

Sunday, November 17, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Colossians 2:3; Revelation 5:12*

Good Morning! The Lord who calls us to worship today is the same Jesus who refused the temptation to worship the evil one. Rather than receive the glorious kingdoms of this world, he endured the shame of the cross, and today is Lord of lords and King of kings. Now are gathered in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, glory and power. With the saints of all ages we say,

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Song of Praise – *And Can It Be*

Nothing Can Separate Us

We give you thanks, great God, for the hope we have in Jesus, who died but is risen and rules over all. We praise you for his presence with us. Because he lives, we look for eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Song of Worship – *My Savior's Love*

Confession of Sin & Prayer – *John 3:16*

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

As we reflect on Christ's suffering and His love for the elect, we cannot help but be reminded that Christ's torture was our triumph. His sorrow was our salvation. Our hearts are filled with shame that we forget about the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Let us now silently confess our sins to God, trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord. Let's pray.

Song of Worship – *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

Assurance of Salvation – *1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

Hear the word of God from 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

Song of Worship – *It Is Not Death To Die*

Offering *“The beginning of the way to heaven, is to feel that we are on the way to hell.” J.C. Ryle*

Shall You Be Saved? – Luke 13:23-30 (Source: J.C. Ryle)

This is the word of God paraphrased from Luke 13, Verses 23-30:

Someone asked him, “Will only a few be saved?” And he replied, “The door to heaven is narrow. Work hard to get in, for the truth is that many will try to enter but when the head of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. Then if you stand outside knocking, and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us,’ he will reply, ‘I do not know you.’ ‘But we ate with you, and you taught in our streets,’ you will say. “And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you. You can’t come in here, guilty as you are. Go away.’ “And there will be great weeping and gnashing of teeth as you stand outside and see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets within the Kingdom of God—for people will come from all over the world to take their places there. And note this: some who are despised now will be greatly honored then; and some who are highly thought of now will be least important then.”

There is much debate over true salvation. When asked the question if only a few will be saved, Jesus replied that the door to heaven is narrow. Many will try to enter that door but only a few will be allowed. I ask you personally, “Will you be one who will be allowed to enter through that door?” Are you one who has truly been saved? To be saved, is not merely to profess and call ourselves Christians. We may have all the outward parts of Christianity, and yet be lost after all. We may be baptized into Christ's Church, — go to Christ's table,— have Christian knowledge, — be reckoned Christian men and women — and yet be dead souls all our lives, — and at last, in the judgment day, be found on Christ's left hand, among the goats. No: this is not salvation! Salvation is something far higher and deeper than this. What is true salvation?

To be saved, is to be delivered in this present life from the *guilt of sin*, by faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior. It is to be pardoned, justified, and freed from every charge of sin, by faith in Christ's blood and mediation. Whosoever with his heart believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, is a saved soul. He shall not perish. He shall have eternal life. This is the first part of salvation, and the root of all the rest. But this is not all.

To be saved, is to be delivered in this present life from *the power of sin*, by being born again, and sanctified by Christ's spirit. It is to be freed from the hateful dominion of sin, the world, and the devil, by having a new nature put in us by the Holy Ghost. Whosoever is thus renewed in the spirit of his mind, and converted, is a saved soul. He shall not perish. He shall enter into the glorious kingdom of God. This is the second part of salvation. But this is not all.

To be saved, is to be delivered in the day of judgment, from all *the awful consequences of sin*. It is to be declared blameless, spotless, faultless, and complete in Christ, while others are found guilty, and condemned forever. It is to hear those comfortable words, — “Come, ye blessed!” while others are hearing those fearful words, — “Depart, ye cursed!” It is to be owned and confessed by Christ, as one of His dear children and servants, while others are disowned and cast off forever. It is to be pronounced free from the portion of the wicked, — the worm that never dies, — the fire that is not quenched, — the weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth that never ends. It is to receive the reward prepared for the righteous, in the day of Christ's second coming; — the glorious body, — the kingdom that is incorruptible, — the crown that fadeth not away,—and the joy that is for evermore. This is *complete salvation*.

Such is salvation. It is to be saved from the guilt, power, and consequences of sin. It is to believe and be sanctified now, and to be delivered from the wrath of God in the last day. He that has the first part in the life that now is, shall undoubtedly have the second part in the life to come. Both parts of it hang together. What God has joined together, let no man dare to put asunder. Let none dream he shall ever be saved at last, if he is not born again first. Let none doubt, if he is born again here, that he shall assuredly be saved hereafter.

Once more I ask each of you, as was asked at the beginning, — *Shall you be saved?* If you are not saved already, my heart's desire and prayer to God is, that you may seek salvation without delay. Sit down this day, and study the subject of salvation! Give God no rest till uncertainty has disappeared, and you have got hold of a reasonable hope that you are saved.

If you are saved, my desire is that you may live like a saved soul, — *use every opportunity of trying to do good to souls.* Settle it down in your mind that the vast majority of people around you are in awful danger of being lost forever. Live like one who thoroughly believes that time is short and eternity near. Many, many are likely to be lost. Few, few are likely to be saved.

Shall you be saved?

Songs of Worship — *Christ Is Able/Softly and Tenderly*

Message — *“How To Have Eternal Life”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 19:16-22

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship — *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

Benediction