

# Sunday, September 1, 2013

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *The Foundation of Jesus Christ*

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!*

Listen to the words of Steven Lawson as he describes the foundation of Jesus Christ:

"Jesus Christ Himself is the *sole* Builder of the church, as He promised in Matthew 16:18: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Christ did not say, "You will build My church." Neither did He say, "I will build *your* church." Instead, Jesus claimed, "I will build *My* church." Christ Himself is constructing *His* church, and like a wise master builder, He is establishing it on a solid bedrock—that of sound doctrine....The church that is built upon the doctrines of grace is built upon the impregnable rock of divine revelation. How firm a foundation has such a church! But sad to say, the church today seems intent upon withholding the doctrines of grace from her foundation. Instead, she prefers to build with wood, hay, and stubble upon shifting sand. Such a church may have an impressive outward appearance, and therefore attract many. But inwardly, she is unspiritual, unstable, and, worse, even largely unconverted. Such a church, built on such a flimsy foundation, has no hope of standing in days of trial. But church history records that when the church builds with the gold, silver, and precious stones of a God-centered message, she is internally fortified and can withstand the most difficult storms. Even the swirling winds of apostasy, persecutions, and the fiery flames of martyrdom cannot cause her to topple. In fact, whenever the church builds upon the sturdy rock of the sovereign grace of God, she stands immovable even amid the darkest hours of history."

This morning I invite you to stand with me as we celebrate and worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! (Please Stand.) We call the saints from all walks of life, and from all tribes and tongues to worship the Living Lord.

*Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. Ephesians 2:20*

**Song of Praise** – *How Firm A Foundation*

**Build Your House Upon the Rock** – *Matthew 7:24-27*

Hear the words of the Lord, found in Matthew 7, Verses 24-27:

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

*And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.*

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

As we cling to the solid foundation on which our faith and hope is built upon, let’s continue exalting our Chief Cornerstone!

### **Song of Worship – *The Solid Rock***

#### **The Breakthrough of the Cross** (Source: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*)

“On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,” wrote Edward Mote. In endeavoring to serve Jesus, we see how far we fall short of His demands, confessing that our righteousness does not exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. This poverty of spirit drives us to the cross where Jesus picks us up, making us more sorrowful for sin and more ready to obey. Listen to the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as he describes man, sin and confession...

“In confession occurs the breakthrough of the Cross. The root of all sin is pride, superbia. I want to be my own law, I have a right to myself, my hatred and my desires, my life and my death. The mind and flesh of man are set on fire by pride; for it is precisely in his wickedness that man wants to be as God. Confession in the presence of a brother is the profoundest kind of humiliation. It hurts, it cuts a man down, it is a dreadful blow to pride...In the deep mental and physical pain of humiliation before a brother - which means, before God - we experience the Cross of Jesus as our rescue and salvation. The old man dies, but it is God who has conquered him. Now we share in the resurrection of Christ and eternal life.”

I can assure you, there will be no peace in this world until man’s heart is changed. And how can man’s heart ever be changed? It is changed when the cross comes into his life, when the sword of Jesus pierces through his heart. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:18 that the cross is the power of God unto salvation. We are saved by the power of God through the cross. Then in Galatians 6:14, Paul also says, *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* Here again we see that the cross kills and that the cross makes alive. ‘I have been crucified by the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ. I have been killed to the world. But with this same cross, I have been made alive by God.’ It is through His cross, and more specifically through the blood of His cross that we can have our salvation.

The subject of this moment is simply CONFESSION OF SIN. We know that this is absolutely necessary to salvation. Unless there be a true and hearty confession of our sins to God, we have no promise that we shall find mercy through the blood of the Redeemer. Proverbs 28:13 says, “Whosoever confesses his sins and forsakes them shall find mercy.” But there is no promise in the Bible to the man who will not confess his sins.

Let’s take the next few moments to examine our wicked, selfish heart and confess our sins to God. There never was a poor sinner who came to Christ, whom Christ turned away. Let’s pray.

### **Confession of Sin & Prayer**

**Songs of Worship – *The Old Rugged Cross/How Deep the Father’s Love for Us* (Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1)**

### **Offering**

**The Lord is My Shepherd** – *Psalm 23:1 (Source: John Newton)*

*"The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need!" Psalm 23:1*

The Lord is my *Shepherd!* This is a comprehensive word. The sheep can do nothing for themselves. The Shepherd must guide, guard, feed, heal and recover. It is well for us—that *our Shepherd* is the Lord Almighty! If His power, care, compassion and fullness were not infinite—the poor sheep would be forsaken, starved and die! But we have a Shepherd full of care, full of kindness, full of power, who has said, "I will search for My lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak!" Ezekiel 34:16. How tender are these expressions, and how well fulfilled! **His sheep feed in the midst of wolves**—yet are safely preserved; for, though they cannot see Him—His *eye* and His *heart* are ever upon them!

Which of God's children have not cause to say, **"My soul is among lions!"** But our Shepherd stops their mouths, or only permits them to gape and roar, and show their teeth. He does not allow them to bite and tear us at their will. Let us trust our Shepherd—and all shall be well.

As to daily occurrences, it is best to trust that a daily portion of *comforts* and *crosses*—each one the most suitable to our case—is adjusted and appointed by the *hand which was once nailed to the cross for us!* We must trust, that where the path of duty and prudence leads us—that there is the best situation we could possibly be in, at that time.

*"The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need!" Psalm 23:1*

**Songs of Worship** – *Great Is Thy Faithfulness/O Great God*

**Message** – *"A Compassionate Savior"*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 15:29-39*

**Time of Prayer**

**Song of Worship** – *All I Have Is Christ*

**Observance of the Lord's Supper**

**Song of Worship** – *Were You There*

**Blessing of the Bread**

We were not there when they crucified your Son, Lord God. But here at this table we gather to remember that Friday afternoon long ago when he was crucified. We take the bread and break it. We think about what happened to Christ on the cross and what it means for us standing here today. But we don't often tremble. So "tremble us" this morning, Lord. "Tremble us," Lord, because of what Christ did and because Christ did it for us. "Tremble us," Lord, because we dare not take any of this for granted and thereby presume upon your grace. "Tremble us," Lord, down to the center of our beings where we are touched and transformed, we beg.

## **Prayer**

### **Passing of the Bread**

#### **Partaking of the Bread – *Luke 22:19***

### **Blessing of the Cup**

Some were there when Jesus Christ was crucified, O God, who did not tremble. Soldiers were there, unaware that it was Your Son who was dying on their cross. A crowd of people was there, many of whom were just along for the show, who didn't have a clue that it was your salvation that was unfolding before their very eyes. Leaders were there preoccupied with their power and position. They didn't tremble, Lord. As we share this cup filled with the juice that is symbolic of the blood that was shed that day, send your Spirit so that we might tremble. We are not unlike those who did not tremble long ago. Just like them, we can miss the significance of what you did for us in Jesus Christ. Open our eyes and hearts here this morning. Cause us to tremble, and then deepen that trembling into thanksgiving, and distill that thanksgiving into transformation, we pray.

## **Prayer**

### **Passing of the Cup**

#### **Partaking of the Cup – *Luke 22:20***

#### **Proclaiming the Lord's Death – *1 Corinthians 11:26***

### **Benediction**