**Sunday, September 30, 2012**

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship –** *Revelation 7:9-17*

*Rejoice, sisters and brothers! For Christ our sacrificial Lamb is raised from death! And he shall reign forever!*

*Keep the vision, tell the good news! Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*

*Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might, be to our God, forever and ever!*

 *For we who wash our souls in the blood of the Lamb will worship God day and night in God’s temple.*

*We will hunger and thirst no more. The sun will not strike us, nor the scorching heat.*

*For the Lamb will be our shepherd. He will guide us to the springs of eternal life. And God will wipe every tear from our eyes!*

Let us worship God!

**Song of Praise –** *Are You Washed in the Blood*

**Nothing Can Separate Us –** *Romans 8:37-39*

*In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Song of Worship –** *Here Is Love/My Jesus, I Love Thee*

**Meeting God** *– A Puritan Prayer*

**Great God, in public and private, in sanctuary and home, may my life be steeped in prayer, filled with the spirit of grace and supplication, each prayer perfumed with the incense of atoning blood. Help me, defend me, until from praying ground I pass to the realm of unceasing praise. Urged by my need, invited by Thy promises, called by Thy Spirit, I enter Thy presence, worshipping Thee with godly fear, awed by Thy majesty, greatness, glory, but encouraged by Thy love.**

**I am all poverty as well as all guilt, having nothing of my own with which to repay Thee, but I bring Jesus to Thee in the arms of faith, pleading His righteousness to offset my iniquities, rejoicing that He will weigh down the scales for me, and satisfy thy justice. I bless Thee that great sin draws out great grace, that, although the lest sin deserves infinite punishment because done against an infinite God, yet there is mercy for me, for where guilt is most terrible, there Thy mercy in Christ is most free and deep. Bless me by revealing to me more of His saving merits, by causing Thy goodness to pass before me, by speaking peace to my contrite heart; strengthen me to give Thee no rest untiI Christ shall reign supreme within me in every thought, word, and deed, in a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens me to Thee, and ever clings to the cross.**

**Song of Worship –** *I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

**Offering *(“The Cross! There, and there alone is the power to save.”*  William Cowper)**

**Sacrifice of the Cross – *Dr. W.A. Criswell***

The following is an excerpt from a sermon preached in 1967 by Dr. W. A. Criswell, the text taken from 1 Corinthians 15:3

*“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins…”*

The greatest preacher our people has ever produced was Charles Haddon Spurgeon from London, England. Somebody came up to him one time and said, “Mr. Spurgeon, your sermons sound all alike.” And the great preacher replied, “That’s correct. They are all alike. Wherever,” he said, “I pick a text in the Bible, I make a beeline to the cross.”

For without the cross and the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. Without atonement there is no pardoning grace. Without a payment of death there is no reconciliation. We are not healed by His beautiful, and lovely, and perfect life, but rather by His stripes we are healed.

The birth of Christ, the temptation, the transfiguration, even the institution of the Lord’s Supper and His glorious ascension into heaven are left out of one or more of the gospels. But they all carefully, prayerfully, faithfully delineated the expiatory death of our Lord.

Through Christ’s death our sins have been forgiven, and some day in His name we shall see the face of God and live. The sign of the church is not a burning bush. It is not two tables of stone on which are engraved commandments. It is not a seven-branched lampstand. It is not a halo above a submissive head. It is not even a kingly crown. But the sign of the Christian faith is a cross, a rugged, heavy instrument of death and expiation.

Ah Lord, this day shall be a day of commitment, of devotion beyond all I’ve ever offered unto Thee before. Bowing in Thy presence, kneeling at the foot of the cross, O God, I give myself again and anew to Thee. And our Master, in that spirit of loving commitment and infinite gratitude may God take us, wash us, save us, keep us, now and to the end of the way. A blood-bought, redeemed family of God, who some day shall know an eternity of praise and gratitude expressed to Thee who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. To whom be glory and dominion forever and ever, world without end, Amen and Amen.

**Songs of Worship –** *This the Power of the Cross/At the Cross*

**Message** – *“Passing Judgment”*
 *Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:1*

1. **What is not prohibited in passing judgment?**
	1. Making judgments of other actions, teachings or lifestyles, etc that are clearly prohibited or required by God’s word.
	2. Matthew 7:15-16; We are called to evaluate, examine, judge, qualify, etc all things by God’s word.
	3. Romans 13, Deuteronomy 19:15-21; God establishes the authority for human courts.
2. **What is prohibited?**
	1. Passing judgment on another person’s motives for actions, personal preferences not clearly or not expressed in God’s word. Romans 14:10-13
3. **Why the prohibition? 7 reasons why we are not qualified to pass judgment:**
	1. Lack of authority– Jesus is the authority; ; John 5:22
	2. Lack of proper insight – The Lord sees all
	3. Lack of purity – We are sinners and blind to clear judgment
	4. Lack of occasion – Christ will judge; 2 Timothy 4:1, Acts 10:4
	5. Lack of proper warrant – Our views do not override God’s law; James 4:2
	6. Lack of purity in justice because of our personal prejudices ore preferences
	7. Lack of patience – we are rash and hasty in our judgment
4. **What should our perspective be?**
	1. We are called to live our lives with the clear perspective that one day each of us will give an account for the life we lived. Our lives will be reviewed and all wrongs be made right.
	2. 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15; 1 John 2:28; Colossians 3:23

**Take-away’s**

1. We are called to be discerners, able to access and make a judgment according to God’s word. Passing judgment on another’s motives or more essential matters is prohibited.

2. We need to always be aware of our personal prejudices and preferences that blind us to the trusts of God’s word and the fellowship it calls us to.

3. We need to be reminded that we all have personal prejudices and preferences that call us to practice and exercise God’s love, grace, and mercy, in which we all have received to maintain the unity for His glory.

4. True unity is found only in strong biblical fellowship where the people of God unite under the authority of God and His word.

 **Time of Prayer**