

December 31, 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](http://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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**CLOSING THE YEAR WITH PRAISE**

*Tune: "Come Thou Fount," (8.7.8.7.double)*

*Words by Pastor Jim Byrd*

*In this house, O great Jehovah,  
God of everlasting days;  
Humbly now we all assemble,  
To close out the year with praise.  
How we thank Thee for Thy mercies,  
Which to us are new each day!  
And with grateful hearts we bless Thee,  
Thou hast led us all the way.*

*Jesus only Lord and Savior,  
Thou didst full salvation bring;  
We would praise Thee without ceasing,  
And by faith to Thee we cling.  
With the promise of Thy presence,  
We will face another year;  
May Thy hand still lead and guide us,  
Keep our hearts from doubt and fear.*

*Holy Spirit, Intercessor,  
How we thank Thee for Thy grace;  
Keep us looking to the Savior,  
Till we finish life's short race.  
Then receive us into heaven,  
In His righteousness to stand;  
Evermore to worship Jesus,  
In that fair and happy land.*

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**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Dec. 31 Barbara Horan  
Helen Sturm

Jan. 2 Don McClean  
3 Lois Thompson

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*"Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death" (Proverbs 11:4).*

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Nancy and I are grateful for the Christmas cards and gifts we received from many of you. We give thanks to our covenant God for His goodness to our church this past year. It has been a year of blessing and joy for every believer and a year of severe trial and even sorrow for some, and yet, we were always assured that the purpose of the Lord was being fulfilled no matter our outward circumstances. As we embark upon a new year, we do so unaware of what the future holds, but knowing with great confidence Who holds the future. Whatever awaits us in 2018, rest assured it will all unfold exactly as our heavenly Father has ordained.

After the message this evening, we will observe the Lord's Supper and then have a time of food and fellowship in the back. Sign-up sheets for food are on the table down front.

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**THE NEARNESS OF ETERNITY**

Consider the nearness of eternal things. Think of that for a minute. Heaven and hell are not places far away. You may be in heaven before the clock ticks again, it is so near. Oh, that we, instead of trifling about such things because they seem so far away, would solemnly realize them, since they are so very near! This very day, before the sun goes down, some hearer now sitting in this place may see the realities of heaven or hell. Think of that, and let eternal things impress you all the more because they lie so near.

—C. H. Spurgeon

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**A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

May the Lord bless you and lift up the light of His countenance upon you all and give you peace. May you, during this next year of grace, receive much grace; and may you grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we as a church, as pastor and brethren, mutually strive together to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, boldly proclaim the gospel of His free and sovereign grace, love, encourage and support our missionaries and sister churches; and may the Lord save His sheep through the gospel preached from this place. Whatever trials and sorrows by His divine providence may come our way, whatever mercies and blessings may fall upon us, may we be given the grace to recognize His hand and purpose in THEM ALL to sing from the heart, *"Unto Him who hath loved us and washed us from sin, unto HIM BE THE GLORY FOREVER, AMEN!"*

—Henry Mahan, from our bulletin, 12/29/91

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**MY DESIRES REGARDING PREACHING**

I wrote these words many years ago and they remain pasted in the front of my Bible. Before I step behind the pulpit to proclaim the Word of God, I desire to remember these things.

[1] I want to magnify the Lord in the trinity of His persons. That is always to be my goal. Perhaps I will have much liberty, little liberty or no liberty in preaching, that is a matter left entirely to the sovereign Spirit, but my desire is to magnify the Lord. The supreme order of business in every service is to honor God.

[2] I want to preach as though you were going to step out into eternity as soon as you exit the building. I want to earnestly declare the gospel of Christ as if this were the last time you would ever hear a sermon.

[3] I want to plainly preach *"Christ and Him crucified."* My message is the Person of Christ, His life of obedience to the law, His sin-atonement, ransom-paying, justice-satisfying death that upheld the integrity of God and enabled God to be both just and Justifier of all who believe on His Son. I desire to set forth Christ's victorious resurrection by which the Father declared that He was well-pleased with His Son and the work of redemption He accomplished. I want everyone to know that the gospel is summed up in these words, substitution and satisfaction. I want to proclaim, in the clearest words, that Christ has gone back to glory, sat down upon His heavenly throne and that He reigns over all things in order to accomplish His eternal purpose.

[4] I want to earnestly declare the gospel as though this were the last time I would ever preach. Whatever words I would say to eternity-bound sinners if I knew I would never preach the gospel again, let me speak them right now.

[5] I want to compel men and women to close with Christ, to trust the blessed Savior, to own up to their guilt and come humbly to the Lord Jesus and find rest for their souls! He is plenteous in mercy and ready to abundantly pardon.

[6] I want to make certain that everyone understands that the salvation of sinners is of the Lord and of Him only. I desire to proclaim God's electing grace, the Son's redeeming grace and the Spirit's regenerating grace every time I get up to preach.

[7] I want to preach with such a love for Christ, with such concern for the eternal safety of my hearers and with such conviction for the truth that, though some of my listeners may not believe the gospel of Christ, they will leave the building absolutely convinced that I do.

—Pastor Jim Byrd