

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalm 113:1-3*

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.

Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy this hour;

Because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

Let us praise him by saying:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb we give worship this hour and forever and ever. Amen

Songs of Praise – *See What A Morning/Because He Lives*

Confession of Sin & Prayer

Our Father in heaven, we thank you that you have led us into the light. We thank you for sending the Savior to call us from death to life. We confess that we were dead in sin before we heard his call, but when we heard him, like Lazarus, we arose. But, O Father, the grave clothes bind us still. Old habits that we cannot throw off, old customs that are so much a part of our lives that we are helpless to live the new life that Christ calls us to live.

Give us strength, O Father, to break the bonds; give us courage to live a new life in you; give us faith to believe that with your help we cannot fail.

Since our best days and duties are mixed with sin, let us take the next few moments to silently go to our heavenly Father, pleading guilty before God, as we honestly confess all our sins in their full extent, relying wholly on his mercy and truth through the righteousness of Christ, for a free and full forgiveness, so that we may have deliverance from the power and practice of sin. Let's pray.

Assurance of Salvation – *Colossians 2:13-14*

Hear these words of encouragement, found in Colossians 2:13-14...

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Songs of Worship – *All I Have Is Christ/Give Me Jesus/1 Peter 1:3-9*

Offering *“Faith is the silver thread upon which the pearls of the graces are to be hung. Break that, and you have broken the string – the pearls lie scattered on the ground.”* Charles H. Spurgeon

Salvation is Found in Christ Alone – *Psalm 62:1 (Source: Tim Challies/Dave Herndon)*

Augustus Toplady was born in England in 1740. His father was a Royal Marine and died on duty soon after his son's birth, leaving the boy to be raised by his mother. Toplady had an interest in religion during his younger years, and showed this in spiritual journals and moralistic behavior. However, it wasn't until his fifteenth year, while attending a Methodist revival in an Irish barn, that he felt “brought nigh to God.” It was at this point that he determined to go into ministry.

Controversy began to follow Toplady throughout his short 38 years of life, but he did not let that stop him. One of the greatest hymns of all time, Rock of Ages, was actually written by Toplady. The hymn, which packs deep spiritual truths, is, of course, referring to Jesus Christ, the One who was cleft for us on the cross. He was pierced for our transgressions and by His stripes we are healed. God's word teaches us that to Him alone we must go for salvation. Psalm 62:1 says,

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation.”

The final part of verse one of the hymn is truly deep:

Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

God's wrath is poured out on the sinner. Even now we are under His condemnation. The precious blood of Jesus, poured out on the stricken crying for mercy and salvation, satisfies the wrath of God the Father. Not only that, but it cleanses us from all unrighteousness, hence “the double cure.” So much truth packed into so few words.

The rest of the song hammers home the inability of man to save himself, whether by works, (labor of hands) enthusiasm, (zeal) or by sorrow (tears). Only Jesus, alone, can save. This is the great truth about our Lord. Not only **can** He save, but He **does** save.

Sin is a terrible power that makes all of us stand guilty before God. Truly, we need to fly to the fountain filled with the blood of Jesus to be washed clean.

In closing, you need to ask yourself one very important question:

Are you in the cleft of this Rock, or are you still depending on your own efforts to be saved? Hide yourself in Him, and you will never regret you did!

Songs of Worship – *Rock of Ages/Hide Away in the Love of Jesus*

Message – *“A Foretaste of His Glory”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 17:1-13

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *O Great God*

Benediction