

March 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.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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**GOD'S FREE AND SOVEREIGN GRACE**

Tune: "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place," (CM/double)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

'Twas God in sovereign grace decreed

To save a chosen race;

The blessings which abound to us,

To cov'nant grace we trace.

'Twas grace that brought the Savior forth,

To be the Sacrifice;

To satisfy the law of God,

And pay our ransom price.

'Twas grace that nailed Him to the cross,

To suffer in our stead;

To bear the burden of our guilt,

The dear Redeemer bled.

'Twas grace that sent the Holy Ghost,

To quicken us when dead;

And by almighty, drawing grace,

To Jesus we were led.

'Twas sovereign grace drew us to Christ,

When we had gone astray;

'Twas grace that watches over us,

And guides us day by day.

'Twill not be long and we shall see

Our Savior face to face;

And then forever we will praise

His free and sovereign grace.

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**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

March 9 Bill Walker

March 10 Sean Stapleton

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Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday morning. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night.

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**"WHEREFORE DOTH A LIVING MAN COMPLAIN?"**

(Lamentations 3:39)

Twelve good reasons NOT to complain.

1. God commands me never to complain (Philippians 2:14).
2. God commands me to give thanks in every circumstance (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
3. God commands me to rejoice always, especially in trials (1 Thessalonians 5:16; James 1:2).
4. I always deserve much worse than what I am suffering now; in fact, I deserve hell (Lamentations 3:39; Luke 13:2-3).
5. In light of the eternal happiness and glory I will experience in heaven, this present trial is brief and insignificant, even if it were to last a lifetime (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 5:19).
6. My suffering is far less than that which Christ suffered, and He did not complain (1 Peter 2:23).
7. To complain is to say God is not just (Genesis 18:25).
8. Faith and prayer exclude complaining (Psalm 34:4).
9. This difficulty is being used by God for my good and it is foolish for me to complain against it (Romans 8:28).
10. Those more faithful than I have suffered far worse than I, and did so without complaint (Hebrews 11:35-39).
11. Complaining denies that God's grace is entirely sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9).
12. The greatest suffering, the worst trial or difficulty, can never rob me of that which is of greatest value to me and my greatest joy, namely the love of Christ for me (Romans 8:35-39).

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The grand controversy between corrupt nature and the Almighty is, who shall have the glory of salvation, God or the creature. The pride of man says – "The glory of salvation is due to me, for I can save myself." But Jehovah takes the glory of salvation to Himself, and says – "I will have all the glory thereof; for it is by My sovereign and efficacious grace that men are saved." Thus pride is a principal cause of the enmity there is in the carnal mind against God; it is at the bottom of all the opposition made to those doctrines of Scripture which illustrate and advance the almighty power and free grace of God in the salvation of sinners. —Augustus Toplady

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**KEEP ME**

"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of Thy wings" (Psalm 17:8). Is this not the prayer of all God's children? Knowing something of our sinfulness, weaknesses, fickleness, unbelief and tendency to roam, we constantly pray, Lord keep me. "Keep" means watch over, preserve, guard and protect. Keep me at all times. Keep me when You lead me into the valley of trial lest I be filled with hopelessness. Keep me when I ascend to successes in life lest I be filled with pride. Keep me in the time of sickness lest I be overcome with despair. Keep me in the time of health lest I be presumptuous. Keep me in the days of youth lest I waste my life in frivolity. Keep me in the days of old age when I grow weak and feeble. Keep me when I am sick. Keep me when I am well. Keep me when I rejoice. Keep me when I am sad. Keep me when I am awake. Keep me when I am asleep. Keep me when I remember Thee. Keep me when I forget Thee. Keep me when my faith is strong. Keep me when my faith is weak. Keep me when I seem to have no faith at all. Keep me no matter where I go. Keep me throughout my pilgrim journey. Keep me "looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith." Keep me while you give me breath, and keep me when you take it away. O Lord, keep me forevermore.

Now, hear the words of the Lord to Jacob and know that, if you are a child of God, they are for you as well. "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest" (Genesis 28:15). —Pastor Jim Byrd

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The principle of "love" may well be distorted by men when they speak of the love of God to men. However, the principle of justice is not quite so easily distorted. Thus, the love of God to His people is described as their "justification." In love, God justifies His elect, declaring them righteous through Jesus Christ and His righteous death. He does this showing that His love is a just love in Christ crucified and He is always at the same time "a just God and (not "but") a Savior." His love is demonstrated by His giving Himself for us, redeeming us from all iniquity. As the hymn writer wrote: "Redeeming love has been my theme and shall be till I die." —Pastor Gary Shepard