

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

TODAY: Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Messages by PASTOR TIM JAMES &
PASTOR GARY SHEPARD

No Evening Service

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WEDNESDAY: Mid-week Service - 7:00 p.m.

Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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Immediately following our services this morning, we will enjoy a meal together.

Greg McKee passed away October 30th. We extend our sincere sympathy to his mother, Mary McKee, his sisters Cheryl Wells and Susan Malone and everyone in his family.

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THE GATHERING OF THE SAINTS

Tune: "DOXOLOGY" LM Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

The times upon this earth most sweet,
Are those when saints together meet;
To hear the gospel of free grace,
And to the Lord all blessings trace.

O let us sing with one accord,
And glorify our sovereign Lord;
Exalt and magnify His Name;
His worthy praises now proclaim.

Lord bless Thy servants, we beseech,
As they to us Christ Jesus preach;
We love to hear the gospel Word,
The sweetest story ever heard.

May Christ the Lord be magnified,
Who for our sins was crucified;
He is the Lord our Righteousness,
Who saved us from our sinfulness.

Lord as we listen to Thy Word,
O may our stubborn hearts be stirred;
Show us that we are sinful dust,
And grant that we on Christ may trust.

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THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE

"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6). A poet wrote "Grace! 'tis a charming sound, harmonious to the ear." To everyone who has tasted the bitterness of their own sin and has come to know and feel their own depravity, grace is indeed a charming sound. However, it is not so with everyone. There are those to whom the word and the doctrine are bitter to their taste and unpleasant to their ears. Grace is such a singular and absolute principle that it will countenance no rival and will stand for no mixture with it. It resides alone as the means by which God saves sinners. No words can do grace justice! No song can encompass its true melody. No sermon or theological treatise can expound the depths or heights of its glory. Every redeemed person rests in it and is motivated to work by it. It is the source of comfort and conviction, of joy and tears, of desire and fulfillment, of meekness and boldness and those who have experienced the wonder of it are forever enamored by it. Those who have experienced the beauty and the power of it find their mind and heart consumed by it. It is mystery and revelation. Their language is salted with it. Their relationships are monitored and measured by it. Their very soul is permeated with it. They are possessed with a kind of "tunnel vision" that to the world, seems to border on fanaticism. Their conversation is so singularly taken with grace that religion often refers to them as "gracers" or "sovereign gracers" and usually in an effort to disallow them, to mock them. But the recipient of grace cannot help himself. He gladly takes up the banner and wears the disdain of the world as a badge of honor. God's grace is part and parcel of His glory (Exodus 33:19). --Pastor Tim James

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THE APOSTLES PREACHED CHRIST FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35). Remember the account of the rich man and Lazarus? Lazarus was a poor beggar, but he was known by Christ. The rich man was a rich man that could care less about spiritual things. He was interested in gaining the whole world. Both met their appointed end; both died. In hell, the rich man lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham

afar off. The rich man asked Abraham, if he would please go back to his five brothers and tell them about this place. Do you remember what Abraham said to him? He said, "If they will not believe Moses, and the prophets, they will not believe one who rose from the dead." Now that is serious, because that is all they had at the time. The salvation of Lazarus depended on hearing the gospel preached from the Old Testament. The salvation of

Nathaniel, Peter, David, and Solomon depended on them hearing the gospel preached from the Old Testament. The Lord Jesus preached the gospel from the Old Testament, as did Peter, James, and John, for that is all they had at the time. --Pastor Norm Wells

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"In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

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A Scottish preacher of the last century, Robert Murray McCheyne, said to his people, "I do not know, but I think that the ministry is not esteemed much among you as it ought to be; I may be wrong, but I think it. You are like the horses that have so much hay that they pull it down among their feet and trample on it." Christ described this ministry of the gospel in His words to Peter. He said, "Feed my sheep." The gospel preacher is to feed God's sheep with the water of the Word, the sincere milk of the word and the green pastures of the Word. Christ said, "I am the bread."

The evidence of all life is the necessity of sustaining it by feeding. If something is alive, it feeds; and if it is to stay alive, it feeds. I fear, as did McCheyne, that many have little regard for the ministry of God's Word. My fear is born out of what I see in those who profess to have life in Christ. At least two times weekly the table is spread for all who have an appetite for spiritual things, the things of Christ. How few there are who avail themselves of these opportunities.

Have we had the gospel so long, in such plenty and abundance, that like the horses who have so much hay that we trample it beneath the feet? Do we assume that it will be there when we want to hear it? Do we think it will go on if we do not support it? Do we have no hunger for the truth of God? That is what I fear the most. The lack of desire, the lack of need which reveals the lack of life! Our God says, "Come and dine!" "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (Isaiah 55:1-2).

It is the Lord who gives a gospel ministry and it is the Lord that can take away. Like McCheyne I say, "Ah brethren, though I feel that I have been unfaithful, far more than I can bear, yet you have been so too. Scotland has abused the ministry of the gospel for a long time; many come to hear, and go away displeased; many come to hear and criticize. Ah! think if God take away your candlestick, it will be righteously done." Do not lightly esteem the gospel ministry! --Pastor Gary Shepard

