

May 7, 2017

TODAY: Bible Classes: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD
Evening Worship - NO EVENING SERVICE
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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THE LORD'S TABLE

Tune: "Love Divine," (8.7.8.7.)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

God in mercy sent the Savior,
To pay all the debt we owe;
On the cross the dear Redeemer,
Died in agony and woe.
See Him wounded, bruised, forsaken,
Sacrifice for God was He;
Jesus bore our sins and sorrows,
When He died on Calvary.

So we gather by commandment,
At this table which is spread;
To remember with thanksgiving,
Him Who suffered in our stead.
Christ the Son of God was given,
On the cross He bled and died;
Shed His blood for our salvation,
God was fully satisfied.

Here the bread is broken for us,
Emblem of the Holy One;
True Messiah, our Redeemer,
God the Father's precious Son.
In remembrance of the Savior,
Who redeemed us on the tree;
We will drink the wine before us,
Speaks of blood which set us free.

Jesus shed His blood for sinners,
Bearing all our guilt and shame;
By His death He sealed our pardon,
Praise the Savior, spread His fame!
Now enthroned in matchless glory,
Lord and sovereign King is He;
Worthy is the Lamb Who saved us
Of all praise eternally.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

May 8 Alane Cox
Theresa Pennington
10 Caitie Pennington

May 12 David Absher
Scott Davis

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I am delighted to be back with you today. Though still a little weak physically, yet I rejoice in the grace of our covenant God through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Mediator. We will partake of the Lord's Supper at the end of the worship service this morning and then enjoy food and fellowship together in the fellowship room. There will be no service tonight. Please know how much I appreciate and love my church family and give thanks to the Lord for granting me the privilege of being your pastor. Thank you for all you do for my family and me.

During our fellowship lunch we will recognize our high school graduates. They are: Dan Busch, Caleb Malone and Michael Horan.

We would also like to congratulate David Stapleton, graduating from UK in Mechanical Engineering and Jessica (Ison) Trent, graduating from ACTC in nursing.

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There was a time, not so many years ago, when a Baptist pastor could use the word "sovereignty" with reference to the Lord and most everyone knew what he meant. Sadly, times have changed and with the passing of the years, the clear teaching of this grand, old Biblical doctrine has become nearly extinct.

When I speak of the sovereignty of God, I am simply saying that our eternal Creator does as He pleases, when He pleases, with whom He pleases and in whatever manner He pleases. God's sovereignty is His absolute, independent right to govern all of His creation, whether in providence or grace, according to the good pleasure of His will. Is this not the declaration of the Word? "But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased" (Psalm 115:3). "The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so it shall come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand... The LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it" (Isaiah 14:24, 27). "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" (Romans 9:15). Let me be plainly understood. If the Lord is not altogether sovereign, performing His will with absolute authority, then He really is not God at all. To speak of God as not being sovereign or having limited sovereignty, as wanting to do something and yet His desire being hindered or defeated by something or somebody, is as foolish as saying God is not holy, He is not eternal or He is not powerful. There is no alternative: either God rules over all things, executing His eternal purpose, or something or somebody rules over God. Hear what the Lord says. "I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46:10).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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God, in His infinitely wise and good purpose, has been pleased to send another "light affliction," to me and my dear wife. I recognize it is "light" compared to what our Lord endured to save us, "light" compared to what I deserve, being a sinner, and "light" compared to the sufferings of multitudes of saints down through the years. I am thankful that I can honestly say that not once has the thought crossed my mind, "Why did this have to happen to me," or "I don't deserve this." I know that the Lord sometimes brings us into unusual and difficult circumstances, giving us opportunities to honor Him in the fiery trials of life. I give Him the glory that He has enabled me to bow to His good and perfect will and kiss the hand that dealt me this tender blow. To say the last several days have been an ordeal, is to speak mildly and yet, throughout this trial, I rejoice to say that the Lord has ministered to me by His grace, speaking to my soul through His Word a "peace that passes understanding," though my body ached with pain. O how sweet and precious is the Word of God to His children. Someone asked me, "How can you cope with all these afflictions?" My answer was that it wasn't me, but the Lord who gives grace to help in time of need. Nancy would read the Scriptures, we would pray together and my heart was comforted. According to His purpose, the Lord brought many new people into my life, most of them very caring and concerned. I trust that their encounter with me left them with an awareness that though I suffered, I did not murmur nor blaspheme the name of my God and King for I recognize that "all things are of God" (2 Co 5:18). It is not for me or you to know the exact purpose of God in bringing various afflictions upon His children, but we know He is the origin of all things, and we know that everything He does is for His glory, our spiritual benefit and will work to fulfill His sovereign will and pleasure. It is ever true: "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him" (Nahum 1:7). How comforting is this oft repeated promise. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). —Pastor Jim Byrd