

March 25, 2018

TODAY: Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.
Messages by ELDER RON TRABANDT
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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THY GOD REIGNS

*Tune: "When I Survey, the Wondrous Cross" (LM)
Words by Pastor Jim Byrd*

*O what a glad, delightful sound,
Within the Word of God 'tis found;
The Lord our God reigns over all,
The Sovereign over great and small.*

*Ye children of the Father's love,
Rejoice! He governs from above!
All things that happen, He ordains,
The Lord of glory ever reigns.*

*Yes, day by day, and year by year,
Jehovah reigns, so do not fear;
Be calm, O anxious, troubled soul,
Thy God still reigns, may this console.*

*Our Lord shall reign forevermore,
With grateful hearts, His Name adore;
And though His will we faintly see,
Trust Him who reigns eternally.*

—O—

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days; which are a shadow of things to come; but the body (substance) is of Christ" (Colossians 2:16-17).

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

*March 25 Daniel Busch
26 Joe Turner*

*March 26 Tom Morgan
28 Bill Flieman*

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Our pastor is preaching today for Pastor Gary Shepard and the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Jacksonville, North Carolina. Elder Ron Trabant will be speaking in all of our services here. The Byrds will be home, the Lord willing, Tuesday.

Congratulations to Marty Lewis (great grandmother), Alane Cox (grandmother) and parents Pam and Dallas on the birth of Gemma Lee Smith, born March 15th.

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I have been interested in church music for a long time. I love hymns that magnify the Lord, exalt Christ, proclaim the grace of God, stress the importance of the blood of Christ and provide spiritual instruction and encouragement for the Lord's children. I will not have us sing songs which are sentimental tear-jerkers or ones that extol the flesh. We will not sing words that contradict the gospel of sovereign grace that we preach and love; we will avoid those that are filled with meaningless drivel or heretical junk.

It is my belief that the goal of religion in 2018 is to make the church as secular as possible and that includes the message, the methods, the dress that shows a total lack of respect for God and the music which is designed to please men. Things are being done in religion today so that the world will enjoy and feel comfortable in church.

I have no control over what goes on in other religious establishments, but, when we gather in this place, it will not be so that we can be entertained, but so that we can worship together. Our message, conduct, attire and music are to be aimed toward honoring God. With regard to music, I recognize that a few of the contemporary religious songs have some good words, but the melodies are so perverted by rap music, so geared to entertain, so designed to keep the foot tapping and the hands clapping that there can be no solemn worship of the holy God. My friends, we are not here to be amused, but to worship; if amusement is what you seek, you will have to go somewhere else. We meet in this building to exalt the Lord our God. *"I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also"* (1 Co 14:15). Let us sing songs that are consistent with the holy Scripture, words that we understand that are honoring to our Lord. *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:19). Our singing (congregational as well as special music) is to come from the heart and is to be directed to the Lord.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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GOD LEADS US ALONG

Years ago there lived near Kansas City, Missouri, a man by the name of G. A. Young. He wrote a hymn which we enjoy singing, "God Leads His Dear Children Along." It is said that the head of a music publishing company wanted to know the history behind the lyrics so he set out to find Mr. Young, but discovered the man had died. Upon learning that Mrs. Young was still alive, the publisher sought to locate her with the hopes of learning what motivated her husband to write such a stirring hymn. The man was shocked when he discovered Mrs. Young was now living and working on a poor farm not far from Kansas City. Back in the 1800's, poor farms were maintained at public expense for the support and employment of needy people. Initially, the publisher was hesitant about visiting the lady as he thought about how awkward it would be to talk to her about a hymn pertaining to the providence of God when she was obviously very poor. In time, however, he laid aside his reluctance, made his way to the farm, found her room, introduced himself and explained the reason for his visit. He was amazed to find a cheerful, radiant, enthusiastic little woman who was delighted to welcome him to her humble quarters. She began to tell her story, which I must edit for the sake of brevity. "My husband and I were married when we were very young. God gave us a wonderful life together; we were both joyful in Christ. The Lord led us from day to day, which moved him to write his famous hymn. But one day, God took my husband to glory; I had to leave our home and this is where I live now. The Lord has led me here and I am so excited and glad about it. Isn't it wonderful that God leads His children day by day and step by step? Many people have to come and live and work in this place; most of them are so sad and in such great need. They need help and comfort and I am here to try and cheer them up and tell them about Christ and His perfect salvation. How thankful I am that God has brought me to this place where I can be of so much help to other people."

What words of faith. She lived on a poor farm and yet she could say with thanksgiving that "the Lord has led me here." Children of the Lord, rejoice in the providential care and guidance of our all-wise God and King. Our steps are ordained of the Lord and they will surely lead in the way that is best for us. I am reminded of the Savior's words to Simon Peter, *"What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter"* (John 13:7). I may not understand how my present circumstances are under the directive hand of the Lord, nor how any specific event will work together with all others for my good, His glory and the good of others who are the Lord's people, but someday it will all be plain to me. For now, it is my duty to trust Him completely.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

*Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright,
God leads His dear children along;
Sometimes in the valley in darkest of night,
God leads His dear children along.
Some thru the waters, some thru the flood,
Some thru the fire, but all thru the blood;
Some thru great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.*