

APRIL 5, 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: www.13thbaptist.org
(Webcasting live during listed service times)
WEDNESDAY: Mid-week Service – 7:00 p.m.
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

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SALVATION BY GRACE

Tune: “This Is My Father’s World” SM/double Words by Horatius Bonar, 1861

Not what my hands have done, can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do, can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear the awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within;
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy pow’r alone O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work save Thine, no other blood will do;
No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love divine;
And with unfalt’ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt, I bury in His tomb,
Each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling’ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace, I trust His truth and might;
He calls me His, I call Him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
‘Tis He who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives.

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WONDERFUL PLAN OR ETERNAL PURPOSE

Some say that “God has a wonderful plan for your life, but it is up to you as to whether or not the good things He has designed for you will ever come to pass; it is all dependent upon you.” My response to that sort of thinking is, it must be a mighty weak god who requires your cooperation before His intentions for you will be realized. What sort of a god has a wonderful plan, and yet the very creatures that He made will not allow their Creator to do what He desires to do? Such a god is, in reality, no god at all, merely an idol which came forth out of man’s vain imagination. What do the Scriptures say about God and His purpose? *“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will”* (Ephesians 1:11). I do not read in His word that God has a wonderful plan, but I do read of His eternal, unchanging, unfailing purpose which cannot be frustrated. *“My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”* (Isaiah 46:10).

–Pastor Jim Byrd

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THE NECESSITY OF LIFE

Neither the booming sound of thunder nor the most beautiful music in the world affects a dead man. He is altogether unmoved by either one. The problem is certainly not in the dreadful noise of the roaring of the clouds nor in the soothing sounds of a glorious concert; the trouble is with the man. He has no ability to hear, to respond or react; he is dead. Even so, though you proclaim to a sinner the thundering threats of Mount Sinai or declare the rapturous glad tidings of a crucified and risen Redeemer; neither the terrors of the one, nor the mercies of the other, will have any true effect on him. The defect is not in the law, it is good and holy, and the fault does not lie with the gospel, it is that wonderful declaration of what God in Christ has done for unworthy sinners. The problem is that the sinner is without spiritual life. There is, therefore an absence of any heart-response to either the law or the gospel; it is impossible for him to do that which he has no natural ability to do. The man is neither fearful of the one nor joyful about the other; he is spiritually lifeless. No wonder, then, that Christ said, *“Ye must be born again”* (John 3:7).

–Pastor Jim Byrd

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DISTINGUISHING GRACE

The distinguishing grace of God is seen in saving that people whom He has sovereignly singled out to be His high favorites. By “distinguishing” we mean that grace discriminates, makes differences, chooses some and passes by others. It was distinguishing grace which selected Abraham from the midst of his idolatrous neighbors and made him *“the friend of God”* (James 2:23). Distinguishing grace saved *“publicans and sinners”* but said of the religious Pharisees, *“Let them alone”* (Matthew 15:14). Nowhere does the glory of God’s free and sovereign grace shine more conspicuously than in the unworthiness and unlikeliness of its objects.

–A. W. Pink

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THE SAVIOR’S AGONIES

Our blessed Lord, when He had hung three hours on the cross, and suffered, not only in His body, but, which was more dreadful still, endured in His immaculate soul that sense of the divine wrath which was due to His people, broke out into that pathetic and bitter cry, *“My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken Me?”* Or as I think it may better be rendered, *“My God! My God! How has Thou forsaken Me?”* As much to say, to what depth of immense distress does the withdrawing of Thy presence reduce Me! Christ suffered as our Substitute and in our stead; the punishment, which must otherwise have fallen on us, was transferred on Him. And one part of that punishment consisted in the inward manifestations of the divine displeasure. These, therefore, the Redeemer felt, not for any evil done by Him, but for the sins done by others which He graciously took upon Himself to atone for. So that this was the time wherein it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, and to make His soul an offering for sin. If the Most High God bent His bow against Him as an enemy, and stood at His right hand as an adversary, it is easy to account for the prodigious consternation of the Redeemer. It is not to be wondered at, that His heart, though

otherwise indued with invincible fortitude, should, on this occasion, become like melting wax (Psalm 22:14).

The vinegar and the gall, which they gave Him to drink, were not half so bitter as the cup of His Father's wrath; yet for the sake of His people, He drank it to the very dregs. The nails that pierced His hands and the spear that cleft His heart, were not half so sharp as the frowns of His eternal Father's countenance; which, for our consolation, He patiently submitted to bear. He was rent with wounds and racked with pain; yet this, all this, was gentle, was lenient, in comparison of those inexpressible agonies which penetrated His very soul. The former, fetched not a single complaint from His mouth; the latter, wrung from His breaking heart that passionate exclamation, "*My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?*" Astonishing words! Surely a distress beyond all imagination grievous, uttered them! Surely the vengeance, not of men, but of heaven itself, exhorted them! Every syllable of which, speaks, what the prophet describes; "*Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see, if there be any sorrow like unto My sorrow, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted Me in the day of His fierce anger*" (Lamentations 1:12).

–Augustus Toplady