

October 15, 2017

TODAY: Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship - NO SERVICE

Messages by PASTORS TIM JAMES AND GARY SHEPARD

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(webcasting live during listed service times)

WEDNESDAY: Mid-week Service—7:00 p.m.

Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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**BE JOYFUL CHILDREN OF THE LORD**

*Tune: "There Is a Fountain," (CM/double)*

*Words by Pastor Jim Byrd*

*How gracious is our sovereign Lord,  
Compassionate and kind;  
And all who trust His promises,  
Will comfort in Him find.  
In love He purposed to bestow,  
Upon a chosen race;  
The honor to be sons of God,  
According to His grace.  
In time the Father sent His Son,  
Our ransom price to pay;  
And by His bloody sacrifice,  
Christ washed our sins away.  
He reconciled us to our God,  
And brought in righteousness;  
We are redeemed, set free, forgiv'n,  
His beauty we possess.  
Our Savior ever lives above,  
For us to intercede;  
Those wounds received on Calvary,  
For us shall ever plead.  
Be joyful children of our God,  
The Lord shall soon appear;  
Then sin and sorrow will be past,  
And gone will be each tear.*

—O—

*"Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite. The LORD lifteth up the meek: He casteth the wicked down to the ground. Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God" (Psalm 147:5-7).*

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**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Oct. 18 Al Meek

Oct. 20 Aaron Parker

Oct. 20 Janet Lester

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Tentative Dates for 2018 Bible Conference:

November 9, 10, 11

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We are thankful for the Lord's blessings upon our services Friday night and yesterday morning and ask that He will again honor His Word, exalt His Name and bless His people as we meet again today. Pastor Tim James will preach first this morning and pastor Gary Shepard will bring the concluding message. Lunch will be served immediately after the final worship service. We encourage everyone to stay, eat and enjoy the fellowship. There will be no service this evening.

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**STAND FAST IN LIBERTY**

The greatest preacher and defender of sound doctrine apart from Christ Himself was most likely the apostle Paul. None could charge him with compromise, none could call his message unclear, and none could accuse him of giving anyone a false hope. But as one who earnestly contended for the faith of God's elect, he stood firmly in defense of the liberty of those in Christ and their total deliverance from all bondage. His admonition to all true believers rings loud and clear today. *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage"* (Galatians 5:1). He knew that all whom the Son had made free were free indeed, He knew that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. There had come to the Galatians those who, though zealous, had by their preaching brought these people under the spirit of bondage and fear. They no doubt preached Christ and all the particulars concerning salvation by grace but there was a subtle spirit of legalism and works woven into their message. It produced in the hearers a feeling of fear and great heaviness of heart due to the unbearable yoke that was always being laid upon them. Paul, knowing full well that false professors and religionists always wrest the scriptures to their own destruction, was not hindered in encouraging those in Christ to untangle themselves from this yoke of legalistic bondage and to rejoice in their liberty in Christ. The message he preached to them was the same message of God's grace and full salvation accomplished solely by the merits and blood of Christ and that was good news. Those who were trusting in Him went away rejoicing! The gospel is our "emancipation proclamation" and the joy in our Lord Jesus Christ strengthens, liberates and lifts us. *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* When those who truly believe on and confess Christ hear His gospel they breathe the fresh breath of freedom; but when they hear something else they feel stifled under the tightness of the yoke. "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" The truth is that those in Christ are "Free from the law, O happy condition! Jesus hath bled, and there is remission." Stand fast!

—Pastor Gary Shepard

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I am certain you will agree with me that we, being sinners, are unable to save ourselves. If anyone, therefore, is redeemed from the curse of the law and delivered from the power of sin and Satan, God must do it. Since it is abundantly clear from the Scriptures and from observation that there are some people in this world who are in fact saved, then must not their salvation be said to be all of grace? *"By grace ye are saved"* (Ephesians 2:5). In addition, must it not be concluded that the God of all grace is the One who saved them? *"The salvation of the righteous is of the LORD"* (Psalm 37:39). Since salvation is impossible for sinners to accomplish and yet some are indeed saved and since God must have saved them by His free grace in Christ, then is it not evident that the Lord made a distinction between those who are saved and those who are not? That distinction is called divine election. *"For God saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy"* (Romans 9:15).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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**CONTROVERSIAL**

Do you think it astounding that some men find it easy to hold Scripture up to the worth of their own opinion? Some men actually refuse to preach certain doctrines of Holy Writ because they deem them controversial. Shall a worm of the dust count itself as judge over the Word of God, to say this or that should not be preached because other worms do not find it palatable? Did God, as He inspired His Book, also inspire the writers to put an asterisk beside predestination or election in order that the preacher might be sure to avoid these subjects? Where does such presumption originate? Does the dunghill denizen believe that his wisdom is greater than God's? He must believe himself to be God, or else he would not take it upon himself to discount what God has said. Oh how marvelously the maggot monarch molds his message to misdirect his multitudes by mutilating the Gospel and removing its sting! It would seem that the serpent's lie has found a resting place in the pate of these pusillanimous pulpites. *"ye shall be as god's,"* said the serpent, and the malevolent message took. Now the fallen man, believing himself to be deity, does not bow to the Word of God but rather abbreviates it...does not preach it but rather pares it down. It is this wretched wrester of Scripture *"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God"* (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

—Pastor Tim James