

March 5, 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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FREE AND SOVEREIGN GRACE

Tune: "My Faith Has Found A Resting Place," (CM/double)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

'Twas free and sovereign grace decreed,
To save a chosen race;
The blessings that abound to us,
To cov'nant grace we trace.
'Twas grace that brought the Savior forth,
To be the Sacrifice;
To satisfy the law of God,
And pay our ransom price.
'Twas grace that nailed Him to the cross,
For us the Savior bled;
He bore the burden of our guilt,
And suffered in our stead.
'Twas grace that sent the Holy Ghost,
To quicken us when dead;
And by almighty, drawing grace,
To Jesus we were led.
'Tis grace that drew us to the Lord,
When we had gone astray;
'Tis grace that watches over us,
And guides us day by day.
'Twill not be long and we shall go
Unto our heav'nly place;
And then forever we will praise
God's free and sovereign grace.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

March 9 Bill Walker

March 10 Sean Stapleton

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"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him" (Psalm 28:7).

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Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday morning. Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead Saturday night.

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THE BOOK

An aged child of God was critically ill. When a friend came to visit him, the dying saint asked him, "Would you read to me out of the Book?" His friend asked, "Which book do you mean?" "There is only one true and faithful Book," the dying man said, "the Word of the living God."

He was absolutely right. There is but one book that deserves to be called the Book. All other books will be consumed with fervent heat, but "the Word of God liveth and abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:23). Our Lord said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Let each of us devote our lives to the reading and studying of the Book of books. This is the Book to live by and the Book to die by. May God the Holy Spirit enable us to read it to be wise unto salvation, believe it's gospel of Christ to be saved from sin, and rest fully upon its precious promises to be contented in this life. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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Christ said, "Search the Scriptures" (John 5:39). I realize He was speaking to self-righteous religionists who thought that reading and studying the Word of God resulted in eternal life, which would make salvation to be by the works of men. Salvation is by grace alone, in Christ alone, accomplished by His substitutionary death alone and revealed to the heart by the Holy Spirit alone. Having said that, still, these three words, "Search the Scriptures," are instructive. They signify a close, diligent investigation of the Bible. Do not be content in reading a few verses and laying the Book of God aside just as you would the daily newspaper. Your attention to the Word of God must not be shallow or superficial. If we would know God, we must learn of God and we learn of God by hearing, reading, searching and studying His Book. And when you hear the Word of God proclaimed, be like the Bereans. They were certainly thankful to hear God's preachers, yet they also "searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). —Pastor Jim Byrd

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EVERLASTING SECURITY

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me" (Isaiah 49:15-16). This is a revelation of the Lord's concern for and faithfulness to His people and, consequently, the absolute security of His elect. O that we would be brought to consider our Lord's unceasing tenderness toward and care of His children. If by faith we could behold the Lord's unending designs of grace toward us, then we would, like Paul, be joyful in the Lord even in the midst of dark trials (Phil. 4:11); we would lean upon His word of promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). I want you to especially pay attention to those words, "I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands." We are not painted on His hands lest we imagine our names could be rubbed out. Neither are we said to be written on His hands lest we conclude our names might fade away with time. O what delightful and lasting words - "I have graven upon the palms of My hands." There is a permanency to that statement! They are His hands and He did the engraving.

"I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands." Does this not remind you of the Savior's hands, stretched out upon the cross in order to redeem us from the curse of the law? Those scars are lasting reminders of His covenant love and the sacrificial death He died to satisfy divine justice for His people. Let us look by faith upon those blessed hands and see them "wounded for our transgressions" and be reminded of our everlasting security in Him. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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A debtor to mercy alone, of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear with Thy righteousness on, my person and offering to bring;
The terrors of law and of God, with me can have nothing to do;
My Savior's obedience and blood, hide all my transgressions from view.

The work which His goodness began, the arm of His strength will complete;
His promise is yea and amen, and never was forfeited yet;
Things future nor things that are now, not all things below nor above,
Can make Him His purpose forego, or sever my soul from His love.

My name from the palms of His hands, eternity will not erase;
Impressed on His heart it remains, in marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure, as sure as the Earnest is given;
More happy, but not more secure, the glorified spirits in heaven.

—Augustus Toplady, 1771