

Sunday, March 9, 2014

Welcome – Greg Snow

An Undivided Heart - (Source: Helt & Tribbett)

Hear the word of the Lord found in Psalm, Chapter 86, Verse 11 & 12:

“Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.”

Charles Spurgeon had this to say about these verses: “Our minds are apt to be divided among a variety of objects, like trickling streamlets which waste their force in a hundred creeks; our greatest desire should be to have all our life-floods poured into one channel and to have that channel directed toward the Lord alone.”

We are naturally disposed toward having divided, distracted, ever-wandering hearts. We gravitate toward those things that seem to satisfy our momentary longings, and yet realize that even those objects of affection are fleeting at best. As believers, we are called in Matthew 22: 37-39 to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. However, anyone who is the least bit self-aware will realize the profound difficulty of such a charge.

To love God with an undivided heart, a satisfied soul, an undistracted mind, and every ounce of one’s strength is entirely impossible. Yet, King David serves as our example in asking God to give him an undivided heart that he might “fear” His name. David was seeking something that could not be accomplished apart from the gracious provision of God. He was seeking to be awestruck by the person of God, to be amazed by the majesty of His power, and to be intoxicated by the beauty of His glory.

In essence, David wanted to be so captivated by God’s love that he could not help expressing unending love and undivided devotion back to Him. Such praise—such obedience—would simply be the overflow of a grateful heart to the God who had been immeasurably gracious to it. David wanted to worship God with every part of his being. He wanted to offer his entire person, his whole heart to fearing the Lord and obeying His word. David was a man of intense passion and yet, without the help of God, those passions would always be divided among lesser things.

Without the grace of God, one cannot have an undivided heart, a single-minded focus, a satisfied soul, or the necessary strength to stand-fast in the face of hardship. It’s simply impossible. However, with God all things are possible as we embrace Jesus Christ and yield to the power of His Holy Spirit. Therefore, we must ask the God, the Giver of all good things, to give us an undivided heart so that we may fear His name. Only in fearing God will we be able to humbly and obediently walk in His ways. The gospel that

saves sinners like us, is the same gospel that God uses to change us. He does this so that we may come to love Him with an undivided love...

We have but one life to live, and but one heart from which to give. May they both be undivided in their faithful devotion to God.

Over the next few moments, I invite you to silently pray, asking God to give us an undivided heart, so that we may focus on Christ and worship Him during this sacred hour. Let's pray.

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

Call to Worship – *Psalms 108:1-4*

When God's people are gathered in his name, he serves as the host. God is the one that initiates and invites us into fellowship with him. So come:

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

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.

Songs of Worship – *Great In Power/O Worship the King*

Confession of Sin & Prayer – *Psalms 139*

The Lord Jesus Christ is worthy of our praise—not only because of everything He has done for us, but because of who He is, the Sovereign Almighty God! A wonderful example of this comes from the book of Revelation, where John recorded a vision of vast multitudes of angels surrounding the throne in heaven, singing, “Worthy is the Lamb!”

All throughout Scripture, the Lord has made it clear that He alone is God and that He alone is worthy of all praise. In the book of Psalms, the psalmist cries out to God, knowing that only God can cleanse and change a wicked heart. The Psalmist models a transparent faith with these words, found in Psalm 139:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Just like the psalmist, we, as fallen individuals, have a need to confess our sin before the living God and plead to the Lord to lead us in the way everlasting. Let us spend the next few moments in silent prayer, confessing our sins to God, and trusting Christ, our Savior and Lord, to forgive us and cleanse our wicked hearts. Let's pray.

Assurance of Salvation – *Ezekiel 36:25-26*

Hear these words of encouragement and assurance, found in Ezekiel 36:25-26...

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

[Thanks be to God!](#)

Song of Praise – *My Savior's Love*

Offering - *"Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die; another's life, another's death, I stake my whole eternity."* Horatius Bonar

It is the Lord's Will – *1 Samuel 3:18* (Source: Charles Spurgeon)

"It is the Lord's will. Let Him do what He thinks best." 1 Samuel 3:18

The heart of consecration is not devotion to this or that kind of service for Christ — but *devotion to the Divine will*, whatever God may ordain. Consecration is not bringing a great many souls to Christ, attending a great many religious meetings, or teaching or preaching.

It may not be any form of activity — sometimes it is quiet waiting. Some weary one, shut away in the darkness, in the chamber of pain, may be illustrating true devotion far more beautifully than those whose hands are fullest of Christian activities in the bustling world.

Consecration is devotion to the will of God. It is readiness to do, not what *we* want to do in His service — but what *He* gives us to do.

In order to be ready and to accept this consecration or devotion to Christ, we first must be "a people prepared for the Lord." The very fullness of preparedness is found in the blood bought grace of Christ, and he is prepared to give it. Our Lord himself said, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." It is, therefore, a

gospel command that one should repent and believe, and we should truly obey a command given by the Lord himself. There is no question about the permission to obey it; obey it at once, and take Christ to thyself. When you come to the realization that you are unprepared for the Lord and you are unable to save yourself, you sing—

"Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands:
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone:"

and then you are ready to finish the verse by singing—

"Thou must save, and thou alone."

It is true – only Christ alone can save your soul and prepare your heart for a devotion to the Divine will.

In closing, hear the prayerful words of Horatius Bonar, a Scottish pastor during the 1800's, who indeed was prepared for the Lord and who desired a devoted heart to earnestly know the will of the Lord:

Your way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be,
Lead me by Your own hand,
Choose out the path for me.

I dare not choose my lot,
I would not, if I might;
Choose for me, my God;
So shall I walk aright!

"It is the Lord's will. Let Him do what He thinks best." 1 Samuel 3:18

Songs of Worship – *Have Thine Own Way, Lord/I Am Thine, O Lord*

Message – *"The Great Commandment"*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 22:34-40

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *O Wondrous Love*

Confirmation of New Member – *Kara Holland*

Reading of Church Covenant

Today as we remember our church covenant we ask the Lord, once again, to renew us with strength as we strive together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality and to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to be good stewards of our bodies, avoiding addiction and excess; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. May the Lord continue to help us with this commitment. And all of God's people said: **AMEN!**

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 the Cup – Luke 22:20

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

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Benediction