

**January 15, 2017**

TODAY: Bible Classes: 9:30 a.m.  
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](http://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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**I AM SAFE IN CHRIST**

*Tune: "I Surrender All," (8.7.8.7. w/refrain)*

*Words by Pastor Jim Byrd*

*Long before this world was fashioned,  
God in wondrous sovereign grace,  
Chose to save a host of sinners,  
Christ became our Hiding Place.*

*I was safe in Christ,*

*I was safe in Christ;*

*Joined to Him in lasting union,*

*I was safe in Christ.*

*By eternal destination,*

*Jesus came my soul to save;*

*Smitten by the rod of justice,*

*For my sins His life He gave.*

*I was safe in Christ,*

*I was safe in Christ;*

*When He died to seal my pardon,*

*I was safe in Christ.*

*Wondrous day of my conversion,*

*God the Spirit saved my soul;*

*Now I trust my Lord and Savior,*

*By His blood I am made whole.*

*I am safe in Christ,*

*I am safe in Christ;*

*He's the Rock of my salvation,*

*I am safe in Christ.*

*When by wise divine appointment,*

*Life upon this earth shall cease;*

*I will leave this world of sorrow,*

*Enter everlasting peace.*

*I'll be safe in Christ,*

*I'll be safe in Christ;*

*Through the endless years of glory,*

*I'll be safe in Christ.*

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**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Jan. 16 Mitchell McSweeney

17 Donald Kemper

19 Carolee Busch

Jan. 19 Bob Atkinson

20 Hanna Stettner

21 Jessica Fain

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Every child of God echoes the words of David, "*The LORD is my Shepherd*" (Psalm 23:1). He is the covenant Shepherd to Whose care God's elect were entrusted in the Covenant of grace (Ezekiel 34:22-25). He is the good Shepherd Who gave His life for His sheep (John 10:11, 14). He is the smitten Shepherd Who died in the stead of His sheep (Zechariah 13:7) so that God might be "*a just God and a Saviour*" (Isaiah 45:21). He is the great Shepherd Who was raised again for our justification (Hebrews 13:20; Romans 4:25). He is the seeking Shepherd Who pursues, finds and rescues His wandering sheep (Matthew 18:12). He is the converting Shepherd Who turns His wayward sheep, drawing them to Himself (1 Peter 2:25). He is the caring Shepherd Who gathers, feeds and provides for His sheep (Isaiah 40:11). He is the chief Shepherd Who will come again and receive the sheep unto Himself (1 Peter 5:4). He is the dividing Shepherd Who will separate His sheep from the goats at the final judgment (Matthew 25:32). —Pastor Jim Byrd

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**GOD'S INSTRUMENTS**

"*Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain*" (Psalm 76:10). An old writer said, "The enemies of God are only saws, hammers and nails in His hands." Indeed, they are unknowingly His instruments for the fulfillment of His purpose in this world. Everything good as well as evil is under the sovereign authority of the Lord. Do you doubt that? The most wicked of all deeds was the murder of the Son of God and yet we know that was ordained by God. It is written that the enemies of Christ "*gathered together for to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel determined before to be done*" (Acts 4:28). All things are working toward the accomplishment of God's sovereign purpose. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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**"BEING CONFIDENT"**

The Apostle Paul had no confidence in the flesh, neither in his own or in those to whom he preached and wrote. But that did not mean he was without confidence but simply that faith had given rise to a real confidence and that confidence was directed toward One that was worthy of it. He writes to the Philippians in chapter one and verse six saying... "*Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*" (Philippians 1:6). His confidence concerning these believers at Philippi was in "*HE*" which began the work in them. The God of all grace and power had not only accomplished the work of salvation for them but also begun a work within them. Not only was the same power necessary but also at hand for their full salvation. What God begins, He always finishes and He always produces in the end what He purposed in the beginning. The only good work in a sinner is the work which God does by His grace. It is made sure by the work done for them by the Lord Jesus Christ. It was in light of this knowledge of what Christ had done for them that he was confident concerning the work begun in them. Every believer can say with Paul that which David said, "*The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of Thine own hands*" (Psalm 138:8). Has the Lord begun a work in me? Yes, by revealing to me the work which He has done for me. A work done solely by Him Who works all things after the counsel of His own will. A work of full and free salvation dependent totally upon who Christ is and what He has done. The work of paying the debt of my sin before His justice with His precious blood. The work of establishing perfect righteousness on my behalf. The work that no sinner can do for himself! I have confidence in my God even when I am fleeing as David did from Saul to the cave, "*Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in Thee: yea, in the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. I will cry unto God most High; unto God that performeth all things for me*" (Psalm 57:1-2). I may cry, but cry in confidence, confidence in Christ Jesus! —Pastor Gary Shepard

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**"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength."**

**Isaiah 40:28-29.**