

Sunday, August 18, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ! May each one of us find great joy and spiritual nourishment as we worship together today. Listen to the Holy Scripture, found in 1 Chronicles 29:10-13:

Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

O magnify the LORD with me. Let us exalt God's name together!

Song of Praise – *Doxology*

I Am the Lord – 1 Chronicles 16:23, 27, 28; Psalm 72:19; Isaiah 40:28; 45:18

Praise is defined as the act of making positive statements about a person, object or idea. There is no one more worthy of praise than the true and living God. King David composed many hymns of psalms of praise for the chief musician. David had penned many psalms before this particular one found in 1 Chronicles, Chapter 16, but many scholars believe this hymn was to be daily used in the temple service; whatever other psalms they sung, they must not omit this one. Hear the words and be encouraged:

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, Creator of the whole earth.

He formed the earth and made it; He established it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited – "I am the LORD and there is no other."

Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and joy are in His place. Ascribe to the LORD, families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Proclaim His salvation from day to day. May His glorious name be praised forever; the whole earth is filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

Let us continue singing praises unto God as we give Him the glory that is due to His name.

Song of Worship – *Our Great God*

Confession of Sin

When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to his. In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us take the next few moments to silently confess our sin, asking our ever-present God to forgive us. Let's pray.

Assurance of Salvation - Isaiah 1:18

Hear the Good News found in Isaiah 1:18!

Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Song of Worship – Whiter Than Snow

The Vision - Proverbs 29:18

Once we have placed our trust in God we will desire Him to have first place in our lives. Christ becomes our treasure; we care no more for the pursuit of riches or “man’s empty praise.” Our **vision becomes a true awareness of Christ, encompassing all of His fullness and enabling power.**

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. Proverbs 29:18

Song of Worship – Be Thou My Vision

Offering - “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.” Dietrich Bonhoffer

A Pure and True Heart – Psalm 51:16-17 (Source: L. Thomason)

Hear the words of the Lord, found in Psalm 51:16-17:

You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

While broken flesh produces humility to allow God’s Light to shine from your life, a broken heart produces salvation. The first priority will always be a clean heart which will renew one’s spirit from the inside out. With passion for the Word of God that washes us and leads to love and obedience, it is a continuous process of refining as sin continuously attempts to recover control of our heart and life. Psalm 51:8 says, “You have broken me.” A broken heart will affect the entire being. By allowing our hearts to remain broken and repentant before the Lord, we allow God to fill our heart with His Love. Pure and true it will in turn change our life from the inside out producing more and more Light from His Love activated in our life. However, God cannot expose His Light in a life marked by sin and rebellion. It is contradictory to a truly surrendered heart. So God continues to rework our life until it is a showcase of His Love and Inhabitation. You are a Temple of the Living God who is being modified to expose the Light of His Love that has overtaken your heart. A broken heart remains pliable to God and receptive of His Overflowing Grace, Love and Mercy able to become a conduit of such things. Reformation of the vessel allows us to be faithful in the midst of brokenness before the Lord.

In closing, hear the words of Charles H. Spurgeon:

Blessed Master, wash me within, and save me from the defilements of corrupt nature! Suffer me not to make outward forms my trust, but in the hidden parts purify thou me!

Songs of Worship – I Need Thee Every Hour/I Am Thine, O Lord

Message – *“What’s in the Well Comes up in the Bucket”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:34-15:20

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Give Us Clean Hands*

Benediction