

February 4, 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.13thsbaptist.org
(webcasting live during listed service times)
WEDNESDAY: Mid-week Service - 7:00 p.m.
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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SUBSTITUTION

Tune: "ROCK OF AGES," (77.77.77.)

Words by A. Toplady, 1759

Surely Christ thy griefs hath borne,
Weeping soul, no longer mourn;
View Him bleeding on the tree,
Pouring out His life for thee;
There thy ev'ry sin He bore,
Weeping soul, lament no more.

Cast thy guilty soul on Him,
Find Him mighty to redeem;
At His feet thy burden lay,
Look thy doubts and cares away;
Now by faith the Son embrace,
Plead His promise, trust His grace.

Lord, Thy arm must be revealed,
Ere I can by faith be healed;
Since I scarce can look to Thee,
Cast a gracious eye on me;
At Thy feet myself I lay,
Shine, oh shine my fears away!

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"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness" (Psalm 48:1).

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Feb. 4 Linda Davis
5 Chris Spence

Feb. 6 Laura Sanders
8 Doug Hennig

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DEMAND AND SUPPLY

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim 4:2-3). Paul predicted the time would come when people would not receive the gospel of grace, but, motivated by carnal desires, they would seek out, find and listen to those preachers whose objective is to tell folks what they want to hear. Surely the season about which Paul prophesied has arrived. The philosophy of consumerism has been carried over from the marketplace into churches. The rule of the day among false religionists is demand and supply; whatever the congregation demands, that's what lying prophets are ready to supply. The average preacher may be likened to a shrewd businessman; he is consumer oriented and motivated by personal success. His job is to discover what religious customers want and then provide it. As that is fundamental to success in the secular world, that is also the key to making it big in the religious arena. Multitudes of preachers are saying virtually anything people want to hear and if, for some reason, you don't like what one preacher is saying, shop around, there's always another one who will adjust their message to suit your taste. The demand creates the supply; hearers determine what their preachers will say. As one old writer said, "If the people desire a golden calf to worship, a ministerial calf-maker is readily found."

Though most preachers are ready to supply the demands of the multitudes, the Lord still has His servants who are faithful to their commission summed up in 2 Tim. 4:2: "Preach the Word." God's men boldly proclaim the truth as it is in Christ. They seek the approval of God, not the applause of men (Gal 1:10). Having no selfish ambitions or lofty, personal goals, they desire the glory of God in all things and like Paul, are "determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:21). They set forth God as being sovereign in all that He does. They proclaim "salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9) and man's total depravity and utter inability to save himself or make himself acceptable before a holy God. They set forth the successful, redemptive work of Christ for His people and the necessity of the quickening grace of the Spirit to reveal the Savior. They boldly and unashamedly announce, "Christ is all:" all to be known, all to be seen in the Word of God and all to be preached. They declare how God can be Just and justify the ungodly through the death of the Lord Jesus. Whether their hearers approve or disapprove, they still preach Christ crucified in obedience to the charge they've been given. The world's rule of demand and supply is of no concern to them. The message God has supplied and demands them to preach, that is what they proclaim. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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"THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS"

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). Oh! for the grace to rest upon me, as upon those faithful servants of my Lord; that like them, I may manifest the sweet savour of Jesus' name in every place; wherever I am, with whomsoever I converse, in every state, and upon every occasion, that all may witness for me, and everything bear witness to me, that I have been with Jesus! I would entreat Thee, my honoured Lord, that I may honour Thee so before men, that after my morning visits to Thy throne of grace, my mid-day communion, my evening and nightly fellowship, my return to the society of men might so be distinguished as one that had just been with Jesus. And as it might be supposed, if an angel was to come from heaven that had seen Thy face, and heard Thy voice, and been an eye witness of Thy glory; so, Lord, having by faith enjoyed such views, I might delight to tell, as he would relate to the inhabitants of the earth, the grace, and beauty, and love of Jesus. And surely, Lord, if I have been with Thee, and Thou with me; if I know anything of Thy grace and salvation; will not, out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speak? Shall I not delight to tell everyone I meet what my Lord is in Himself, and what He is to His people? Shall I not speak with rapture of the glories of Thy Person, and the infinite value and worth of Thy blood and righteousness? Surely in the circle of my acquaintance, I shall be daily speaking of Thy grace and salvation, for I know no end thereof. And especially in a day like the present, where the name of my Lord and His cross are banished from all conversation. Oh! that it may be shown that I have been **with** Jesus, in speaking **for** Jesus. Yes! Thou dear Lord! Thy truths I would espouse, Thy doctrines profess, salvation alone by Thy righteousness and cross would I bear before a whole world, with earnestness and with zeal; and if this brought upon me the laugh and derision, yea, the persecution of the proud; like Thy servants of old, "I would rejoice in being counted worthy to suffer shame for Thy name." And chiefly, and above all, let it not only be noticed that I have been with Jesus, in speaking of Christ and for Christ; but let the sweet unction of Thy Holy Spirit be so abiding upon me, from continual intercourse and communion with Thee, that my whole life and conversation may be such as becometh the gospel of Christ. Oh! for the same blessed effect as Moses, whose face shone when he came down from the holy mount, that everyone with whom I have to do may see the light of Thy grace, in all my transactions with the world, so shine before men, that they may glorify my Father which is in heaven. Precious Lord! grant me these unanswerable testimonies of vital godliness; then will it be proved indeed and in truth, that, like Thy servants of old, I have been with Jesus. —Robert Hawker