

# Sunday, November 10, 2013

**Welcome** – Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – *Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22; 34:3*

This is the day that you have made, Lord. Help us to rejoice in it and be glad! Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people: to come to you in these moments, to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness and give it, to pray and sing and listen, to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all your promises.

During the next few moments, let's prepare our hearts to enter into a time of worship. Let's silently pray to God that our eyes will be open to see the Living God, that our ears be open to hear His Word, and that we would sense the Holy Spirit, so that we may celebrate our faith. Let's pray.

Silent Prayer

Please stand with me and hear the word of God, found in the book of Psalm, Chapters 103 & 34...

*Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*

*Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

*Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.*

*Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.*

*Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul. O magnify the LORD with me.*

*Let us exalt God's name together!*

**Songs of Praise** – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty/Sing Allelu*

**Confession of Sin & Prayer** – *Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 80:19*

When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to his. When we come into His holy presence our own humanity is laid bare. When we stand in the living presence of truth, our own falsehood is revealed. People of God, let us silently prayer, acknowledging who we are and ask our ever-present God to forgive us. Let's pray.

Silent Prayer

*“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”*

*Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

**Song of Worship** – *Whiter Than Snow*

### **Assurance of Salvation – Hebrews 10:19-23**

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

### **Song of Worship – Blessed Assurance**

**Offering** *A student once asked, “Will the heathen who have not heard the Gospel be saved?” It is more a question with me whether we, who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not, can be saved. Charles H. Spurgeon*

### **The Myth of the Modern Message – (Source: Ray Comfort)**

One cannot fully understand what one is saved to unless one also understands what one is saved from. We are saved from the consequences of our sins, which is hell. Jesus said in Mark 9:43, “If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire.” It was with the knowledge of hell that Jesus graciously and lovingly called people to repent of their sins and to trust him as Lord and Savior. He thus began his public ministry proclaiming in Mark 1:15, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” It is an unfortunate commentary, but we are living in a day when the saving message of Jesus Christ is being lost in our churches. Replacing it is a new set of concerns that are quick to speak of God’s love, mercy, and grace, but are slow to take up the implications of His holiness, judgment, and wrath. Being disturbingly silent on the significant issues of sin and judgment to come, much contemporary evangelism is producing a bumper-crop of unregenerate believers.

How did this problem arise in the Church in the first place? How was it that so many tares have been sown among the wheat? In Matthew 13:25, Jesus tells us why it happened and who was behind it: “*But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*” While the Church was asleep, the enemy did this. It is now time for followers of Christ to awaken out of our stupor and get back to biblical evangelism.

In addition to sowing tares among the wheat, Satan duped the Church into believing that it is advancing by getting decisions for Christ without use of the Law. We are in a very real war with a very real enemy who has invaded our ranks and stripped the gospel of its power.

Instead of preaching a man-centered easy gospel that Jesus will take away all your problems and offer you peace, joy, and fulfillment we must warn men about the inevitable dangers of not following Christ. But doesn't Christianity offer the abundant life? You bet it does! Peace and joy are legitimate fruits of the Spirit. But we do sinners an injustice by enticing them with only the benefits of salvation. Our misguided efforts only result in sinners coming to Christ with an impure motive void of repentance.

The size of our churches mean nothing if they prove to be full of false converts. Soft-selling the gospel leaves multitudes in the “lukewarm” bracket and sours the truths of true commitment. The apostle Paul said in Romans 7:7 that he would never have known the sin in his heart—the evil desires that are hidden there—had it not been for the law.

In closing, we must love sinners enough to do our best to make sure they don't have a false conversion. They must have the knowledge of sin before they can truly come to the Savior. How can we turn the tide and restore credibility to true conversion? The true church of Christ *must* arise and its members *must* teach that true repentance is necessary for salvation. *"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul."*  
Psalm 19:7

**Songs of Worship** – *O Church Arise/I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

**Message** – *"Christian Marriage"*

*Scripture Reference: Matthew 19:1-15*

**Time of Prayer**

**Song of Worship** – *Be Thou My Vision*

**Benediction**