

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Revelation 4:11 (Source: Patrick Pulliam)*

Good Morning! Today is the Lord's Day and God is calling us to come and to worship him. Praise the Lord that he bids us to come and to worship him, we who have infinitely violated his holiness and righteousness, but in mercy are redeemed and covered by the blood of the Lamb. We will spend an eternity exploring the love of God and worshipping him as we were meant to, singing praises to God and to the Lamb, to an ever greater degree understanding his worthiness to receive such worship and praise. What a blessing that in this life, while we are sojourners and exiles, he invites us to come and to worship him in Spirit and truth, to come joyfully to his feast in the desert.

Let us take the next few moments in silent prayer to simply turn our thoughts on Christ Jesus, who is the author and protector of our faith. Let's pray.

-Silent Prayer

Join me in speaking this scripture of praise found in Revelation 4:11:

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." To God Be the Glory!

Songs of Praise – *To God Be the Glory/Sing Allelu*

Confession of Sin & Prayer (*Source: John Angell James, 1828*)

The love of the Most High, the love we rejoice in, is like no other. God says in Jeremiah 31:3, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness."* However, the love of God is opposed to pride and vanity, and is connected with true humility.

The crown of glory is reserved for the humble—but shame shall be the reward of the proud. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." There is no operation of Christian love more beautiful, none more scarce, than humility. Professing Christians should set themselves to work on their own proud hearts, and their own boasting tongues, remembering that they who sink the lowest in humility in this world—shall assuredly rise to the highest honor in the world to come!

With reverent and humble hearts let us draw near to God, silently confessing our sins, as we find in Him our refuge and strength. Let's pray.

Song of Worship – *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*

Assurance of Salvation – *Hebrews 10:10/Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 66*

Hear these words of assurance found in Hebrews 10:10...

We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is God's gospel promise:

To forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone because of Christ's one sacrifice finished on the cross.

Song of Worship – *In Christ Alone*

Offering “If you plan to build a tall house of virtues, you must first lay deep foundations of humility.” St. Augustine of Hippo

Practicing Humility – *Philippians 2:1-7* (Source: John Piper)

Hear the word of God, paraphrased from Philippians 2:1-7...

Is there any such thing as Christians cheering each other up? Do you love me enough to want to help me? Does it mean anything to you that we are brothers in the Lord, sharing the same Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic at all? Then make me truly happy by loving each other and agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, working together with one heart and mind and purpose.

Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing.

Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross.

One of the keys to a Christ exalting, radical way of living is found in verse 3: *Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.*

Have you ever wondered what it means to be humble? It literally means lowliness...the great opposite of a sense of entitlement. Do you walk through life mainly feeling somebody owes you? Do you sometimes think, “You owe me a certain look when I pass you on the street.” “You owe me a certain behavior in the neighborhood.” “You owe me my newspaper before 6:30am.” Is that your basic orientation? If so, then you're not humble. Paul said in Romans 1:14, “*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.*” In other words, they didn't owe him. He owed them. Where does that come from? It comes from being stunned by the grace of God. Until you're stunned by the thought that God owes you nothing but hell, you will have a sense of entitlement. You will walk through life and your basic orientation will be you owe me. But as soon as it lands on you with stunning force, that you were owed hell and you got heaven at the cost of the life of the Son of God, you will lose your sense of entitlement. It's over and humility happens.

In closing, if you ever struggle with humility or self-denial or serving those who are hard to love, think and look upon the picture of Christ. Jesus paid it all when He came to die in your place.

Songs of Worship – *The Look/Jesus Paid It All*

Message – “*Entering the Kingdom of God*”

Scripture Reference: Matthew 18:1-4

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

Benediction