

January 22, 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
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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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A PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING

Tune: "Rock of Ages," (7.7.7.7.7.)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

Bless Thy people, gracious Lord,
As we gather round Thy Word;
Give Thy servant at this hour,
Words directed by Thy pow'r;
Grant Thy grace that we may be,
Led to worship only Thee.

Now we join to sing Thy praise,
God of everlasting days;
Praise for free, electing grace,
Which chose out of Adam's race;
Multitudes to know Thy Name,
Sovereign mercy we proclaim.

Give us ears Thy voice to hear,
Stir within us holy fear;
Teach us of the Christ Who died,
And Thy justice satisfied;
Stubborn wills, O Lord subdue,
With Thy grace, our hearts endue.

Send Thy Word with pow'r divine,
To this needy heart of mine;
I am sinful, I confess,
Clothe me with Thy righteousness;
All the praise shall ever be,
Thine throughout eternity!

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"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Romans 7:24-25).

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan. 22 Bob McSweeney
23 Karen Smallwood
26 Madigrace Kuehne

Jan. 26 Anitra Morgan
28 Tom McLeod

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"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13).

If God has given you the privilege and opportunity to go through difficult and heavy trials, then you ought to make the most of that privilege and opportunity to glorify Him by being in subjection to Him, because it might only happen once in a lifetime. We don't desire to have severe trials nor do we pray for them. I don't know what I would do should a severe trial come my way. But I know what I ought to do! I ought to bless, thank and worship God because it came from God! And I ought to conduct myself in such a way under this difficulty that the people of God who love me and who I love, would say, "This thing called grace really works!" In my experience I have seen so many people that had the opportunity and privilege afforded them by the hand of God to react during trial in such a manner that would display what they say they have experienced, and they miss that opportunity. It's one thing to talk of Calvinism, it's one thing to talk of how sovereign God is, but it's another thing to actually submit ourselves to the Lord of sovereignty!

"Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). We are going to have troubles and trials in this sin cursed world. But when God sends the difficulties, let us act like men and women who believe in and submit to the God who is sovereign. Let's display the grace of God. Let's remain faithful to the public worship of God. Let's remain faithful to the gospel. Let's remain faithful to the people of God. Let's not drop our witness, but show that this grace is real and it really works! Let's show people that we love and worship God in the storm as well as in the sunshine.

—Scott Richardson

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Alternatives confront us, and between them we are obliged to choose; either God governs, or He is governed; either God rules, or He is ruled; either God has His way, or men have theirs. And is our choice between these alternatives hard to make?

—A. W. Pink

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God is working out His eternal purpose, not only in spite of human and satanic opposition, but by means of them.

—A. W. Pink

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THREE COMFORTING TRUTHS

There is not a day that goes by, but what I don't think about and thank God for these three truths that speak peace and comfort to my soul.

1. The substitutionary sacrifice of Christ. The Son of God humbled Himself, took my place, died my death, paid my debt, bore my sin away, brought in everlasting righteousness for me, fulfilled every demand of divine law for me and ever lives as my Advocate, Mediator and Intercessor. Of all the truths I have ever learned, the gospel of Christ, of finished, accomplished redemption is the most blessed! God graciously accepts me, forgives all my sins and declares me to be righteous, not at the expense of His justice, but with its full approval through Christ and His work of reconciliation. "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again..." (Romans 8:34).

2. The absolute sovereignty of God in salvation. In old eternity the Lord chose me in Christ and then made the world and all things in it as the stage upon which He would bring His saving purpose to pass. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you," (John 15:18). He rules in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and nobody can hinder the salvation of those who were ordained to eternal life. "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy" (Romans 9:15).

3. The unerring providence of God. The Lord is directing everything to the end He appointed in order to accomplish His decree of salvation. In a wise and orderly manner, God governs the universe, executing the counsel of His own will. I am assured, therefore, that whatever happens to me, my family, this church and the world is according to His purpose, for His glory, and He is causing all things to work together for my spiritual good (Romans 8:28). The providential rule of God is such a comforting truth that His servants are commanded to say unto Zion, "Thy God reigneth" (Isaiah 52:7).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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"Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5). Believers are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ and therefore are without "spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing" (Ephesians 5:27). Believers are the children of God, the spouse of Jesus Christ, His body "for we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones" (1 Corinthians 12:12). The children of God can be no closer to God than they are in Christ for Christ is their "wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30) and "by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised His elect His eternal presence for He has said unto them, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20).

—Pastor Allan Ison