

August 11, 2019

TODAY: Morning Worship – 10:15 a.m.
Evening Worship – 6:30 p.m.
Messages by MISSIONARY LANCE HELLAR
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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WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE

Tune: "From Every Stormy Wind" LM Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

Ye saints look up with cheerful eye,
Behold your King who reigns on high;
See Jesus ruling from His throne,
The Advocate for all His own.

Be never filled with dark despair,
On Jesus cast your ev'ry care;
For He is full of love and grace,
His blood redeemed His chosen race.

This is the One who for us died,
Whose prayers will never be denied;
'Tis Christ with sympathizing love,
Who represents us high above.

So come dear brother, sister too,
In Christ find mercy just for you;
O rest in Him and be at peace,
His love for you will never cease.

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"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

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Nancy and I are so grateful for the reception last Sunday night for our 50th wedding anniversary. It was a very special time – THANK YOU!

Today we welcome Lance and Robin Hellar to our church; they are missionaries to Papua, New Guinea. Brother Lance will be speaking in all of our services today.

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CONFESSING CHRIST

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father, which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32). Are men correct in thinking that because they made a profession of faith some years back, were baptized, joined a local church and adopted a sound system of theology, they are confessing Christ before men? We are going to find out someday, to our eternal woe, that confessing Christ before men involves a great deal more than an isolated decision. Confessing Christ before men is a constant identification with Christ in a world that does not know or

love Christ. To be identified with Christ is to be so closely associated with Him that His interests are your interests; His friends are your friends; His enemies are your enemies; His glory is your glory; His will is your will; and His Word is your rule of life. *“Where I am, there ye may be also”* (John 14:3). Where is Christ? Those confessing Him and identified with Him will be there also! We are crucified with Christ, buried with Him in baptism, walking with Him in the light of the Scripture, righteousness and truth, at His feet in humility, assembled with His people in worship and praise, bearing His reproach, forgiving as He forgave, loving as He loved, and waiting for His return. In other words, confessing Christ before men is to be so closely associated with Christ that one is called in truth by others — A Christian!

-Henry Mahan

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All that I was, my sin, my guilt, my death, was all mine own;
All that I am, I owe to Thee, my gracious God alone.
The evil of my former state, was mine and only mine;
The good in which I now rejoice is Thine and only Thine.
The darkness of my former state, the bondage, all was mine;
The light of life in which I walk, the liberty is Thine.
All that I am, e'en here on earth, all that I hope to be;
When Jesus comes and glory dawns, I owe it, Lord, to Thee!

--Horatius Bonar

THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

The Lord Jesus boarded a ship in which His disciples had been fishing and instructed them to sail into deeper waters and then cast out their fishing net. Peter felt obliged to tell the Lord that they had fished all night and had nothing to show for their labors, except a sleepless night. He then spoke these words, *“Nevertheless, at Thy word I will let down the net”* (Luke 5:5). This is true faith. There was no tangible evidence to rely upon; it wasn't that the disciples saw other fishermen catching fish in the area to which the Lord directed them and so they pulled up anchor and moved to that site. No, there was nothing obvious to depend upon, nothing visible to cause them to think they would catch an abundance of fish. Merely relying upon the word of the Master, they ventured into deeper waters, the net was cast out and a tremendous catch resulted. Learn this about genuine, God-given faith, it hangs upon nothing but the bare Word of God. It needs and relies upon no outward evidence, it just believes God. Is this what men call “blind faith?” Certainly not! Faith is not blind, but sees the omnipotent Savior and believes His word of promise! Faith relies upon the Lord to do as He has promised; it is for us to trust and obey.

Here is a valuable lesson for all who proclaim the gospel of the grace of God to sinners through Christ Jesus. Sometimes, due to seeing few or no conversions, we might become so discouraged that we are compelled to ask, as did the prophet, *“LORD, who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed”* (Isaiah 53:1)? In the text, the disciples had caught nothing so they ceased to fish and were *“washing their nets”* (v. 2). When confronted with such disappointments, we might even be tempted to stop casting out the gospel net! Let us always be burdened and prayerful about conversions, but not doubtful of the Lord's power and ability to save the lost. It is for us to be faithful and continue to declare this glorious gospel of Christ even when we see no visible results. May we believe the promise of God that His Word (written and Incarnate Word) will be successful *“in the thing whereto He sends it”* (Isaiah 55:11). Trust the Lord to do His work in His time.

--Pastor Jim Byrd