

Sunday, August 25, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 107:10-14; 66:1-2, 4; 71:23*

This is the word of God: Psalm 107:10-14

Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High ...Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.

Imagine that you are a prisoner in a dark dungeon, chained by the innumerable filthy sins that you have committed. One night, the gospel of Christ—the good news that Christ had died to meet your need—seems to flood your dungeon with light, breaking the chains and setting you free. The guilt is finally gone. For the first time, you seem to be really alive because you possess the supernatural life of Jesus Christ!

This is exactly how Charles Wesley, the great preacher & hymn writer of the 1700's, described his conversion experience. But here is an interesting side note of this story: at the time of his conversion, Charles Wesley had been a pastor in his church for more than three years. And he had just returned from a "missionary" trip to America. But in all of this religious activity, he had never experienced peace - the peace that only God can give. Peace cannot be manufactured or "faked". Christ had never come to dwell in his life. He looked good on the outside, but the mystery of a life committed to Christ was not to be found in him. And so on May 20, 1738, around midnight, Charles Wesley was saved. Finally, he began to understand the great mystery of being "in Christ."

Has your dungeon been flamed with a light and have your chains been removed? Or are you still being held captive in the dark gloomy dungeon? During this morning's worship service, I challenge you to take a real look at your life. Be greatly encouraged by the message, scripture and songs that we will hear and sing.

Phillippians 2:8 says "*Christ humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*" Amazing love, how can it be, that You my God would die for me.

Let's spend the next few moments in silent prayer preparing our hearts for worship. Let's pray.

Please Stand.

Hear the words of God found in Psalms 66, 71, & 103:

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.

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to You, because you have redeemed me.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His faithful love.

Song of Praise – And Can It Be

The First Commandment – Exodus 20:3 (The Baptist Catechism, Questions 51-53)

The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. Therefore, it is very important that we know and understand the living Word of God. Join me as we recite Questions 51-53 of The Baptist Catechism:

What is the first commandment?

The first commandment is, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3.

What is required in the first commandment?

The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God, and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

What is forbidden in the first commandment?

The first commandment forbids us to deny or not to worship and glorify the true God as God and our God; and to give that worship and glory to any other, which is due unto him alone.

In keeping with scripture, let's continue worshiping and glorifying God as we have been commanded to do.

Song of Worship – I Will Glory In My Redeemer

Come Now To Calvary (Source: Charles H. Spurgeon)

We have been worshiping and singing of the amazing and steadfast love of our Lord and Savior! But now I have to invite you to a more dreary sight; but, it's strange; just as the sight becomes more black, to us it grows more bright. Think about this:

The more deeply the Savior dived into the depths of misery, the brighter were the pearls which he brought up.

The greater his griefs, the greater our joys

And the deeper his dishonor, the brighter our glories.

Come, then—I ask poor, doubting, trembling sinners and saints, to come with me,—come now to Calvary and meet the eyes of Jesus as he was dying on the cross.

Song of Worship – The Look

Assurance of Salvation - 1 Peter 2:24

Hear the Good News!

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

This is the power of the cross!

Song of Worship – *This the Power of the Cross*

Offering - *“Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us.”*

John Stott

Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord of Hosts – *Isaiah 40:12-17; Ezekiel 36:22-23; Isaiah 6:1-3 (Source: John Piper)*

Everything begins with God. We don't understand the full significance of anything until we understand its relation to God. He was the one and only fact a trillion centuries before the universe or man existed. He is absolutely unique because he alone is infinite, unchanging, eternal. He is infinitely more important than any man or woman. His value is supreme. He is in a class by himself. And he is more worthy, ten thousand times more worthy, than any other class of beings.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth with a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord or as his counselor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him understanding? Behold the nations are like a drop from a bucket and are accounted as the dust on the scales . . . All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing! Isaiah 40:12–17

When we say that God is holy we mean that, along with the immeasurableness of his greatness, *his character is unimpeachable*. He cannot be charged with any wrong. He has an infinite love for what is infinitely valuable and an infinite hate for what opposes the infinitely valuable. His delight in praiseworthy things is unbounded, and his abhorrence of what is blameworthy is perfect. As Habakkuk 1:13 says: *"Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, and you cannot tolerate wrong."*

All the evil in the world is an offense against the holiness of God and is preparing this world for a cataclysm of divine vindication. The zeal of God burns for the holiness of his great name.

Say to the house of Israel, thus says the Lord God:

"It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations . . . and the nations will know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes." Ezekiel 36:22 & 23

God loves his holiness with infinite love and cherishes his purity. This is the starting point for understanding God and man and the world. If we don't start here everything goes askew. If we don't feel a sense of awe and fear and admiration for the infinite holiness of God which opposes evil with wrath and fury, then all of our other feelings and thoughts will be defective at best.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the Seraphim; each had six wings; with two he covered his face; and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Songs of Worship – *Holy, Holy, Holy/We Fall Down*

Message – *“The Qualities of Saving Faith”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 15:21-28

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Holy Spirit*

Benediction