

December 23, 2018

TODAY: 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: NO MID-WEEK SERVICE

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SING PRAISES TO THE SON OF GOD

Tune: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," (CM)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

*More precious is the name of Christ,
Than ev'ry name beside;
Sing praises to the Son of God,
His name be glorified,
His name be glorified.*

*Who else could save poor sinful souls,
From everlasting shame?
To cleanse us from our sinfulness,
The precious Savior came,
The precious Savior came.*

*Behold a wondrous mystery,
The Lord in human clay;
Came forth to seek and save the lost,
His sheep who went astray,
His sheep who went astray.*

*Christ died a sacrificial death,
The law He magnified;
His blood a full atonement made,
And God is satisfied,
And God is satisfied.*

*Christ conquered death and ever reigns,
His holy name we bless;
Forevermore His name shall be,
The Lord our righteousness,
The Lord our righteousness.*

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I hope you and your families have a delightful holiday season.
Merry Christmas to all!

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

*Dec. 24 Sam Robinette
27 Paul Kuehne*

*Dec. 27 Cheryl Wiseman
28 Matthew McLeod*

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Our sincerest sympathies are extended to Alissa, Aiden and Neil, Bill, Debbie and Nathan, Phyllis Payne and the entire Parker family upon the recent death of our dear brother, Aaron Parker. Visitation will be here at the church, Wednesday night from 6-8 p.m. The funeral is Thursday at 1 p.m. with an hour visitation prior to the service.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sheila Terry and family upon the recent death of Sheila's mother, Rebecca Hardeman.

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Next Sunday we will partake of the Lord's Supper after the morning message and then have lunch together. This will be the last church meal for the year and I can think of no better way to close out the old year than to fellowship with our spiritual family. Sign-up sheets for food are on the front table. There will be no evening service next Sunday.

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The issue today is the same as it was when Peter proclaimed, in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, the death, resurrection and enthronement of Christ. *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ"* (Acts 2:36). *"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living"* (Romans 14:9). He won the right to wear the crown as universal Sovereign by virtue of finishing the work of redemption the Father assigned Him in the covenant of grace. The successful Savior abolished all enemies by His sacrificial death and God made Him Lord! It is one of the most arrogant and absurd things ever proclaimed from pulpits that men ought to make Jesus or let Jesus be Lord of their lives. You could sooner stop the sun from shining as to prevent Jesus from being Lord. The idea that a sinner could allow or make Jesus to be Lord is ludicrous! Does the Master await the permission of a slave to rule over him? Does the Potter need authorization of the clay before fashioning it according to His purpose? Jesus Christ is every man's Lord and our everlasting destiny rests in the hands of this Sovereign. *"O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"*

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

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EMMANUEL

Let all who trust the Savior for salvation continually bear in mind that our everlasting safety is secure because the One who undertook the great work of saving sinners by His substitutionary death upon the cross of Calvary is the great Emmanuel which means, *"God with us"* (Matthew 1:23). Jesus of Nazareth is *"God, manifest in the flesh"* (1 Timothy 3:16). The very name of God suggests unlimited power and irresistible authority. Hidden beneath the garment of flesh and yet forevermore joined to that flesh, is the everlasting God. Isaiah wrote of Him seven hundred and fifty years before He came and said that one of Messiah's names would be *"the mighty God"* (Isaiah 9:6). Do you not see evidences of omnipotence in His sufferings, death and resurrection which availed to the restoration of sinners to God? Our acceptance before the Lord of glory is based upon the infinite dignity and worth of Christ, the Son of God!

Here is the sure foundation upon which we stand immovable for all eternity. The One who came to *"save His people from their sins"* is no less than God Himself! His blood is of infinite worth to pay the sin-debt of His people. The righteousness established by His obedience to death stands as the righteousness freely imputed to the saints with which God Himself is well pleased! As man He lived in compliance with the statutes of men and God then He suffered, bled and died that God might be *"a just God and a Savior"* (Isaiah 45:21). As Man He took on Himself *"the seed of Abraham."* As Man He stooped lower than the angels for the suffering of death. As Man He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. As Man He undertook for men to bring us back to the Father. As God He was equal with the Father; as God He answered every requirement to justify His people. As God He was mighty to save. As the God-Man He stands as the everlasting Guardian of His people!

How absolutely precious is this truth that Jesus the Savior was and still is, *"God with us."* Lift up your eyes of faith, weary pilgrim. Do you see that One seated at the Father's right hand? He makes intercession for you. Do you perceive the scepter of righteousness He holds in His hand? He rules the world and all things in it to fulfill the purpose of the Godhead; He causes all things to work together for the good of His people. Do you need an almighty Savior to save, to keep, to protect you from all evil and to take you into the holy courts of heaven itself? Your Savior is God and He is the way to God (John 14:6) and He forever remains *"EMMANUEL...GOD WITH US"* and, as Paul wrote, *"He is able to keep that which has been committed to Him against that day"* (2 Timothy 1:12).

—Pastor Jim Byrd