**Sunday, September 25, 2011**

**Welcome** - Greg Snow

 **Call to Worship** – 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (*Source: The Open Sourcebook* )

Just as God led the battle for Israel’s Promised Land, he leads the battle for ours. In Jesus, we have a warrior King who has conquered Satan, sin, and death and invites us to live in his Kingdom.Our God gathers us to worship him, and invites us to encourage each other and to look with hope to the new Promised Land.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

*For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

**Songs of Praise** *–* Soon and Very Soon; What A Day That Will Be

**We Shall See Him** (*Source: The Open Sourcebook* )

As good as God’s gifts in this life are, we can look with hope to the much greater joy that will come when we see him face to face. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:12:

*Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

And as John tells us in his vision of the future in Revelation 21:3-5:

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy.*

Let’s say it together:***Amen! Come Lord Jesus!***

 **Song of Worship** – It Is Not Death To Die

 **2 Corinthians 5:1-8**

*For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

**Songs of Worship:** In the Presence of Jehovah; Holy Ground

**Offering**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

Hear the word of the Lord:

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30)

**Congregation**
In Christ, we are forgiven,
and invited into the restful peace of God,
knowing that our lives are entirely in his hands

 **Songs of Worship** – Give Me Jesus; I Need Thee Every Hour

**Message** - "*A Vessel of Honor*"; Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 2:20-26

**Verse 20**: In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.”

**Are you a vessel of honor…**

* A vessel of honor does not “hang out” with people of the world. If we want to be an honorable vessel we need to surround ourselves with Christian brothers and sisters who love God, rather than those who love the world. When we choose to “hang out” with people of the world we develop a tolerance for sin.
* A vessel of honor knows the only way to set yourself apart from sin is by knowing the Word.
* A vessel of honor is useful to their Master (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) Paul is continually training to be useful.
* A vessel of honor is ready for every good work.
	+ Pursue righteousness (right living)
	+ faith (the need to be faithful)
	+ love (true love tries to rescue)
	+ peace (tranquility of the heart)
* A vessel of honor has a discerning mind (verse 23) *“Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.”*
* A vessel of honor must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone. (verse 24)
* A vessel of honor corrects his opponents with gentleness for God may give them the knowledge of truth and they may come to their senses and escape the devils snare. (verses 25-26)

**Time of Prayer**