

Sunday, February 16, 2014

Welcome – Greg Snow

Prayer of Invocation

As we come this morning to corporately worship and celebrate our risen Lord, we humbly pray that God will work powerfully through the Holy Spirit during this morning's worship service. We realize that we can approach the living God only through our mediator, Jesus Christ. So it is in the powerful name of Jesus that we prayerfully come before God asking Him to change our lives today.

Listen to this prayer of invocation as we call upon the name of the Lord:

O gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you, eyes to behold you, ears to listen for your Word, a heart to love you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let's take the next few moments to prepare our heart, soul, and mind so that we may worship Him in spirit and in truth. Let's pray.

Call to Worship – *Psalm 100/34:3*

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

O magnify the LORD with me.

Let us exalt God's name together!

Songs of Worship – *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name/We Fall Down*

Confession of Sin & Prayer - *John 4:23*

Hear the word of God found in John 4:23:

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

In order to truly worship the Father, we must have a high view of God and a condescending opinion of self. The greatest expression of humility comes through the regular confessing of sin. However, many Christians gloss over sin. We are either too busy to acknowledge it, think we are too good to do so, or we blame our circumstances, environment, or the people around us. We are prone to avoid confessing sin, and thus we fail to glorify and truly worship God. Fortunately, this was not the case with the Puritan's. Hear a portion of a Puritan prayer, written approximately in the sixteenth century:

I come to Thee as a sinner with cares and sorrows, to leave every concern entirely to Thee, every sin calling for Christ's precious blood;

Revive deep spirituality in my heart; let me live near to the great Shepherd, hear His voice, know its tones, follow its calls.

Keep me from deception by causing me to abide in the truth, from harm by helping me to walk in the power of the Spirit. Give me intenser faith in the eternal verities, burning into me by experience the things I know;

Let me never be ashamed of the truth of the gospel, that I may bear its reproach, vindicate it, see Jesus as its essence, know in it the power of the Spirit.

Lord, help me, for I am often lukewarm and chill; unbelief mars my confidence, sin makes me forget Thee.

Let the weeds that grow in my soul be cut at their roots; grant me to know that I truly live only when I live to Thee, that all else is trifling. Thy presence alone can make me holy, devout, strong and happy. Abide in me, gracious God.

Over the next few moments let us bow before God in the silence of our hearts, and confess our sins before our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, so that we may worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Let's pray.

Song of Praise – The Look

Assurance of Salvation – Ephesians 2:4-9

Hear these words of assurance found in Ephesians 2:4-9

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Song of Praise – Grace That Is Greater Than All Our Sin

Offering - *“Faith, as Paul saw it, was a living, flaming thing leading to surrender and obedience to the commandments of Christ.”* A.W. Tozer

Three Greatest Wonders of Heaven – John 15:16 (Source: John MacArthur, Charles H. Spurgeon, & Isaac Watts)

Hear the words of God found in John, Chapter 15, Verse 16:

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

Salvation never shines so brightly to any man's eyes as when it comes to 'himself'. Then is grace illustrious indeed when we can see it working with divine power upon ourselves. To our apprehension, our own case is ever the most desperate, and mercy shown to us is the most extraordinary. We see others perish, and wonder that the same doom has not befallen ourselves. The horror of the ruin which we dreaded, and our intense delight at the certainty of safety in Christ unite with our personal sense of unworthiness to make us cry in amazement, "I by sovereign grace, am spared while others perish." Indeed, each saved man is a marvel to himself.

Nobody here wonders more at divine grace in his salvation than I do myself. Why was I chosen, and called, and saved? I cannot make it out, and I never shall. But I will always praise, and bless, and magnify my Lord for casting an eye of love upon me.

Will you not do the same, beloved, if you feel that you by grace are saved? Will you not fall on your face and bless the mercy which makes you to differ?

"Why was I made to hear your voice,
And enter while there's room,
When thousands make a wretched choice,
And rather starve than come?"

There will be three great wonders in heaven--

First, to see so many there whom we never expected to meet in glory. Secondly, to miss so many of whom we felt sure that they must be safe. And thirdly, the greatest wonder of all will be to find ourselves there.

I am sure that everyone who has a hope of being in glory feels it to be a marvel; and he resolves, "If I am saved, I will sing the loudest of them all, for I shall owe most to the abounding mercy of God."

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
Each of us cry with thankful tongues, "Lord, why was I a guest?"

Songs of Worship – *How Sweet and Aweful/Sweet By and By*

Message – *“Questions For Jesus”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 22:15-22

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Take My Life*