

Sunday, April 14, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 95:6-7*

Hear the word of the Lord: Psalm 95:6-7:

Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

“Come, let us worship...” the psalmist is bidding you to leave your work behind, leave your cares and your burdens behind, and come to God through Jesus Christ. This gospel call is a joyful, thankful, praising song, that calls us to fellowship and communion – God’s very call to you to come depends upon the gospel. It’s expensive. It cost God much, but He offers it to you freely. And for you to be able to come into His presence and worship Him is something of tremendous, tremendous privilege as well as importance.

Before we begin, let’s take a few moments to silently pray so that we may prepare our heart, soul, and mind. Let us prepare to worship...to bow down – lying prostrate - with joy before our mighty Maker and our tender Shepherd. Let’s pray.

Lord God,

Words are not enough to express Your awesomeness, Your majesty, Your holiness. Our highest expressions of theology are but baby talk next to You: Your creation, Your very self.

Make us aware, through Your Holy Spirit, that You are here among us. May this awareness lead us to approach this hour more carefully. The words we speak, the tunes we sing, the thoughts we think, the joy and sadness we feel, may these be pleasing to You. For in spite of the inadequacy of our words, this worship is addressed to You. Make it complete, whole, full to overflowing, O God, our rock, and our redeemer.

In Christ we pray. Amen.

Song of Praise – *I Worship You, Almighty God*

Die Daily To Sin

O God, who for our redemption gave your only Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. Amen.

Song of Worship – *The Wonderful Cross*

The Greatest Act of Love – *Galatians 2:20*

Hear the word of the Lord from Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Scripture teaches that Christ loved us so much that He willingly gave himself up to die a horrible death on a cross of wood. This act of love would prove to be the greatest act of love in all of history.

Let's continue to lift our songs of praise unto God and worship Him for this amazing love that He has shown unto us!

Song of Worship – *Amazing Love/Amazing Grace*

Offering - *Is the Bible the Word of God? Then let us all resolve from this day forward to prize the Bible more. God has given us the Bible to be a light to guide us to everlasting life. Let us not neglect this precious gift. Let us read it diligently, and walk in its light.*" J.C. Ryle

Sound and Foolproof – *Charles H. Spurgeon/Thomas Brooks*

The day was April 10, 1912, and the RMS *Titanic* had just embarked on its maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton, England, to New York City. One of the largest and most luxurious passenger liners at the time, the *Titanic* was also considered by many to be unsinkable. Just prior to the sailing of the ship, the Captain of the *Titanic*, E.V. Smith, made the following statement:

"Never in all history have we harnessed such formidable technology. Every scientific advancement known to man has been incorporated into its design. The operational controls are sound and foolproof."

However, on April 14, exactly 101 years ago today, the ship struck an iceberg, and early the next day it sank. Approx 1,500 people perished. It quickly became obvious that the operational controls were not as sound and foolproof as originally thought.

The death of 1,500 people is a devastating tragedy, for sure. But stop to consider the fact that more than 150,000 humans die every day...and less than 10% of these people are true born again Christians. If this percentage is accurate, an estimated 135,000 people are going to hell every day. This is due to individuals wanting to live their life under their own authority, rather than the authority of God. They are convinced that their way is sound and foolproof. Unfortunately, it is not.

But we can be guaranteed that there is one operational control in this world that is sound and foolproof...the Word of God. God's Word will never fail, and God will preserve it. Its eternal truths are always true, no matter what man might try to say about them.

Charles Haden Spurgeon had this to say about the Word of God...

"...we must read the Scriptures. You know how necessary it is that we should be fed upon the truth of Holy Scripture. Need I suggest the question as to whether you do read your Bibles or not? I am afraid that this is a magazine reading age, a newspaper reading age a periodical reading age, but not so much a Bible reading age as it ought to be. In the old Puritanic times men used to have a scant supply of other literature, but they found a library enough in the one Book, the Bible. And how they did read the Bible!

One such Puritan, Thomas Brooks, wrote these words regarding the Bible in the year 1662...

The Scripture is God's love-letter to men. Here the lamb may wade—and here the elephant may swim!

The blessed Scriptures are of infinite worth and value! Here you may find . . . a remedy for every disease, a balm for every wound, a plaster for every sore, milk for babes, meat for strong men, comfort for the afflicted, support for the tempted, solace for the distressed, ease for the wearied, a staff to support the feeble, a sword to defend the weak.

The holy Scriptures are . . . the map of God's mercy—and man's misery, the touchstone of truth, the shop of remedies against all maladies, the hammer of vices, the treasury of virtues, the expositor of all sensual and worldly vanities, the balance of equity, the most perfect rule of all justice and honesty.

Ah, friends, no book befits your hands like the Bible!

The Bible is the best preacher. This book, this preacher will preach to you . . . in your shops, in your chambers, in your closets, yes, in your own bosoms!

This book will preach to you at home and abroad; it will preach to you in all companies; and it will preach to you in all conditions.

By this book you shall be saved—or by this book you shall be damned!

By this book you must live. By this book you must die.

By this book you shall be judged in the great day!

Oh, therefore . . . love this book above all other books, prize this book above all other books, read this book before all other books, study this book more than all other books!

For he who reads much—and understands nothing, is like him who hunts much—and catches nothing.

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long!" Psalm 119:97

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Enable us to respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Songs of Worship – *Ancient Words/Speak, O Lord*

Message – *“The Sabbath – Its Origin”*

Scripture Reference: Exodus 20:8-11 & Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *O Great God*

Benediction