

November 11, 2018

TODAY: Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Messages by PASTOR NORM WELLS
AND PASTOR GARY SHEPARD
Evening Worship - NO EVENING SERVICE
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 ELDER RON TRABANDT

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BE JOYFUL CHILDREN OF THE LORD

Tune: "There is a Fountain," (CM/double)
Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

*How gracious is our sovereign Lord,
Compassionate and kind;
And all who trust His promises,
Will comfort in Him find.
In love He purposed and bestowed
Upon a chosen race;
The honor to be sons of God,
According to His grace.
In time the Father sent His Son,
Our ransom price to pay;
And by His bloody sacrifice,
Christ washed our sins away.
He reconciled us unto God,
And brought in righteousness;
We are redeemed, set free, forgiv'n,
His beauty we possess.
Our Savior ever lives above,
For us to intercede;
Those wounds received on Calvary,
For us shall ever plead.
Be joyful children of our God,
The Lord shall soon appear;
Then sin and sorrow will be past,
And gone will be each tear.*

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Nov. 13 Jill Turner
14 Kim Bonnette
Erin Robinette

Nov. 14 Bill Pemberton
15 Susan Stapleton
Ellie Edwards

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I am so thankful for the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord to bless His preachers Friday and Saturday and to also bless all of us who have been privileged to hear the messages. We look forward to listening to the proclamation of the gospel again today. After the final service this morning, we will have lunch and enjoy fellowship together. Please note that there will be no services tonight.

Nancy and I are leaving early Wednesday morning for Honolulu where we'll be visiting with and I'll be preaching to the Lord's people on Oahu for the next two weeks. Pray that God will bless His Word and use us to be an encouragement to His dear people over there. You are sure to be well fed spiritually as Pastor Bill Parker and Elder Ron Trabandt will be preaching in my absence.

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THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Many people, when they hear or read of the sufferings and death of Christ, have feelings of sympathy stirred deep within them, but the Savior did not die to cause people to feel sorry for Him. As He made His way to Golgotha, some women followed Him "which also bewailed and lamented Him" (Luke 23:27). He said to them, "Weep not for Me" (verse 28). He did not then, nor does He now need or want the pity or tears of anyone. Everything that happened to Him was according to His eternal purpose. His death was not His defeat, but the defeat of His enemies; it was the time of His greatest triumph. His death was the fatal blow to Satan, the removal of our sins, the satisfaction of divine justice and the bringing in of everlasting righteousness. It was the salvation of His people. He died so God could be a just God and a Savior. All for whom His blood was shed had their sins put away, and they will find out about it at the time divinely appointed. Through the preaching of the gospel, the Holy Spirit will quicken them and bring them to rejoice in WHAT has already been done for them and to believe Him WHO did it. It was through the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ that God can pardon sin without compromising His law that demanded death for sin. When we are brought to learn that through the sufferings, death and resurrection of Christ God can be just and justify the ungodly, we will not feel pity for Jesus, but will worship Him and rejoice in Him and His victorious labor of salvation. He suffered, bled, died, arose, ascended and took His rightful place at the right hand of God. "God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).
—Pastor Jim Byrd

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GOD AND GRACE UNCHANGEABLE

It is important for us to remember that God never changes! "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6). Though He speaks of His people as they are in Adam by nature, that does not change His relationship toward them in Christ by His grace. Also, what they show themselves to be toward Him does not change how He always is toward them. An example of this is shown in reconciliation. God does not need to be reconciled to His people; He hasn't changed or done anything to them that requires it. But they have sinned, rebelled against Him and they must be reconciled to Him. Thus, God was in Christ reconciling them unto Himself. Though they act as enemies against Him, they are always His friends. Paul writes, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). We were enemies. We needed to be reconciled to God. But how were we so? "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled" (Colossians 1:21). We were enemies in our minds and demonstrated that enmity by relying upon our own works (all of which are "wicked works") rather than Christ and His work! But though this is the case, from Christ's side, He lays down His life for "His friends." Christ's sheep were always and are presently sheep, even if they be yet in their experience "lost sheep." As the "everlasting Father," they were always His children and not the children of the devil. What they became in Adam did not alter what they are in Christ! Grace preceded all that they became and made them one with Christ and thus saving them by His cross death with an eternal salvation before they fell in Adam. They were safe in Christ through His blood, the blood of the everlasting covenant! God never changes His relationship or His affections toward them since He always viewed them in their Covenant Head who is the same yesterday, today and forever! None become His people because He died for them or because they believe on Him. He died for them and gives them faith to believe on Him because of what God in grace made them in Him before the world began!
—Pastor Gary Shepard

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"The LORD liveth: and blessed be my Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted" (Psalm 18:46).