

April 9, 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

—O—

THE BOOK OF ETERNAL PURPOSE

Tune: "There is a Fountain," (CM/Double)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

A book there is of God's decrees,
Which Christ our Savior holds;
And every page of that great book
The Lamb of God unfolds.
Throughout the world our Savior rules,
To execute God's will;
And all creation, great and small,
His purpose shall fulfill.
Within the pages of the book,
Recorded by His pen;
Are all appointments and decrees,
For angels and for men.
Into that volume none can look,
To learn our destiny;
Be it enough that Christ our Lord,
Shall reign eternally.
What God has written in the book,
Is perfect, just and fair;
And so we lift our praise to Him,
His glories to declare.
Though all unworthy we approach
And bow before His throne;
And ask through Jesus Christ our Lord,
That grace to us be shown.

—O—

"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand" (Isaiah 14:24).

—O—

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 15 Gail Ison

—O—

Our sincere sympathies are extended to Terry Yeager and family upon the recent death of her husband, Aaron Yeager.

—O—

THE CONDUCT OF A CHILD OF GOD

Many religions impose cumbersome duties upon their followers, burdening them with rigid laws to obey and regulations to follow in order to live what they call "the Christian life." Paul, however, declared that his rule for proper conduct was not complicated or burdensome. He told the Corinthians that he lived with a clear conscience "...in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation (daily walk, conduct) in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward" (2 Co. 1:12). "Simplicity" means singleness of heart. The apostle endeavored to live each day with a heart-mindedness of the person and work of Christ and that kept everything else in its rightful place. His daily life consisted of living upon the Savior which is the correct example of the Christian walk; it is the rule of conduct for a child of God. What is "godly sincerity?" It is to live with a pure motive which is the glory of the Lord in all things; he who has that motivation will, consequently, treat those around him in a proper way. Notice that Paul makes certain it is understood that he could only live this way "by the grace of God." It was not by self-empowerment or "fleshly wisdom," for everything that is of the flesh is opposed to right behavior. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). It is only "by the grace of God" that we can walk daily with the eyes of the soul focused on the Son of God. Christ is our Life and Salvation; He is "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:6) whose sacrifice satisfied divine justice and put away our sins. He governs the world to fulfill the eternal purpose of God. Since the sovereign Savior orders all our steps, let us, "by the grace of God," determine to live "in simplicity," following a singular rule of conduct each day. That rule is aptly set forth by the Holy Spirit in Hebrews 12:1-2. "Run with patience the race that is set before you, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of the faith."
—Pastor Jim Byrd

—O—

THE CONSCIENCE PURGED

When the Holy Spirit shows us the necessity, the beauty and the sufficiency of the death of Christ, we repent of our own foolish "dead works," we forsake every other way of seeking to please God, we look to Christ and His substitutionary death as the only ground of our acceptance with God and our conscience rests in the quiet assurance that Christ has satisfied God on our behalf and saved us in a way that glories God in all His holy character. Thus the "blood" purges our consciences of every false hope, of natural self-righteousness, and all fear and doubt.
—Pastor Gary Shepard

—O—

THE WINE OF THE GOSPEL

"Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more" (Proverbs 31:6-7). The wise mother of king Lemuel gave her son gracious directions when she spake these words. It is when we begin to feel the misery into which we have been cast by sin, and thus become ready to perish and of heavy hearts, that the pure wine of the gospel of grace is suitable to our lost condition. As the holiness and justice of God are discovered to the conscience and we are made to see and feel the depths of the Adam-fall, we look out of ourselves for a salvation which we could not find in our fallen nature or in our deeply corrupt and unbelieving heart. When, then, we obtain by living faith a view of the Son of God as Mediator between God and men, when we see by the eye of faith the blood of the cross, and the full and complete atonement which He, as the Lamb of God, made for sin, then we heartily embrace Him as "of God made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30). We see and feel that there is salvation in Him and in no other (Acts 4:12); and as this salvation is seen to be worthy of God and suitable to us, as it answers all the demands of God's holy law, and glorifies it by rendering it an obedience as far excelling ours as heaven excels earth and God surpasses man, we embrace it as our justifying righteousness and covering robe from the eyes of Him Who, out of Christ, is "a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29).

—J. C. Philpot, English preacher of the 1800's

—O—

"And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the Lord thy God redeemed thee" (Deut 15:15). Say, my soul, canst thou ever forget the wormwood and the gall of that state of nature from which the Lord thy God brought thee? No galley-slave chained to the oar could equal thy misery, bound with the chain of sin. Thou wert a bondman to the power of sin, the love of sin, the desire of sin; a bondman to the law of God, the justice of God, the displeasure of God; a bondman to thine own guilty conscience; a bondman to thine own corrupt lusts. Was this thy state, my soul, by nature and by practice? And hath the Son of Man brought thee out? Precious Jesus, what shall I say to Thee; what shall I say for Thee? What shall I render to the Lord for all the mercies He hath done to me and for me? Oh may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I forget Thee, Thou Author of all my joy and all my happiness, if I do not remember Thee and prefer Thy love more than wine. In life, in death, and to all eternity, may my soul hang upon Thee, as the bee upon the flower; and let the fragrant of Thy name be as ointment poured forth.
—Robert Hawker, edited