

January 1, 2017

TODAY: Bible Classes: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.  
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD  
Evening Worship - NO EVENING SERVICE  
INTERNET: SermonAudio.com  
Visit our website at: [www.13thstbaptist.org](http://www.13thstbaptist.org)  
(webcasting live during listed service times)  
WEDNESDAY: Mid - week Service - 7:00 p.m.  
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

—O—

### THE NEW YEAR

Tune: "O for a Thousand Tongues," (CM)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

How swiftly life upon this earth,  
Advances to its end;  
And from the moment of our birth,  
The years we quickly spend.

Another year has come and gone,  
How hastily it passed;  
And now we start another one,  
Will this one be our last?

How many years before us lie?  
It is not ours to say;  
But this we know, we all must die  
On some appointed day.

So may the Spirit bring each soul,  
In Christ alone to rest;  
To trust His blood to make us whole,  
And be forever blessed.

Perhaps this year my life will cease,  
And I the Lord shall see;  
I pray for grace to die in peace,  
And then with Christ to be.

—O—

**"Where the word of the king is, there is power: and who may say unto him,  
What doest thou?" (Ecclesiastes 8:4).**

—O—

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan. 2 Don McClean  
3 Lois Thompson

Jan. 7 Lloyd Busch  
Patricia Trabandt  
Aiden Parker

—O—

We assemble this morning to begin the year by worshiping and fellowshiping together. There is nowhere on earth I would rather be and no people I would rather be with than my spiritual family. At the close of the service we will partake of the Lord's Supper. Afterwards, all are invited to remain for lunch and fellowship; stay as long as you like. There will be no evening service.

We will not put the daily Bible readings in the bulletin this year. The full year schedule of readings is available in the office. A revised January calendar is available with the daily Bible readings posted on it for each day.

—O—

### SEVEN RESOLUTIONS

Paul had a worthy resolution in 1 Corinthians 2:2, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Here are some of mine.

- I am resolved, God helping me, to preach the gospel of His sovereign, invincible grace whenever I stand behind the pulpit.
- I am resolved, God helping me, to declare that "Salvation is of the Lord." It is of the Father's purpose, the Son's purchase and the Spirit's power.
- I am resolved, God helping me, to clearly state that the substitutionary death of Christ was for a chosen people and that His sacrifice was successful in actually accomplishing the salvation of those people.
- I am resolved, God helping me, to proclaim the person and work of Christ and be content to leave the results to the Lord.
- I am resolved, God helping me, to comfort the Lord's people by reminding them that their warfare is over, the Lord Jesus has put away their sins and brought in everlasting righteousness for them by His work upon the cross. Our sovereign Savior will cause all things to work together for the good of those sinners saved by His eternal purpose of grace.
- I am resolved, God helping me, to point needy sinners to the one and only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ and compel them to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- I am resolved that every time I preach, God helping me, I will lift up Christ and abase all flesh.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

—O—

### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SWORD OF JUSTICE

It is true that vile sinners crucified the Lord of glory, yet we must understand that it was the sword of justice that was raised against Him by Jehovah which exacted from the Savior the penalty due for the sins of His people. "Awake, O sword, against my Shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones" (Zechariah 13:7). We know this verse refers to our Savior because He quoted it. "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad" (Matthew 26:31). The sword represented the judicial stroke that must fall upon offenders of God's law. Since Christ was the Representative and Substitute of His sheep, the sword was thrust into His soul. The God of our salvation gave instructions to His sword. "Awake," that is, "come forth, rouse yourself; stir up yourself to require from the One I appointed to be the Shepherd of the sheep complete satisfaction for their sins." The Lord Jesus, God's "fellow," His equal and Associate, was chosen, called and sent by the Father as the Shepherd of His sheep. It was for their sins that He laid down His life. "I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). The fullness of the wrath of God, stored up from all eternity against the sins of His elect, was plunged as a sword into the soul of Christ at the cross. It took vengeance upon Him "who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24). Jeremiah had inquired, "O thou sword of the LORD, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? Put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still" (Jeremiah 47:6). We now know the answer. The sword of divine justice could not be appeased, it could not be put back into the scabbard until it obtained from the Son of God the full payment of the sins of God's elect. "It pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand" (Isaiah 53:10). Now, as far as the people of God are concerned, the sword rests, it is still; it shall forever remain quiet. It has been put back into the scabbard and will never be unsheathed against the sheep of the Shepherd. "There is therefore now no condemnation (no judgment, no hell) to them who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

—O—

### THE ONLY PERFECT WORK

If I build a house, I will afterwards find something defective, something that needs to be altered or changed. There is continually something that may be improved for the better. If I write a book, I find it imperfect. Some error of the printer, some defect in the language, something to add, something to take out. So it is with all human works and efforts. The work of Christ's righteousness and redemption is the only finished, the only PERFECT WORK, that ever was wrought among men.

—Henry Mahan