

January 28, 2018

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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PRAISE THE GOD OF GRACE

Tune: "DOXOLOGY," (LM)
Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

*Praise ye the God of sovereign grace,
Who chose a people from our race;
Gave us to Christ our Surety,
Way back in old eternity.*

*Prostrate yourself before the Lord,
May He be worshiped and adored;
Bless Him for His amazing love,
Which sent the Savior from above.*

*Praise God the Son whose blood divine,
Was shed by covenant design;
Justice was fully satisfied,
When for our sins the Savior died.*

*O bless the Spirit Who in might,
Came to illuminate our night;
Creating light within the heart,
True faith in Jesus to impart.*

*Someday the Lord's great family,
Shall gather in eternity;
Then we will praise the God of grace,
And full salvation to Him trace.*

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan. 28 Tom McLeod
Feb. 2 Sam Elliott

Feb. 3 Sheila Pennington
Carson Fain

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"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5).

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THE REIGN OF CHRIST JESUS

"The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice" (Psalm 97:1). Surely, in this world of trouble, there could not be a greater encouragement for a child of God than this, "the LORD reigneth." When trials befall us, let us remember, "The LORD reigneth." When our world seems to be turned upside down and sorrow makes the heart heavy with grief, remember, "The LORD reigneth." When events come to pass that we do not understand, when it seems evil is on the rampage and wickedness abounds, still let us remember, "The LORD reigneth." This is what the Israelites celebrated when the Lord brought them out of Egyptian bondage and through the Red Sea, "the LORD shall reign for ever and ever" (Exodus 13:18). And when, at last, the Lord casts all of His enemies into hell, the saints shall break out singing this same joyful song, "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Revelation 19:6).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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THE BELIEVER'S MOTIVATION

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead" (2 Corinthians 5:14). All ministers of Christ and all believers in the Lord Jesus are under the sweetest and strongest constraint to do what they do. They are motivated by "the love of Christ" – His love for them and their love for Him. It is not fear of hell, desire for reward, nor concern for acceptance that excites believers to their duty, but Christ's eternal love, which led Him to redeem them by His life and death, and the love of God which is shed abroad in their hearts (John 21:17; 1 John 4:19). His love for us is the chief motive, for we know that if He died then we were all dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). If we had not been dead spiritually, He would not have had to die. Also, if He died for us, we died in Him – to the world, to the claims and curse of the law and to ourselves (Galatians 6:14).

—Henry Mahan

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WHAT A GREAT CHANGE!

Our Lord Jesus, having satisfied divine justice and fully accomplished our redemption, ascended back to glory forty days after His resurrection. There, at the Father's right hand, He took His seat upon the throne of universal dominion. What a great and glorious change there is in our Lord's condition now in comparison to His life when He was in the world. Peter said of the triumphant Savior, *"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him"* (1 Peter 3:22). In this world He was despised, now He is enthroned on high. During the days of His humiliation, He had no place to lay His head and angels came and ministered to Him. Now, in His heavenly palace, God commands the angels to worship and adore Him. Think of how *"He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Never has there been such condescension for *"He who was rich, yet for your sakes became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich"* (2 Co 8:9), but now behold His exaltation. The Father has *"put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head of all things to the church"* (Eph 1:22). When He was upon this earth, in utter contempt His enemies called Him *"the carpenter"* (Mark 6:33), but now, *"being made so much better than the angels...He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they"* (Hebrews 1:4). He has been given *"a name which is above every name"* (Phil 2:9). Though in this world He stood before rulers who hated Him, now He is enthroned, having absolute authority and the kings of the earth perform His sovereign will. In His state of humiliation *"He endured the contradiction of sinners"* (Heb 12:3), but now all of heaven sings, *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"* (Rev 5:12). Here He was tempted of the devil, groaned in agony, His soul was troubled, He wept in a garden and died a shameful death; but now, Christ reigns evermore and is surrounded by all the hosts of angels and saints who shall proclaim His worthy praise for ever and ever.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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Had I the faith of all the patriarchs, all the zeal of the prophets, all the good works of the apostles, all the holy sufferings of the martyrs, and all the glowing devotion of the seraphs; I would disclaim the whole in point of dependence, and count all but dross and dung, when set in competition with the infinitely precious death and infinitely meritorious righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

—James Hervey