

January 29, 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
(webcasting live during listed service times)
WEDNESDAY: Mid - week Service - 7:00 p.m.
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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IN JESUS FIND SWEET REST

Tune: "Amazing Grace," (CM)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

*Come unto Jesus weary one,
By sin and shame oppressed;
He sits upon His gracious throne,
And gives to sinners rest.*

*'Tis not by works of righteousness,
That guilty souls are blessed;
Those filthy rags you must detest,
In Jesus find your rest.*

*He was the perfect sacrifice,
For those by sin distressed;
He fully paid our ransom price,
In Jesus find your rest.*

*Ye saints who are severely tried,
Come lean upon His breast;
He ever lives, who for us died,
In Jesus find sweet rest.*

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"I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them me; and they have kept Thy word" (John 17:6).

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

February 2 Sam Elliott

February 4 Linda Davis

3 Carson Fain

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If you use the church numbered offering envelopes and need a statement for tax purposes, please see Joe Turner or leave your name in the church office.

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THE GOSPEL WE NEED

Sin has brought mankind to the depths of depravity; it has led us to the very gates of hell. We have fallen so far into sin that it is written, *"There is none that doeth good, no, not one"* (Romans 3:12). *"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"* (Ecclesiastes 7:20). Had there been no revelation of the covenant of grace and the gospel that issued forth from that glorious covenant, none of us would have any reason to be hopeful, comforted or happy. But there is mercy with the Lord that we might have a strong consolation which comes to us through the free grace which is in Christ Jesus. It is for certain there is no joy for any sinner except that which is published in the glad tidings of the gospel. The gospel does not propose that we change our ways, improve our lives or do something to merit the favor of God; those things are impossible for us and to even suggest that there is something a sinner must do to make his peace with God is to only mock our sad and helpless condition. The gospel comes to us in its richness, fullness and freeness and publishes the good news of the forgiveness of sin and the bringing in of everlasting righteousness through the substitutionary, sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus. Christ, by His one-time offering for sin, has *"perfected forever them that are sanctified"* (Hebrews 10:14). The gospel announces that God Himself raises poor sinners from the dunghill of sin and lifts us up to dwell among the princes of His people. This sweet message of grace is the declaration of what God, in Christ has already accomplished. The gospel requires nothing from us, but provides everything for us; it makes no demands on us, but says that everything a holy God demanded for our justification, sanctification and glorification has been fully accomplished by the Lamb of God who died to satisfy the demands of infinite justice for His people. Such good news, when impressed upon our hearts by the Spirit of grace, brings us to cast our poor souls in faith upon Christ Jesus and proclaim, *"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake"* (Psalm 115:1). By the Spirit's illumination we are made to see that though in ourselves there is nothing but *"wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores,"* (Isaiah 1:6), yet washed in the Savior's blood and robed in the garments of salvation, we hear the glorious declaration, *"Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee"* (Song of Solomon 4:7).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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WORTHY TO DWELL WITH CHRIST

"Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people" (Deuteronomy 9:6). If the earthly promised land could not be obtained by Israel as a result of their righteousness, how much less can the heavenly promised land be possessed by sinners who have no righteousness before a holy God? And yet, the Lord promises a chosen, redeemed and called people, in Revelation 3:4, that they will walk with Him *"in white: for they are worthy."* Such a declaration begs the question: How can a son or daughter of Adam be worthy to walk with the Lord in everlasting glory? There is no question but what every believer is unworthy in and of themselves to be a companion with Christ in the heavenly paradise, but our worthiness of unending bliss lies in the blood of our Substitute and in His righteousness freely imputed to all who believe Him. It is only through the obedience unto death of our Savior that it could ever be said of sinful people, *"Therefore are they before the throne of God and serve Him night and day in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them"* (Revelation 7:15). God, through the merits of Christ Jesus, *"hath made us meet (fit, worthy) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light"* (Colossians 1:12). The only way for us to dwell in the presence of the thrice holy God is in, through and by *"THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"* (Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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SONS OF JACOB SAVED BY GRACE

When we look at the life of Jacob, we see a sinner who had many problems due to his own sinful ways. If we are honest, we can all identify with Jacob in his sin. But when we study Jacob's life, we find in him something amazing. It had nothing to do with any supposed goodness or righteousness within himself. In the matter of God saving Jacob, it was said of Jacob and Esau, *"For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth"* (Romans 9:11). Jacob's salvation was all due to the sovereign grace, love and mercy of God in Christ.

Amidst all his sin and problems, Jacob had a God-given longing to seek the LORD. Someone may ask, "Why didn't God give this same longing to Esau?" God does not give us any reason for His sovereign choice. God left Esau to his own desires and devices, and God was just to do so. If God had left Jacob to himself, he would have been no better off than Esau. Why didn't God let both perish in their sins? It is because He is a God of mercy and grace Who has purposed to glorify Himself in the salvation of *"a remnant according to the election of grace"* (Romans 11:5). The question we must consider is this – DO WE HAVE A GOD-GIVEN LONGING TO SEEK THE LORD? All who seek the LORD shall find Him. And all who find Him can identify with Jacob, not only in his sinfulness, but also in the grace and mercy of God that Jacob found in Christ. *"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed"* (Malachi 3:6).

—Pastor Bill Parker