

Sunday, August 11, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 113:1-3; 66:1-2, 4*

Hallelujah! Servants of God, praise, praise the name of the Lord. Bless the Lord's name now and always. Praise the Lord's name here and in every place from east to west. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.

Song of Praise – *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Glorify the Lord - *Psalm 34:1-3*

Hear the word of the Lord from Psalm 34, Verses 1-3:

We will bless the Lord at all times,

God's praise is always on our lips; in the Lord our souls shall make their boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad. Glorify the Lord with us. Together let us praise God's name.

Song of Worship – *We Will Glorify*

Does Hell Glorify God – *2 Thessalonians 1:4-10 (Source: James Hamilton)*

This is the word of God from 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10:

"...Among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed."

James Hamilton, Professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary wrote an article entitled, "How Does Hell Glorify God?" The facts he shares are very thought provoking:

- It shows that He keeps His Word.
- It shows His infinite worth, lasting forever.
- It demonstrates His power to subdue all who rebel against Him.
- It shows how unspeakably merciful He is to those who trust Him.
- It upholds the reality of love by visiting justice against those who reject God who is love.
- It vindicates all who suffered to hear or proclaim the truth of God's Word.

- It shows the enormity of what Jesus accomplished when He died to save all who would trust Him from the hell they deserved. If there were no hell, there would be no need for the cross.

Jesus died on the cross to establish God's justice and ensure that those who repent of sin and trust in Christ receive mercy that is also just. God punishes the wicked in hell to uphold justice against all who refuse to repent of sin, glorify him as God, and give thanks to him.

I encourage you to take the next few moments to search your heart. Have you been truly converted and are you living a life that is pleasing and glorifying unto God? Do you desire for God to work in your life? Or are you casually living the so-called Christian life and simply going through the motions? Don't delay in your decision to surrender to Christ. As 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." Today is the day to repent of sin and accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. You can be assured there is a hell, and the righteous are wise to trust God. Let's silently pray.

Song of Worship – Come Ye Sinners

Assurance of Salvation - Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 8:15-17

The good news of the gospel is that those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ are forgiven of their sins! Hear these encouraging words from the word of God:

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

May the Holy Spirit of God open our hearts and place the living seed of truth within it, so we may be a beautiful reflection of Him in all we say and do.

Song of Worship – Holy Spirit

Offering - *"We must cease striving and trust God to provide what He thinks is best and in whatever time He chooses to make it available. But this kind of trusting doesn't come naturally. It's a spiritual crisis of the will in which we must choose to exercise faith."* Charles Swindoll

All Things Serve Him – Matthew 14:22-33 (Source: J.C. Ryle)

Hear the word of the Lord found in Matthew 14:22-33:

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

What absolute dominion our Savior has over all created things. We see Him "walking on the sea," as if it was dry land. Those angry waves which tossed the ship of His disciples to and fro, obey the Son of God, and become a solid floor under His feet. That liquid surface, which was agitated by the least breath of wind, bears up the feet of our Redeemer, like a rock. To our poor, weak minds, the whole event is utterly incomprehensible. The picture of two feet walking on the sea, is said by Doddridge to have been the Egyptian emblem of an impossible thing. The man of science will tell us, that for material flesh and blood to walk on water is a physical impossibility. Enough for us to know that it was done. Enough for us to remember, that to Him who created the seas at the beginning, it must have been perfectly easy to walk over their waves when He pleased.

There is encouragement here for all true Christians. Let them know that there is nothing created, which is not under Christ's control. "All things serve Him." He may allow His people to be tried for a season, and tossed to and fro by storms of trouble. He may be later than they wish in coming to their aid, and not draw near until the "fourth watch of the night." But never let them forget that winds, and waves, and storms are all Christ's servants. They cannot move without Christ's permission. "The Lord on high is mightier than the voice of many waters, yes than the mighty waves of the sea." (Psalm 93:4.) Are we ever tempted to cry with Jonah, "the flood was all around me. All your waves and your billows passed over me." (Jonah 2:3.) Let us remember they are "His" billows. Let us wait patiently. We may yet see Jesus coming to us, and "walking on the sea."

To the child of God learning to trust in His care and goodness, our fears will bring renewed assurance that He is always there.

Songs of Worship – *Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus/ Trust and obey*

Message – *"Sanctifying Storms"*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:22-33

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *I Have A Shelter*

Benediction