

February 19, 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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THANKFULNESS FOR GRACE

Tune: "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?," (CM)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

To Thee Almighty Lord of all,
This joyful song I raise;
And with a truly thankful heart,
I sing Thy worthy praise.

Creation, what a wondrous work,
Reveals Thy glor'ous might;
I see Thy greatness in the sea
And in the sun so bright.

Thy providence mysterious,
Performs Thy will divine;
All things fulfill their destiny,
By marvelous design.

But when I think of sovereign grace,
So boundless, rich and free;
My heart is filled with grateful praise,
Unto the Godhead three.

For choosing and redeeming me,
And for new life within;
I thank Thee Lord with all my heart,
For saving me from sin.

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"Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered" (Proverbs 11:21).

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

February 19 Brooke Maynard	February 21 Mary McKee
Jacob McSweeney	22 Martha Lewis
Sheila Salyer	Yvona Stahl
20 Kathy Keelin	Dan Harris
21 Terry Keelin	25 Crystal Osburn

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When John Newton was eighty, he was nearly deaf and almost blind, yet he continued preaching. Toward the end of his ministry he would use an assistant who would read to the old preacher the next point of his sermon outline and the pastor would expound on that particular point. One Sunday, well into the 82nd year of his life, the assistant read the first point and Newton said to the congregation, "Jesus Christ is precious." He paused and then repeated his words, "Jesus Christ is precious." The assistant then politely reminded the old preacher that he had already said that. "Yes, I said it twice," the preacher replied, "and I'll say it again, Jesus Christ is precious!" He then asked the congregation to join him in singing "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" which he had written in 1779.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast,
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.
Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treas'ry filled with boundless stores of grace.
By Thee my prayers acceptance gain although with sin defiled;
Satan accuses me in vain and I am owned a child.
Jesus, my Shepherd, Husband, Friend, my Prophet, Priest and King;
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.
Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
'Till then I would Thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath,
And may the music of Thy name, refresh my soul in death.

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Since Christ died in our stead, believers may face death without fear. Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the everlasting dawn has finally arrived. Dying saints may be justly envied while living sinners are justly pitied. Where you die, when you die, and how you die are of no consequence; the important thing is to die in Christ. —Copied

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LIFE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Adam, our federal head, led all men into two horrible conditions. He led us into death. Adam defied the command of God and ate the forbidden fruit even though assured of death upon doing it. When Adam broke God's law he died and all men died in him. *Wherefore as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" (Romans 5:12). He led us into self-righteousness. Immediately after he died spiritually, Adam sewed fig leaves together in an effort to make himself a garment to hide his shame from the Lord. He taught us by example to seek acceptance with God by our own efforts. We are truly Adam's children for all are by nature spiritually dead and full of self-righteousness. "There is none righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10). The Lord stripped Adam and Eve of their self-made garments and clothed them with the skins of animals which were innocent of any transgression against Him. The skins typified the righteousness of Christ wrought out by His redemptive work upon the cross. Christ is "our Life" and "the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." In Him we live forever and in Him "we are made the righteousness of God." Death and self-righteousness came by Adam; life and righteousness came by the last Adam, Jesus Christ the Lord.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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FAITH NOT THE CAUSE OF ELECTION

God did not elect any sinner because He foresaw he would believe for the simple but sufficient reason that no sinner ever does believe until God gives him faith, just as no man sees until God gives him sight. Sight is God's gift; seeing is the consequence of using His gift. So faith is God's gift. If it were true that God had elected certain ones to be saved because in due time they would believe, then that would make believing a meritorious act and in that event the saved sinner would have grounds for "boasting" which Scripture emphatically denies (Eph 2:9). Surely God's Word is plain enough in teaching that believing is not a meritorious act. It affirms that Christians are a people "who have believed through grace" (Acts 18:27). If, then, they have "believed through grace," there is nothing meritorious about believing, and if nothing meritorious, it could not be the cause which moved God to choose them. God's choice proceeds not from anything in us or anything from us, but solely from His own sovereign pleasure. "There is a remnant according to the election of grace." There it is, plain enough; election is "of grace," and grace is unmerited favor, something for which we had no claim upon God whatsoever.

—A. W. Pink

(edited)