

December 30, 2018

TODAY: Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.  
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD  
Evening Worship - NO EVENING SERVICE  
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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**THE PASSING YEAR**

*Tune: "O for a Thousand Tongues," (CM)*

*Words by Pastor Jim Byrd*

*How swiftly life upon this earth,  
Advances to its end;*

*For from the moment of our birth,  
The years we quickly spend.*

*Another year of life's short day,  
Is fading very fast;*

*And soon will start another year,  
Will this one be our last?*

*How many days before us lie,  
It is not ours to say;*

*But this we know, we all must die  
On some appointed day.*

*May each of us true faith possess,  
In Jesus let us rest;*

*And trust His blood and righteousness,  
And be forever blessed.*

*Perhaps this year my life will cease,  
And I the Lord shall see;*

*I ask for grace to die in peace,  
Then with Him I will be.*

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**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

December 31 Barbara Horan

January 2 Don McClean

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Nancy and I are very grateful for the many gifts, cards and words of love and appreciation we have received. Thank you all so much!

This morning we will partake of the Lord's Supper at the close of our time of worship. I hope you will all stay to have lunch and enjoy delightful fellowship with the people of the Lord. There will be no evening service tonight.

The numbered offering envelopes for 2019 are available in the vestibule and the church office.

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The Lord's Supper is an ordinance given by our Lord that we might "shew (declare, speak of, report and proclaim) the Lord's death till He comes." This is a time of remembrance. Remember Who died: the Son of God, the son of Man. Remember why He died: that God might be just and justify the ungodly. Remember for whom He died: "Christ died for the ungodly." Remember also that this ordinance is only for those who love and believe the Savior. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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**"WE WILL BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN THEE"**

Song of Solomon 1:4

Let our Januarys open with rejoicing in the Lord and our Decembers close with gladness in Him! "We will be glad and rejoice" - - two words with one meaning. "We will rejoice and be glad in THEE!" The last word is the soul of the text - - loved in THEE, chosen in THEE, accepted in THEE. What blessings are laid up in Christ! All spiritual blessings and every drop of fulness are in HIM. Thou art our portion; O Lord, favor us this next year with such a sense of Thy preciousness that from the first to the last day of the year, "we shall be glad and rejoice in THEE."

—C. H. Spurgeon

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"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).

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**A PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE**

The Lord had promised Moses, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest" (Exodus 33:14). What reassuring words, how comforting to the heart of His servant Moses. The Lord was saying, "My face, that is, I myself in the Angel of my presence, will abide with you (Isaiah 63:9). It is written in Exodus 13:21, "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night." And yet, the servant of God, to show the high esteem he had for the Lord to be with him, followed the divine pledge with these words: "If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence" (verse 15). The Lord had spoken to the Israelites of the land of promise, a wonderful place that awaited them. He swore to lead them to "a good land and large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8). Notwithstanding the glories of Canaan however, Moses realized the emptiness of that land without the presence of Jehovah. How worthless and insignificant everything would be without the Lord. Moses would rather continue to face the hardships of the wilderness, living in tents, eating manna every morning and drinking water from a rock and have the Lord with him, than go to a land filled with the greatest treasures on earth and yet be without the divine presence.

Is this not a good prayer to pray whenever we enter into a new and different circumstance or situation in life? When I felt the tremendous burden to pastor this church more than four years ago, these words formed the essence of my prayer. "If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." In fact, here is a wonderful prayer to pray at the beginning of each day. Who among us would not desire the presence of the Lord, day by day, as we make our pilgrimage through this world? "If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." And especially, aren't these wonderful words to pray with the new year just a couple of days away? Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, without divine grace and strength, without the guidance and providence of the Lord, who would want to take even one step into another year? We have no idea what the year holds in store for us, but surely we will agree on this: we do not want to begin the new year without the presence of the Lord our God. Hear His promise child of God: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

—Pastor Jim Byrd