

MAY 3, 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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*“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth”* (Proverbs 27:1).

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#### DIVINE PREDESTINATION

Tune: “America the Beautiful” CM/double Words by Isaac Watts, 1709

Keep silence all created things, and wait your Maker’s nod;  
My soul stands trembling as she sings, the honors of her God.  
Life, death and hell, and worlds unknown, hang on His firm decree;  
He sits on no precarious throne nor borrows leave to be.

Chained to His throne a volume lies, with all the fates of men;  
With ev’ry angel’s form and size, drawn by th’ eternal pen.  
His providence unfolds the book, and makes His counsels shine;  
Each opening leaf and every stroke, fulfills some deep design.

Here He exalts neglected worms to scepters and a crown,  
Anon the following page He turns and treads the monarch down.  
Not Gabriel asks the reason why, nor God the reason gives;  
Nor dares the favorite angel pry, between the folded leaves.

My God, I would not long to see my fate with curious eyes;  
What gloomy lines are writ for me, or what bright scenes may rise.  
In Thy fair book of life and grace, may I but find my name;  
Recorded in some humble place, beneath my Lord the Lamb!

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We extend our sympathy to and prayers for the family of Pastor Don Fortner, who passed away April 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, be prayerful for the church family, Grace Baptist Church of Danville, KY.

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### SAVED BY GRACE

In reading the Scriptures, I not only find that salvation is by God's grace alone, but also that grace is shown to sinners in a way that honors His justice in the punishment of sin through the death and resurrection of Christ. What does the Bible say about divine grace?

1. GRACE WAS GIVEN TO SOME SINNERS IN CHRIST FROM OLD ETERNITY. *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began"* (2 Timothy 1:9).
2. GRACE IS FREELY GIVEN BUT ALWAYS ON THE BASIS OF THE SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH OF CHRIST. *"Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 3:24).
3. GRACE IS A SOVEREIGN GIFT OF GOD. *"And He said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy"* (Exodus 33:19).
4. GRACE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY ADDITIVE FROM MAN. *"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work"* (Romans 11:5-6).
5. GRACE FOR GUILTY SINNERS IS ONLY TO BE FOUND IN CHRIST. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14).
6. GRACE IS THE POWERFUL MOTIVATING PRINCIPLE THAT GOVERNS A BELIEVER'S LIFE. *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace"* (Romans 6:14).
7. GRACE IS THE SOURCE TO WHICH THE CHILDREN OF GOD ATTRIBUTE ALL THEY ARE AND HOPE TO BE. *"By the grace of God I am what I am"* (1 Corinthians 15:10).
8. GRACE WILL BE THE EVERLASTING SONG OF THE SAINTS WHEN HE GATHERS THE LAST OF HIS SHEEP INTO THE FOLD OF SALVATION. *"And He shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it"* (Zechariah 4:7).

--Pastor Jim Byrd

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### THE SAFEST PLACE

(From Faith's Checkbook, June 7<sup>th</sup>, C. H. Spurgeon)

*"And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand"* (John 10:28). We believe in the eternal security of the saints. First, because they are Christ's, and He will never lose the sheep which He has bought with His blood, and received of His Father. Next, because He gives them eternal life, and if it be eternal, well then, it is eternal, and there can be no end to it, unless there can be an end to hell, and Heaven, and God. If spiritual life can die out, it is manifestly not eternal life, but temporary life. But the

Lord speaks of eternal life, and that effectually shuts out the possibility of an end. Observe, further, that the Lord expressly says, "*They shall never perish.*" As long as words have a meaning, this secures believers from perishing. The most obstinate unbelief cannot force this meaning out of this sentence. Then, to make the matter complete, He declares that His people are in His hand, and He defies all their enemies to pluck them out of it. Surely it is a thing impossible even for the fiend of hell. We must be safe in the grasp of an Almighty Savior. Be it ours to dismiss carnal fear as well as carnal confidence, and rest peacefully in the hollow of the Redeemer's hand.

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#### GUARDIAN ANGELS

*"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"* (Hebrews 1:14). My soul, art thou an heir of salvation? By reason of this heirship, behold thy high dignity! Angels, who are high in intellect, disembodied spirits, and who excel in wisdom and in power, are servants in thine Emmanuel's kingdom, to minister unto thee, and to all thy brethren in Jesus who are heirs of salvation. Oh! couldst thou see how they watch over thee, how they guard thee from a thousand evils; didst thou but know how eternally safe thou art amidst a host of foes, which come against thee; then, like the prophet's servant, thou wouldest frequently see, by the eye of faith, "*the mountain around thee full of horses and chariots of fire*" (2 Kings 6: 17). And who shall say to what extent their ministry is exercised? If a single angel destroyed seventy thousand in the host of Israel, at the command of God, (2 Samuel 24:15-16), and a hundred and fourscore and five thousand of the Assyrians which came forth against Israel, (2 Kings 19:35) what may not the child of God hope for, who is an heir of salvation, from the perpetual ministry of these ministering spirits? Oh! thou dear Lord, cause thine holy angels thus, by night and day, to take their stand, and watch over my defenseless hours! And, yet more than this, my adored Redeemer! Come Thou, and bless me with the unceasing visits of Thy love, and say to me, as to Thy church of old: "*Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness*" (Isaiah 41:10).

--Robert Hawker