

May 6, 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 BROTHER JAMES MWALE

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MAY GOD BE GLORIFIED (Eph 1:3-14)

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

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

Bless God the Father of our Lord,
To Him all blessings trace;
He chose us in His precious Son,
To save us by His grace.
Predestinated in His love,
To be a holy seed;
We were adopted to be sons,
This God Himself decreed.

In Christ God chose to save our souls,
Through Him all blessings flow;
He came into this world of shame,
Because God loved us so.
We have forgiveness through His blood,
Redemption's price He paid;
For by His death on Calvary,
Atonement Jesus made.

God sent His Spirit to our hearts,
To seal us by His grace;
He is the Earnest giv'n to all,
The chosen, ransomed race.
So sing the praises of our God,
The praise of Christ who died;
And praise the Spirit for His work;
May God be glorified!

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

May 6 Miriam Poole
Alden Pennington
8 Alane Cox
Theresa Pennington

May 10 Caitie Pennington
12 David Absher
Scott Davis

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I am very grateful to everyone who contributed toward making last Sunday's lunch so wonderful. The food was delicious and the fellowship was delightful. "How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

Brother James Mwale, pastor of the Free Gospel Grace Church in Malawi, Africa will be speaking for us Wednesday night. He will return to Malawi Thursday.

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WORDS TO THE ELDERLY

"O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared Thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed Thy strength unto this generation, and Thy power to everyone that is to come" (Psalm 71:17-18). David had been instructed in the truth by the Lord when he was a young man. Certainly God uses preachers and teachers to set before us eternal issues, but only He can give heart-instruction. If He is pleased to teach us the gospel, it is for certain that we will learn for He educates with power and authority. Christ said, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:45). The Lord teaches us of His holiness, justice and graciousness. He gives knowledge about our sinfulness, spiritual poverty and neediness. He instructs and grants knowledge of Christ the only Mediator and reveals the necessity of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God who is the Savior of sinners. It was the awareness that his education in divine truth had come from God that compelled David to proclaim to others that which he had learned in the school of the gospel.

"Now also when I am old." I wonder if some of the older saints aren't thinking to yourselves that David's words read like your own biography. God taught you the gospel when you were young and along the way your joy has been, as with David, to declare that your salvation is solely due to the "wondrous works" of the Lord. "My mouth shall shew forth Thy righteousness and Thy salvation all the day" (v. 15). Now that you are getting older, like the Psalmist, you recognize that you are totally dependent upon the Lord as you were when you were younger. You still rely upon Him for all things and so you echo David's words: "O God, forsake me not." "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth" (v. 9). Thankfully, it is ever true, "He who hath begun a good work in you will perform (finish, accomplish, perfect and complete) it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:6).

Note the reason David asked to be kept and not forsaken; it was that he might manifest the strength and power of God to others who were also aged, "this generation," as well as "to everyone that is to come." Let older saints declare to others who are also elderly and tell to the younger generation the wonders of Christ and His great salvation. David would manifest through his words, actions and attitudes the infinite capability of the God of grace to preserve him even when old age began to erode his physical strength. Let mature believers show by example to their peers, their children, grandchildren, and the younger brethren and sisters that this grace about which we have spoken for so many years is indeed sufficient to the preserving and supplying of every need.

Are you elderly? Do you sometimes wonder, "why has God left me here?" One reason you remain is to be a testimony of God's faithfulness to sustain His people. In addition, He leaves you to be a blessing and encouragement to family and friends and to teach them that the Christ you've trusted and spoken about is able to carry helpless sinners safely through life and keep them "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb 12:2). "Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: and even to your old age I am He: and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Is 46:4).

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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'Twas Thine, O Lord, to train and try
My spirit from my youth;
And to this hour I glorify
The wonders of Thy truth.