

APRIL 12, 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.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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“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth” (Deut 7:6).

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PROVIDENCE MYSTERIOUS

Tune: “My Faith Has Found” CM w/chorus

Verses by William Cowper, Chorus by J. Byrd

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;

He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

CHORUS: Behold the God of providence, working His perfect will;

To Him belongs omnipotence, His purpose to fulfill.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill;

He treasures up His bright designs and works His sovereign will. CHORUS.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread;

Are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head. CHORUS.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace;

Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face. CHORUS.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;

The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower. CHORUS.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan His work in vain;

God is His Own Interpreter, and He will make it plain. CHORUS.

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We extend our sympathy to Phyllis Payne; her brother, Billy Ray Cline, age 72, passed away last Sunday afternoon.

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Though we cannot meet in person, I am thankful for the privilege to continue to minister to you by way of the internet and these bulletins. I want to echo the words of the apostle Paul when he was speaking to the Ephesian brethren. *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified”* (Acts 20:32). I *“commend,”* that is, I set before you and commit you to the preservation of God. This commitment is to God the Father who chose you unto salvation and is working all things together for your good. I set before you and commit your eternal safety to Christ, the Rock of your salvation who put away your sins and governs the world to fulfill His eternal purpose. I set before you and commend you to the Holy Spirit who indwells and abides with you, who gave you spiritual life and maintains that life. Furthermore, I commend you *“to the word of His grace.”* *“Commend”* also includes the idea of setting food before someone. I set before you the sovereign, omnipotent and unchangeable grace of God; feast on this delightful meal often and may this be your daily fare! This is the grace that saved you, that gave you a saving interest in Christ and preserves you from all harm. It is this matchless grace that will guide you safely to glory, where your inheritance is kept in store for you. In the midst of this coronavirus, may the Lord open our eyes that we may see how protected we are and that all things are under His sovereign authority. Eating of the banquet feast of the gospel (Isaiah 25:6) will build you up and nourish you spiritually. I pray daily for the safety and well-being of you all.
--Pastor Jim Byrd

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The resurrection of our Savior means that He has conquered the enemy of death that has been a curse upon sinners since the fall of Adam in the garden. Because the Lord Jesus Christ died and arose, not as a private individual but as the Representative of His church, forgiveness of sins and everlasting life are proclaimed to all who believe Him. *“For since by man came death, by Man came also the resurrection of the dead”* (1 Corinthians 15:21).
--Pastor Jim Byrd

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EVERYTHING IS FOR THE BEST

(Pastor’s note: I came across this while reading one of Mr. Spurgeon’s sermons in which he dealt with the subject of NEEDLESS ANXIETY; his text was Matthew 6:33. The story he related happened toward the end of the reign of “Bloody” Queen Mary, who had many of the saints of God burned at the stake.)

We do not know what is best for us. It is sometimes very much better for us to suffer loss and disappointment than to obtain gain and prosperity. When that eminent servant of God, Mr. Gilpin, was arrested to be brought up to London to be tried for preaching the gospel, his captors made mirth of his frequent remark, “Everything is for the best.” When he fell from his horse and broke his leg, they were especially merry about it; but the good man quietly remarked, “I have no doubt that even this painful accident will prove to be a blessing.” And so it was; for, since he could not travel quickly, the journey was prolonged, and he arrived at London some days later than had been expected. When they reached as far as Highgate (north of London), they heard the bells ringing merrily in the city down below. They asked the meaning, and were told, “Queen Mary is dead, and there will be no more burnings of Protestants.” “Ah!” said Gilpin, “you see it is all for the best.” It is a blessing to break a leg if life is saved by it. How often our calamities are our preservatives! A lesser evil may ward off a greater.
--C. H. Spurgeon

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THE POWER OF THE CROSS

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross was not an effort to save all men without exception, but the accomplishment of the redemption of those given to Him in covenant grace before the world began. *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it”* (Ephesians 5:25). The substitutionary sacrifice of the Savior did not merely render salvation possible; His death was an offering that *“saved His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). His work of redemption really redeemed: *“...having obtained eternal redemption for us”* (Hebrews 9:12). His death was a reconciliation that actually reconciled. *“We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son”* (Romans 5:10). His sacrifice was an offering which *“perfected forever them that are sanctified”* (Hebrews 10:14).

It is a commonly held belief that the everlasting salvation of sinners hinges upon their willingness to accept what Jesus Christ did for them upon the cross. My friend, the cross-death of the Son of God is not up for the acceptance or rejection of men. His blood was offered to the Lord as the full payment price required for the liberation of His people from the claims of divine justice due to their sinfulness. The resurrection of Christ is testimony that God accepted our Savior and His sacrifice for sin. Yes, His people will be brought to true repentance toward God and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but faith does not make the death of the Savior effectual. It does not put away sin, it does not make sinners acceptable to God nor does it not bring in everlasting righteousness. Actually, it is the exact opposite. Faith in the blessed Savior is the result of His redemptive work; it is the effect of His removal of sin; it is the consequence of righteousness having been brought in. Belief on Christ flows out of the power of the cross.

--Pastor Jim Byrd