

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Welcome – Greg Snow

Let Us Draw Near – 2 Kings 17:38-39; Hebrews 10:22; Ezekiel 36:26 (Source: John MacArthur)

Hear the word of the Lord found in 2 Kings 17:38-39

“Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. Rather, worship the LORD your God; it is he who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.”

We are commanded to worship the LORD your God. Worship begins best out of a prayerful spirit and a right heart.

Hebrews 10:22 says, *“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”*

We are to draw near to God “with a sincere heart,” a genuine heart, devoted to pursuing God. The heart we need is a work of God. Ezekiel 36:26 states, *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”*

Every time we worship, whether corporately or privately, we should ask ourselves these questions:

- Am I seeing God anew in the Word through discovery and meditation so I am compelled to draw near to Him?
- Am I being sincere? Is my heart fixed on Him and undivided?
- Am I fully assured that only faith in Christ can bring me to God’s throne?
- Am I coming humbly, realizing I can draw near only because of what Christ has done for me?
- Is there any sin in my life I haven’t dealt with?

Let’s take the next few moments to ask ourselves these questions as we search our hearts, silently praying to God, asking Him to give us a new heart and new spirit. Let’s pray.

Call to Worship – Psalm 108:1-4; 150

Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, we will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary. Praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

Praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute.

Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Songs of Worship – *To God Be the Glory/Our Great God*

Confession of Sin & Prayer

Our Lord Jesus said, as recorded in Matthew 22, Verses 37-40:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’
This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments, and because we have not lived in full obedience, let us now silently pray, confessing our sins to God, trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord. Let’s pray.

Song of Praise – *You Shall Love the Lord Your God*

Assurance of Salvation – *Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1*

The good news of the gospel is that in Christ we are forgiven! Let’s join together in proclaiming this truth by answering Question #1 of the Heidelberg Catechism:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong-body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my
Father in Heaven.

In fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Song of Praise – *Holy Spirit*

Offering - *“Since no man is excluded from calling upon God the gate of salvation is open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering, but our own unbelief. John Calvin*

Eternal Punishment – Matthew 25:41 (Source: A.W. Pink)

Hear the word of God, found in Matthew 25, Verse 41:

"Then He will also say to those on the left—Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!"

The need of giving the solemn subject of eternal punishment a prominent place in our witness is apparent, for it is our obligated duty to warn sinners of their fearful peril—and bid them flee from the wrath to come! To remain silent is criminal; to substitute anything for it—is to set before the wicked a false hope.

The final portion of the wicked will be beyond the creature's power of resistance. Matthew 21:44 says, *"And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."* There are many who now say, "If at the end I find myself in Hell, I will bear it as well as I can;" as if by strength of will and firmness of mind they shall, in measure at least, be able to support themselves. But alas! Their resolutions will count for nothing.

"To help your conception of what hell is—imagine yourself to be cast into a fiery oven—or into the midst of a great furnace, where your pain would be as much greater than that occasioned by accidentally touching a coal of fire—as the heat is greater. Imagine also, that your body were to lie there for a quarter of an hour, full of fire, as full as a bright coal of fire, all the while full of quick sense. What horror would you feel at the entrance of such a furnace! And how long would that quarter of an hour seem to you! If it were to be measured by the hour-glass, how long would the glass seem to be running! And after you had endured it for one minute, how unbearable would it be to you—to think that you had yet to endure the other fourteen minutes!

"But what would be the effect on your soul—if you knew you must lie there enduring that torment, to the full for twenty-four hours! And how much greater would be the effect, if you knew you must endure it for a whole year! And how vastly greater still, if you knew you must endure it for a thousand years! O then, how would your heart sink, if you thought, if you knew—that you must bear it forever and ever! That there would be no end—that after millions of millions of ages, your torment would be no nearer to an end, than it ever was; and that you would never, never be delivered!

The Scriptural doctrine of hell—should cause those who really enjoy the full assurance of faith to praise God with a loud voice. To each of you we say—God has given you wonderful cause for gratitude and thanksgiving. You, too, justly deserved to suffer the full weight of the wrath of a sin-hating and sin-avenging God! It is not long ago—since you loved darkness rather than light! It is only a short time—since you turned a deaf ear to both God's commands and entreaties. It is only a few years at most—since you despised and rejected His beloved Son! What *marvelous grace* was it—that snatched you as a brand from the burning! What *wondrous love* was it—that delivered you from the wrath to come! What *matchless mercy* was it—that changed you from a child of Hell to a child of God! O how you should praise the Father for having ever set His love upon you. How you should praise the Son for having died to save you from the Lake of Fire! How you should praise the blessed Spirit for having quickened you into newness of life! And how your appreciation ought now to be expressed—in a life that is glorifying to the triune God. How diligently ought you to seek to learn what is well-pleasing in His sight. How earnestly should you seek His will. How quick should you be to run in the way of His commandments.

Let your life correspond with the praises of your lips! *"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins!"* Colossians 1:13-14

In closing, be reminded one more time of the wondrous love that has delivered us from the wrath to come. Let us rejoice at the wondrous love of Christ. A love that sings of Calvary and of the redeeming Son, a love that will never let us go!

Songs of Worship – *O Wondrous Love/The Love of God*

Message – *"The Parable of the Tenants"*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 21:33-46

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *In Christ Alone*

Observance of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanks for the Broken Body of Christ

Distribution and Partaking of Bread – *Luke 22:19*

Prayer of Thanks for the Shed Blood of Christ

Distribution and Partaking of Cup – *Luke 22:20*

Proclaiming the Lord's Death – *1 Corinthians 11:26*

God's Invitation to a Life of Christian Discipleship – *1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

Benediction