

NOVEMBER 17, 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: Mid-week Service --7:00 p.m.

Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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"And He said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15).

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EXALT THE KING

Tune: "O God Our Help" CM Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

Let ev'ry kindred, tribe and tongue,
Proclaim Jehovah's praise;
For our Creator is the Lord,
The God of ancient days.

By Him were fashioned heav'n and earth,
So wondrously arrayed;
He spoke the word and it was done,
Without Him naught was made;

Behold God's wondrous providence,
He works His sovereign will;
He governs all the universe,
His purpose to fulfill.

Yet greater far His work of grace,
Where love was manifest;
That by the death of His dear Son,
He saved the sinfulest.

Let those who trust the Son of God,
Rejoice, be glad and sing;
In Christ our souls are justified,
Exalt and praise the King.

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The Lord blessed us with a marvelous Bible Conference. All the glory must go to our gracious God who gifted the preachers with excellent sermons; the congregational and special music was wonderful and the fellowship with other believers was delightful. We had people from at least fourteen states in attendance. Thanks to all who helped make this a great conference.

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GOD REIGNS

"The Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Revelation 19:6). His government is exercised over inanimate matter, over the brute beasts, over the children of men, over angels good and evil, and over Satan himself. No revolving world, no shining of star, no storm, no creature moves, no actions of men, no errands of angels, no deeds of Devil-nothing in all the vast universe can come to pass otherwise than God has eternally purposed. Here is a foundation for faith. Here is a resting place for the intellect. Here is an anchor for the soul, both sure and steadfast. It is not blind fate, unbridled evil, man or Devil, but the Lord Almighty who is ruling the world, ruling it according to His own good pleasure and for His own eternal glory.

--A. W. Pink

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THE BOOK OF GOD'S DECREES

Let the whole race of creatures lie abased before their God;
Whate'er His sovereign voice has formed He governs with a nod.
Ten thousand ages ere the skies were into motion brought;
All the long years and worlds to come stood present to His thought:
There's not a sparrow nor a worm, but's found in His decrees,
He raises monarchs to their thrones and sinks as He may please.
If light attends the course I run 'tis He provides the rays;
And 'tis His hand that hides the sun if darkness clouds my days.
Yet I would not be much concerned nor vainly long to see,
The volume of His deep decrees what months are writ for me.
When He reveals the book of life, O may I read my name,
Amongst the chosen of His love, the followers of the Lamb."

--Isaac Watts

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THE GOD-SENT MAN

"There was a man sent from God whose name was John" (John 1:6). John the Baptist was not a seminary-trained preacher; he had no formal education. He was not instructed in the schools of higher learning which were sanctioned by the religious hierarchy of his day. He did not seek after nor did he have the backing of the ecclesiastical authorities. He did not minister in a synagogue and he was not invited to preach within the temple walls of Jerusalem. If you wanted to hear God's man proclaim God's message, you had to go out to the wilderness to listen to him. He refused to be identified with the leadership of Judaism and the first time some of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to hear him preach and see him baptize, he used that opportunity to denounce those men who were filled with self-righteousness and taught salvation by works as being "a generation of vipers" (Matthew 3:7). His message was, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Had you lived in his day and desired to hear from God, he was the man you went to hear for he "was a man sent from God."

Here we are today, more than two thousand years later. Have things changed with regard to those men God sends forth with His message and the established religious world? No, not really. The Lord's servants still do not need nor seek after the approval of organized religion. They refuse to be identified with the highly regarded religions of our day which are anti-grace, anti-God and anti-Christ. Ecclesiastical leaders still despise the gospel of free grace. This world remains a dry and barren place, full of spiritual error. In the religious realm, it remains true, "That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination (foul and detestable) in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15). God's servants maintain their refusal to be identified with those who hate the message of free and sovereign grace, no matter how powerful or influential those enemies may be.

Thank God there are a few "John the Baptists" who are sent of God with God's message. They do not seek or want the approval, the education or the validation of either secular leaders or religious leaders. They are content to be taught of the Spirit and simply preach the gospel of Christ and Him crucified wherever God puts them. Declaring the truth in love with plainness of speech, from their hearts to the hearts of their hearers, they are out to impress no one, seeking only the glory of God and the welfare of their hearers. Like John, they are voices "crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight" (Luke 3:4). Their desire concerning Christ is, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30), and their message is, "Behold the Lamb of God." --Pastor Jim Byrd