**Sunday, September 23, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Psalm 62:5-8/John Piper*

 *Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

 He alone is our rock and our salvation; he is our fortress, we will not be shaken.

 My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him,for God is our refuge.*

 During times of weakness and suffering we can only find true rest in Christ Jesus. Our Lord is the Rock that can provide escape from suffering and triumph over our trials and each time he does we must give him thanks and praise. Listen to the words of John Piper as he describes the purpose of these trials…

 *"The deepest need that you and I have in weakness and adversity is not quick relief, but the well-grounded confidence that what is happening to us is part of the greatest purpose in the universe - the glorification of the grace and power of his Son - the grace and power that bore him to the cross and kept him there until the work of love was done. That's what God is building into our lives. That is the meaning of weakness, insults, hardships, persecution, [and] calamity"*

 May we never forget the firm foundation that is laid in Christ Jesus our Lord. Join me in exalting our Lord and Savior as we praise Him for the work He is doing in our lives!

**Songs of Praise –** *How Firm A Foundation/Tis So Sweet*

**Great Is His Faithful Love –** *Psalms 94:19; 117:2; 136:1; Isaiah 30:18; Lamentations 3:22-23*

 *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.*

 *His love is eternal.*

 *The LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion.*

 *His love is eternal.*

 *Because of the Lord’s faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!*

 *For great is His faithful love to us; the LORD’s faithfulness endures forever. Hallelujah!*

**Songs of Worship –** *Great is Thy Faithfulness/In Christ Alone*

**Offering *(“Doubting does not prove that a man has no faith, but only that his faith is small. And even when our faith is small, the Lord is ready to help us.”* J.C. Ryle)**

**O Little Faith, Learn Better Manners! – *Edward Welch/Brian Schwertley***

Worry is dangerous. It is not to be trifled with. When you find worries, anxieties, and fears, pay attention.

At this point, we know that worry and fear are more about us than about the things outside us. They reveal what is valuable to us, and what is valuable to us in turn reveals our kingdom allegiances. We also know that God is patient and compassionate with us, and he gives grace upon grace. Though alert to our divided allegiances, he persists in calling us away from fear and worry, persuades us of the beauty of the kingdom, and gives more than we can imagine.

How does God call us away from fear and worry? He calls us to *read* and *meditate* on God’s Word daily. You must study, memorize and meditate on passages that speak of God’s goodness, love, faithfulness, grace and mercy. There must be a careful consideration of the doctrine of Christ’s intercession and God’s loving preservation of His people. Also, there must be a continued concentration on the cross of Christ. We must pray that God by His Holy Spirit would use His ordained means to enable our faith to grow and our anxiousness to subside.

Faith enables us to hand over all our earthly cares to God because we know He cares for us. Let us not be guilty of remaining men of little faith. “‘Little faith’ is not a little fault; for it greatly wrongs the Lord, and sadly grieves the fretful mind. To think the Lord who clothes lilies will leave his own children naked is shameful. O little faith, learn better manners!”

Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord, to the cross where Thou hast died; draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord, to thy precious bleeding side.

**Song of Worship –** *I Am Thine, O Lord*

**In His Presence –** *Psalms 4:8; 62:1; 94:18-19; 116:7-8*

 *Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.*

*For You, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.*

*If I say, “My foot is slipping,”*

*Your faithful love will support me, LORD.*

*When I am filled with cares,*

*Your comfort brings me joy.*

*My soul finds rest in God alone;*

*I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, LORD, make me live in safety.*

**Song of Worship**  - *It is Well with my Soul*

**Message** – *“Seek First the Kingdom of God”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:25-34*

**Take-away’s**

 1. Food & fashion are not the heart of the issue but rather the symptoms of a bigger problem.

 2. If God created our lives and gives us life itself, can He not sustain it, also?

 3. Worry is ingratitude for what God has done and is lack of faith for what He will do.

 4. Worrying for tomorrow means I am not busy today seeking His righteousness and His kingdom.

 5. Idleness in the world’s ways will steal God’s peace.

 6. Anxiety for tomorrow robs me of today’s strength.

 7. “Seek first the kingdom of God” is a commandment. We should always be about seeking, entering, and possessing the kingdom.

 8. The world around you will know that you are a child of God when they see the imputed righteousness that you speak of made known by the imparted righteousness of Christ lived out in you. (Ephesians 4:24)

**Time of Prayer**