

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

TODAY: Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.
Messages by PASTOR JIM BYRD
INTERNET: SermonAudio.com
Visit our website at: <<http://www.13thstbaptist.org>> www.13thstbaptist.org
(Webcasting live during listed service times)
WEDNESDAY: Mid-week Service - 7:00 p.m.
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD
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"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

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SAVED BY SOVEREIGN GRACE

Tune: PRAISE THE SAVIOR 8.8.8.5. Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

By the Lord's predestination,
We were chosen to salvation;
What a wondrous ordination,
Saved by sovereign grace.

Christ accomplished our redemption
By His death and resurrection;
This our joyful contemplation,
Saved forevermore.

With His blood the Savior bought us,
Lovingly the Shepherd sought us,
And His Spirit now has taught us,
Jesus saves from sin.

Members of a holy nation,
There is now no condemnation;
What a gracious proclamation,
Saved from sin in Christ.

Lost in sin, but Jesus found us,
Broke the chains of sin that bound us;
O what love and grace surround us,
We are safe in Him.

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The Believer's Motivation

"For the love of Christ constraineth us" (2 Cor 5:14). All ministers of Christ and all believers in the Lord Jesus are under the sweetest and strongest constraint to do what they do. They are motivated by "the love of Christ" - His love for them and their love for Him. It is not fear of hell, desire for reward, nor concern for acceptance that excites believers to their duty, but Christ's eternal love, which led Him to redeem them by His life and death, and the love of God which is shed abroad in their hearts (John 21:17; 1 John 4:19). His love for us is the chief motive, for we know that if He died then we were all dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). If we had not been dead spiritually, He would not have had to die. Also, if He died for us, we died in Him - to the world, to the claims and curse of the law and to ourselves (Galatians 6:14). --Henry Mahan

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Believe what I preach, not because I say it, but only if I accurately echo the Word of Truth. I proclaim that God is sovereign, doing what He will with all of His creation (Psalm 135:6). I declare the total depravity of all men due to the transgression of Adam, our federal head (Romans 5:12). I preach that before the world was made, there was a gracious election of some of Adam's race unto salvation in Christ (Romans 11:5). I set forth the Savior's successful, substitutionary obedience unto death that satisfied God's justice and redeemed those for whom He died (Gal 3:13). I proclaim the success of His cross-death, the evidence of which was His resurrection, ascension and enthronement (Acts 2:36). I assert the necessity of the Spirit's regenerating power before spiritually dead sinners will be made alive and then repent of their sins and believe on Christ (John 1:13). I maintain that those whom God saves are preserved from falling by His omnipotent grace (Jude 1). I proclaim that Jesus Christ, as a result of His successful work of redemption, has been exalted to govern the world and to fulfill the Father's eternal purpose (John 17:2). All of creation will someday magnify His Holy Name (Phil 2:10-11). Now, here is my admonition to you: be like the Bereans, search the Scriptures daily and see if these things be so (Acts 17:11). --Pastor Jim Byrd

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Would you Believe the Good News or a Lie?

Gospel means "good news" and the only good news is that of eternal distinguishing free grace revealed in the redemption of a particular people by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This alone is good news for it does not tell us that salvation is possible, but rather that salvation has been fully accomplished for all those for whom Christ died. The writer to the Hebrews makes this clear - "by His own blood He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Hebrews 9:12).

Why then is man so prejudiced against this wonderful message of good news? Why is there such virulent opposition to the truth of particular redemption?

The bitter root of this opposition is found in man's fierce contention for autonomy (independence) from God from the day of Adam's fall into sin and death, taking along with him all of humanity. If redemption is

particular, then salvation is of God. But man, in the corruption of his nature, will not have this. If redemption is universal then the determining factor of whether a man is saved or perishes is man's will; his eternal destiny is in his own hands, and salvation is of man.

Believing the lie of universal redemption is really no different than believing the original lie uttered by the father of lies when he spoke to the woman telling her that her life was independent of God. "You will not surely die," he said, but you will become autonomous from God for "in the day that you eat of it your eyes will be opened...and you will be like God" (Genesis 3:4, 5). Believing that lie worked out well, did it not?

Believe, rather, the truth of a particular redemption in which Christ brought in an everlasting righteousness for all those for whom He died; and believing in Him you shall not perish but be clothed with the garments of His salvation and have everlasting life. This truly is good news!

--Lance Hellar, missionary to Papua, New Guinea

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O the everlasting salvation that we have in Jesus Christ! He is the same, and will be the same for ever and ever, and the righteousness He has wrought out for us is like Himself. It is an everlasting righteousness. It covered our first parents. It is true they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves, but God rejected them, as He will reject our self-righteousness and clothed them with the skins of beasts that had probably been slain in sacrifice. Abraham had to look to this Jesus for righteousness, and so had the prophets, and so have we. It is an everlasting righteousness, covering all the election of grace in ages gone by, covering them all today, and that will cover them all tomorrow, making them accepted in the presence of a holy God. As it is written, we are "accepted in the Beloved," beheld all fair and perfect in the Lord Jesus. And as respects the blood of this salvation, it is "the blood of the everlasting covenant." All the church of God in ages past have been purged from sin in the blood of Jesus, and the church of God at this day is looking by faith to the blood of the slaughtered Lamb. It will be the same to us tomorrow and as long as we live. And when we have gone to glory we shall shout, "Victory through the blood of the Lamb and the word of His testimony." That blood will still maintain its power. --John Kershaw (1853)