

April 1, 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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CHRIST CONQUERED THE GRAVE

*Tune: "O Worship the King" (10.10.11.11.)
Words by Pastor Jim Byrd*

*We gather this day to honor the King,
Who sits on His throne, His triumphs we sing;
The Savior who died to atone for our sin,
Came forth from the tomb and He liveth again.*

*Christ Jesus the Lord the battle has won,
He died and arose, redemption is done!
He took on Himself all our debt to repay,
The sins of His people His blood washed away.*

*To Jesus our Lord all honor we bring,
And say unto death, "Where now is thy sting?"
Enthroned in His glory, almighty to save,
Victorious His conquest o'er sin and the grave.*

*Christ conquered the grave and liveth above,
All praise to His Name, all power and love;
Made righteous in Jesus we someday shall rise,
To dwell with our Savior above earth and skies.*

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"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it" (Acts 2:23-24).

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

*April 1 Connie Sexton
2 Pauline Flaming
5 Kristen Smith
Jessica Elliott*

*April 6 Ava Rae Fain
Linda Black
Diane Powell*

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THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY

"And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it" (Matthew 28:2). Let us regard this stone as a trophy set up. As men of old set up memorial stones and as at this day we erect columns to tell of great deeds of prowess, so that stone rolled away was, as it were, before the eyes of our faith, consecrated that day as a memorial of Christ's eternal victory over the powers of death and hell. They thought they had vanquished Him; they deemed that the Crucified was overcome; but their joy was fleeting; their boastings were but brief, for at the appointed moment He who could not see corruption rose and came forth from beneath their power. His heel was bruised by the old serpent, but on the resurrection morning He crushed the dragon's head.

Brethren beloved in Christ, as we look at yonder stone, with the angel seated upon it, it rises before us as a monument of Christ's victory over death and hell, and it becomes us to remember His victory was achieved for us, and the fruits of it are all ours. We have to fight with sin, but Christ has overcome it. We are tempted by Satan, but Christ has given Satan a defeat. We, by-and-by, shall leave this body; unless the Lord come speedily, we may expect to gather up our feet like our fathers and go to meet our God; but death is vanquished for us, and we have no cause to fear. Courage, Christian soldiers, you are encountering a vanquished enemy: remember that the Lord's victory is a guarantee for yours. If the Head conquers, the members shall not be defeated. Let not sorrow dim your eye; let no fears trouble your spirit; you must conquer for Christ has conquered. Awaken all your powers to the conflict and nerve them with the hope of victory. Had you seen your Master defeated, you might expect yourself to be blown like chaff before the wind; but the power by which He overcame He lends to you. The Holy Ghost is in you; Jesus Himself has promised to be with you always, even to the end of the world, and the mighty God is your refuge. You shall surely overcome through the blood of the Lamb. Set up that stone before your faith's eye this morning, and say, "Here my Master conquered hell and death, and in His name and by His strength I shall be crowned, too, when the last enemy is destroyed." —Copied

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ELECTION IS AN ENCOURAGEMENT

If the Word of God did not teach that some sinners were chosen unto salvation, there would be no reason to expect that anyone would ever believe the gospel. Had the Lord not determined some sinners to be the objects of His saving grace, then none of Adam's race would have been rescued from sin and shame. However, since God ordained a people to eternal life before the foundation of the world, and these were redeemed by the blood of Christ, then I am encouraged in preaching the gospel. This divine choice of some sinners unto salvation is said to be "*the election of grace*" (Romans 11:5) and it is recorded that this divine selection took place "*before the foundation of the world*" (Ephesians 1:4). God will save "*the vessels of mercy, which He has afore prepared unto glory*" (Romans 9:23) from their sins. He will bring them all to trust His Son. The Lord Jesus said of those that the Father gave Him in electing grace, "*they shall all be taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me*" (John 6:45). The Psalmist proclaimed, "*Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power*" (Psalm 110:3). Election is not a discouraging truth and it does not stifle evangelism; it encourages us in our labors for we are assured of the certain success of the gospel. The Lord said of His Word, "*it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it*" (Isaiah 55:11). The Lord is bringing chosen sinners to trust the dear Savior. Nothing can prevent the success of His purpose of grace. The Surety of the covenant declared, "*I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matthew 16:18). O how wonderful is the glorious truth of God's election of some sinners unto salvation. Trace the very origin of our salvation to this glorious decree of our infinite Lord. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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As our Lord Jesus Christ did not die as a private person, but as the Representative and Substitute of His people, neither did He arise as a private person. He conquered death as the Head and Surety of His church. "*But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*" (Ephesians 2:4-6). —Pastor Jim Byrd

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The resurrection of Christ is the grand and glorious evidence of the success of His death to satisfy divine justice that demanded death for sin. Here is undeniable proof that our magnificent Redeemer reconciled His people to God by His substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. —Pastor Jim Byrd