

Sunday, November 24, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Psalms 103 & 104*

Please stand with me and let us give thanks to God for all of our blessings. Hear the word of God found in Psalms 103 & 104...

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. You are clothed with splendor and majesty and wrapped in light as with a garment.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

You have made the winds your messengers and flames of fire your servants.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

You water the fields and shelter the birds; you bring forth bread and drink to fill our hearts.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. You open your hand and give us all good things.

Send us your Spirit, create in us a new heart, and renew the face of the earth. May your glory endure forever. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

Songs of Prayer – *Doxology*

Song of Praise – *I Will Sing Of My Redeemer*

Confession of Sin & Prayer

Our thankfulness goes much deeper and means so much more when we first spend time in confession. It is when we confess our sin that we recognize the incredible sacrifice God made for us, and our thankfulness comes from hearts overflowing with God's goodness. I invite you to spend the next few moments silently praying to God, asking Him to forgive you of your sins and asking him to create a spirit of thanksgiving in your heart. Let's pray.

Song of Worship – *Once Again*

Assurance of Salvation

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Worship – *Give Thanks*

Offering “If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very center of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever? Once a man is separated from God, what can he do but wither and die.” - C.S. Lewis

Inheriting Eternal Life – Isaiah 25:8 (Source: R.C. Sproul & Ligonier Ministries)

This is the word of the Lord, found in Isaiah 25, Verse 8:

“He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.”

Once Adam and Eve were exiled from the garden of Eden along with all of their descendants, the created order ceased to experience the kingdom of God — that place where the Lord’s will is done joyfully and where His blessing is enjoyed in its fullness. Now in a cursed realm of sin and death, our first parents needed some good news, and our Creator provided it when He announced that evil would not have the last word. The serpent who had disrupted everything would be crushed, and though the righteous seed of the woman would suffer in the process, the fullness of the kingdom of God would be restored to creation.

The restoration of creation to fellowship with its Creator does not merely put things back as they were before in Eden. Actually, the prophets looked for the restoration to make the world far better than what Adam and Eve knew in the garden. Death was a possibility in Eden because humanity, in its probation, could forfeit the blessing of life. But that is impossible in the restoration of the world, as Isaiah 25 reveals. Life will be greater than it was in Eden, for “God will swallow up death forever.” The kingdom’s return brings a new kind of life — a life that cannot be lost. Sin will be gone forever, as life can be eternal only if there is no possibility that sin and its consequence of death can return. Matthew Henry comments, “The happiness of the saints shall be out of the reach of death, which puts a period to all the enjoyments of the world, embitters them, and stains the beauty of them.”

The gospel of the kingdom, then, is a message of life. It declares that the citizens of God’s kingdom enjoy the prospect of eternal life in a sinless creation. True life — life that death cannot snuff out — is the inheritance of those who believe the gospel.

Songs of Worship – I Know Whom I Have Believed/Sweet By and By

Message – “Warnings to a Commercial Age”

Scripture Reference: Matthew 19:23-30

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – By Faith

Benediction