

**NOVEMBER 3, 2019**

TODAY: Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.

Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Messages by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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(webcasting live during listed service times)

WEDNESDAY: No Service

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"The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.  
But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise  
the LORD" (Psalm 115:17-18).

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ALL THINGS TOGETHER WORK FOR GOOD

Tune: "Majestic Sweetness" CM Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

O may each child of God rejoice,  
As we our lives survey;  
For God ordained our earthly path,  
He wisely chose our way,  
He wisely chose our way.

No need to worry or to fear,  
For all He does is wise;  
Our God is good in what He gives,  
And good when He denies,  
And good when He denies.

The Lord is full of tenderness,  
Compassionate and kind;  
So joyfully submit to Him,  
Unto His will resigned,  
Unto His will resigned.

All things together work for good,  
This is His promise still;  
Rejoice, give thanks for everything,  
Contented with His will,  
Contented with His will.

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Since our annual Bible Conference begins Friday night, there will be no midweek service this week. Conference schedule:

Friday night: 7 pm - Norm Wells, 8 pm - Tim James - light meal served.

Saturday Morning: 10 am - Gary Shepard, 11 am - Norm Wells.

Saturday night: 6 pm - Norm Wells, 7 pm - Gary Shepard.

Sunday morning: 10 am - Tim James, 11 am - Gary Shepard, lunch served.

No services next Sunday night. Sign-up sheets for food are on the front table.

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### CHRIST'S GREAT WORK

"I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). What was His work? The work which the Father gave Him to do; the work covenanted from before the world began; the work that shall crown Him with glory and honor for ever and ever; the work of fulfilling, of magnifying, and of honoring the holy law of God; the work of satisfying and of sheathing the sword of inflexible justice in His own heart; the work of vanquishing the powers of darkness, bruising the old serpent's head, spoiling principalities and powers, taking away the sting of death, and removing the curse forever from all the election of grace. That is the work of God; that is the work of Christ, and it is freely given to the believer.

--Joseph Irons, 1848

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All our works before repentance are dead works and these works have no true beauty in them, no matter the gloss that may appear to a natural eye. A dead body may have something of the features and beauty of a living body, but it is but the beauty of a carcass, not of a man. Since man, therefore, is spiritually dead, he cannot perform a living service. As a natural death does incapacitate for natural actions, so a spiritual death must incapacitate for spiritual actions.

--Stephen Charnock

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If you believe what you like in the gospel, and reject what you do not like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.

--Augustine

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## LOVE OR DOCTRINE?

A church sign downtown reads, "Love can unite us in ways doctrine never will." It is ever the way of man to have little or no regard for the doctrine of God. Doctrine, however, is vital and good; the word simply means teaching or instruction. Are we to forsake the teaching, the instruction of the Bible for the sake of unity and love? Love and unity are wonderful things, but do they outweigh the importance of "the Word of the Lord which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:25)? How can there be any unity unless there is solid footing upon which to unite? The only firm foundation that exists is the Word, that is, the doctrine of God. Must we cast aside the Book of God and just love one another? Surely you will agree that the salvation of the soul is vital; well then, consider that there can be no salvation for anyone who does not have a high regard and submissive belief of the doctrine of the Lord. "But God be thanked...ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you" (Romans 6:17). Jehovah said, "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass" (Deuteronomy 32:2). Are we then to ignore God's speech and relinquish that life-giving, life-supporting spiritual shower of the truth of God in favor of unity? In 1 Timothy 6:1, Paul considered ridicule of the doctrine of God to be as vile as blaspheming the name of God. "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed." The statement on the sign leads the reader to conclude that doctrinal differences should be set aside in the interest of love and unity, but the Word of God asks in Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" How can there be any walking together in spiritual communion and unity unless there is an agreement, a mutual love and respect for the doctrine which is of God? Are the teachings of the Lord Jesus to be deserted for the sake of getting along with all religious beliefs? Must we forsake the very truth of God in order to be united with those who deny His truth? Paul warned that the time would come when men would not "endure (put up with) sound (wholesome, free from error) doctrine (instruction)" (2 Timothy 4:3). There cannot possibly be any genuine fellowship between those who belittle doctrine and those who love the doctrine of God (2 Co 6:14-16). And what is the doctrine of God? It is the truth which pertains to the glory of God, the sinfulness of man and the only Savior of sinners, the Lord Jesus Christ. True doctrine is the teaching of salvation by grace alone, through the redemptive work of Christ alone, revealed by the Holy Spirit alone and received by God-given faith alone. Whenever I hear or read of someone who disparages doctrine, the words of 2 John 9-10 come to mind. "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed." True faith receives the Word of God because it is, in fact "the doctrine of God our Saviour" (Titus 2:10); remember the words of the Psalmist: "Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy name" (Psalm 138:2).

--Pastor Jim Byrd

