12:

*But I know Whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed
Unto Him against that day.*

By relying on Christ and His precious Word “*you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:7)

**Song of Praise** – *I Know Whom I Have Believed*

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Isaiah 40:8** (*Source: The Open Sourcebook*)

Worship Leader
It once was unimaginable for ordinary people to walk into the Tabernacle – to march into the living presence of God. But, in the light of the Gospel, that’s exactly what Jesus invites us to do – to be reconciled to God and to know him as a friend. Hear the word of the Lord:

Worshipers
If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.

Worship Leader
And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Worshipers
We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Worship Leader
This is our Lord’s invitation to us. The Grass withers, and the flowers fade.

Worshipers
But the Word of the Lord endures forever.

**Song of Worship** – *Ancient Words*

**Offering**

**Ignatius - Martyred for Christ *(Source: Foxe’s Book of Martyrs)***

During the persecution, in the year A.D. 110, Ignatius, who was the overseer of the Church in Antioch, the capital of Syria, where the disciples were first called Christians, was sent to Rome because he professed and taught Christ. It’s said that when he passed through Asia, even though guarded by soldiers, he preached the Word of God in every city they traveled through and encouraged and strengthened the churches.

While in Smyrna, he wrote to the Church at Rome and appealed to them not to try to deliver him from martyrdom, because they would deprive him of that which he most hoped for. He wrote:

“Now I begin to be a disciple. I care for nothing of visible or invisible things so that I may but win Christ. Let fire and the cross, let the companies of wild beasts, let breaking of bones and tearing of limbs, let the grinding of the whole body, and all the malice of the devil, come upon me; be it so, only may I win Christ Jesus.”

Even when he was sentenced to be fed to lions and could hear their roaring, he was filled with such desire to suffer for Christ that he said,

“I am the wheat of Christ: I am going to be ground with the teeth of wild beasts that I may be found pure bread.”

Ignatius was trusting in the solid foundation of Christ Jesus and knew that his life was entirely in Christ’s hands…after all, all we have is Christ.

**Songs of Praise –** *All I Have Is Christ; Speak, O Lord*

**Message** - "*God’s Word: Our Supreme & Efficient Resource*"; Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 3:15-17

1. Scripture provides instruction for salvation. (vs 15)
2. Scripture provides instruction for sanctification (vs 16-17)
* Inspired scripture – Men are not inspired, but the scripture is
* Jesus affirmed the authority of the scripture: Matthew 5:17-18; John 10:35; Luke 16:17; Luke 24:27
1. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (vs 16)
* Profitable – beneficial, productive, sufficient (Psalm 19:7-13)
* Teaching – divine instruction or doctrine to believe
* Reproof – rebuking in order to convict of misbehavior or false doctrine
* Correction – restoration of something to its original & proper condition
* Training in righteousness – speaks of continual training in the Word
* Equipped – adequate – the Word trains us for His work

**Takeaway’s**

1. Do you believe that God’s Word is our supreme & sufficient source of life & truth?
2. Why are we so Biblically illiterate?
	1. What keeps us from the Word
	2. What are the results of lack of knowledge
3. Decreased desire to study God’s Word, to worship, & be with His people is reliable evidence of unconfessed sin.
4. Hebrews 12:5-14; We should rejoice, react, & reciprocate with humility at the reproving of God’s Word.

**Time of Prayer**