

Sunday, March 3, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *A Puritan's Prayer – First Day Morning/Psalm 19:14*

O Lord,

We commune with thee every day, but week days are worldly days, and secular concerns reduce heavenly impressions.

We bless thee therefore for the day sacred to our souls when we can wait upon thee and be refreshed; We thank thee for the institutions of religion by use of which we draw near to thee and thou to us; We rejoice in another Lord's Day when we call off our minds from the cares of the world and attend upon thee without distraction; Let our retirement be devout, our conversation edifying, our reading pious, our hearing profitable, that our souls may be quickened and elevated.

We are going to the house of prayer, pour upon us the spirit of grace and supplication;

We are going to the house of praise, awaken in us every grateful and cheerful emotion;

We are going to the house of instruction, give testimony to the Word preached, and glorify it in the hearts of all who hear; may it enlighten the ignorant, awaken the careless, reclaim the wandering, establish the weak, comfort the feeble-minded, make ready a people for their Lord.

Be a sanctuary to all who cannot come, Forget not those who never come,

And do thou bestow upon us benevolence towards our dependents, forgiveness towards our enemies, peaceableness towards our neighbors, openness towards our fellow-Christians.

Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ, that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen. —Psalm 19:14

Song of Praise – *Brethren We Have Met To Worship*

Teach Me Your Way, O LORD – *Psalm 86:11-13*

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O LORD my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

Song of Worship – The Heart of Worship

Worship Christ Who Died For Our Sins – Revelation 5:1-14; 15:4/C.J. Mahaney

Hear the word of God from Revelation 15:4...

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Worship is a call to know Christ intimately and express appreciation to Him with praise and thanksgiving, doing so with passion, sincerity, conviction, and in reverent fear and trembling. Worship is the aptitude, attitude, and practice of expressing the desire to know our Lord and Savior further, and being grateful for Who He Is and what He has done for us. Worship is the giving of our best to Him. And, we do this because Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

Since the cross is the storyline of Scripture, it should be the storyline of our corporate worship. The cross is the matter of “first importance” and it should be reflected in our singing on a weekly basis

In Revelation 5:1-14, we catch a glimpse of eternal worship and our heavenly future. Jim Elliff has written, “*One is taken aback by the emphasis upon the Cross in Revelation. Heaven does not ‘get over’ the cross, as if there are better things to think about; heaven is not only Christ-centered, but cross-centered, and quite blaring about it.*” Amen! Every Sunday should be a heavenly preview as we survey the wondrous cross and as we sing of the Lamb who is worthy of our praise.

I challenge you over the next few moments to search your heart and see for yourself if you are indeed giving Christ the praise and worship He is so deserving of. At all times we should be reminded to make much of Christ by boasting only in the cross. Let’s silently pray.

Songs of Worship – There Is A Fountain/The Old Rugged Cross

Offering

Grace, How Sweet The Sound – Romans 3:20-24/Wil Pounds & Matt Chandler

Romans 3:20-24

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Grace, how sweet the sound to our sinful hearts!

The sweetest word in the English vocabulary is grace. It is a beautiful word containing the heart and soul of Christianity. It means the unmerited favor or kindness shown to people who are utterly undeserving. It

is a free gift to all who deserve the exact opposite. To the hopeless and helpless God comes in grace to meet our need.

The Bible teaches that we are saved by the free sovereign grace of God in Jesus Christ. Neither will the grace of God ever be withheld, nor will it be lessened because of anything we have done, or will do. God only saves the person who does not trust in his work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly. Until a person confesses that he is ungodly, he is not a candidate for salvation, because he still trusts in his own goodness. That is what Jesus meant when He said, 'I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.' (Luke 5:32). Those who are righteous in their own eyes have no part in God's redemptive work of grace."

In his book, *The Explicit Gospel*, Matt Chandler says it this way: "All your church attendance, all your religious activities, your Sunday school attendance medals, your journals, having a "quiet time," reading the Scriptures—it's all in vain if you don't have Christ.

We are saved, sanctified, and sustained by what Jesus did for us on the cross and through the power of his resurrection. If you add to or subtract from the cross, even if it is to factor in biblically mandated religious practices like prayer and evangelism, you rob God of his glory and Christ of his sufficiency.

Romans 8:1 tells us that there is no condemnation for us, not because of all the great stuff we've done but because Christ has set us free from the law of sin and death.

My sin in the past: forgiven. My current struggles: covered. My future failures: paid in full all by the marvelous, infinite, matchless grace found in the atoning work of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Will you take time today to share God's saving grace to a friend, colleague or family member knowing that all whom God has chosen will come to faith in Him? Perhaps you are the person God wants to lead that individual to Christ today.

Songs of Worship – *Grace Greater Than Our Sin/Amazing Grace*

Message – *"When We Doubt"*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 11:1-6

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Jesus Paid It All*

Observance of the Lord's Supper – *Luke 22:19, 20/1 Corinthians 11:26*

Benediction