

APRIL 26, 2020

TODAY: Morning Worship – 10:15 a.m.

Evening Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Messages by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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(Webcasting live during listed service times)

WEDNESDAY: Mid-week Service – 7:00 p.m.

Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?” (Matthew 6:26)

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WHEN LANGUOR AND DISEASE INVADE

Tune: “There Is A Fountain” CM/double Words by A. Toplady

When languor and disease invade
This trembling house of clay,
'Tis sweet to look beyond our cage,
And long to fly away.
Sweet to look back and see my name
In life's fair book set down;
Sweet to look forward, and behold
Eternal joys my own.

Sweet to reflect how grace divine
My sins on Jesus laid;
Sweet to remember that His blood
My debt of suffering paid.
Sweet in His righteousness to stand,
Which saves from second death;
Sweet to experience, day by day,
His Spirit's quickening breath.

Sweet in His faithfulness to rest,
Whose love can never end;
Sweet on His covenant of grace
For all things to depend.
If such the sweetness of the streams,
What must the fountain be?
Where saints and angels draw their bliss
Immediately from Thee.

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If sinners were to be saved forever, several things had to happen. God had to appoint a suitable Savior, divine justice had to be satisfied, the integrity of the law had to be honored, sin had to be destroyed, Satan had to be conquered, the world had to be overcome, death had to be defeated, those for whom He died had to be made righteous and God had to be glorified. There is but One who could do these things - the Lord Jesus Christ and the only way He could make all of these things happen was by His substitutionary death upon the cross of Calvary!

--Pastor Jim Byrd

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ENCOURAGING AFFLICTED SAINTS

“He whom Thou lovest is sick” (John 11:3). THIS is the truth, dear ailing reader, upon which the Lord would pillow and sustain your soul—that you are the sick one whom He loves. Doubtless the enemy, ever on the watch to distress the saints of God, eager to avail himself of every circumstance in their history favorable to the accomplishment of His malignant designs, has taken advantage of your illness to suggest hard and distrustful thoughts of the Lord’s love to you. “Does He love you? Can He love you, and afflict you thus? What! This hectic fever, these faintings and swoonings, these insufferable tortures, this long wasting, this low insidious disease—and yet loved by God? Impossible!” Such has been the false reasoning of Satan and such the echo of unbelief. But Lazarus was loved of Jesus, and so are you! That darkened room, that curtained bed, contains one for whom the Son of God came down to earth—to live, to labor, and to die! That room is often radiant with His presence and that bed is often made with His hands. Jesus is never absent from that spot! The affectionate husband, the tender wife, the fond parent, the devoted sister, the faithful nurse, are not in more constant attendance at that solemn post of observation than is Jesus. They must be absent; He never is, for one moment, away from that couch. Sleep must overcome them; but He who guards that suffering patient *“shall neither slumber nor sleep”* (Psalm 121:4). Long-continued watching must exhaust them; but He, the Divine Watcher, *“fainteth not, neither is weary”* (Isaiah 40:28).

--Octavius Winslow

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ALL OF GRACE

If you could have been a witness when God chose a multitude of sinners unto salvation before the world was made, you would have observed that it was an election of grace. If you had seen the Son of God accomplishing the work of redemption when He rendered to the Father the full ransom price for the salvation of His people, you would have discovered that it was a gracious purchase. If you could be an observer when the Spirit of grace regenerates those who are dead in sins and brings them to turn their backs upon their own self-righteousness and be content and thankful to be saved by the obedience unto death of the Son of God, you would find that it was a work of pure grace. If you could view a justified sinner every day, see his many faults and failures and yet behold his continual favor and standing with a holy God, you would find that his perpetual acceptance is altogether a matter of grace. If you could see into the future, into that eternal day when time shall be no more, when all the redeemed saints stand faultless before the throne of God in the beauties of the Lord Jesus Christ, you would see that their

glorification was all of grace. In the beginning, in the end, and everything in-between, the salvation of sinners is altogether by grace. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). When it comes to the salvation of sinners, there is no room for the flesh to boast. *“He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 1:31). --Pastor Jim Byrd

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All errors concerning the gospel of the grace of God to sinners through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ are equally deadly. Not all errors, however, are obvious. To those who have been taught that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal God, any denial of the Savior’s deity is, to us, an easily detected heresy. The mingling of just a small amount of error with truth, however, is a special form of evil; it is a very effective strategy in Satan’s arsenal of weapons. This was his methodology in Galatia. False teachers crept in and perverted the gospel by adding legal obedience to the message of grace thereby adulterating the doctrine of justification by the righteousness of Christ and forgiveness by His blood. They did not deny the necessity of the death of Christ, but they limited the efficacy of the atonement by requiring obedience to the law as an additional condition of salvation. By introducing law-works into the message of how sinners are saved, they essentially made salvation dependent on, not Christ and His sacrifice for sin, but the sinner and his obedience to the law. By this means they poisoned the truth of God.

Many today, under the guise of love, would have those who embrace the message of grace compromise that which we know to be the truth for the sake of “Christian unity.” I want to plainly declare that there can be no religious unity at the expense of the gospel. We must not allow truth to be mixed with error. May the Lord give us grace to maintain the purity of the gospel no matter the cost.

--Pastor Jim Byrd