October 28, 2018

Sundays 9:00 am                                                                            WKYT     Channel 27-2

***It is requested that all children under the age of five stay in our nursery***

***so there will be no distractions during the preaching of the Gospel***

HYMN OF THE DAY

Begin my tongue, some heavn’ly theme

And speak some boundless thing

The mighty works and mightier Name

Of our eternal King.

Tell of His wondrous faithfulness

And sound His Name abroad

Sing the sweet promise of His grace

And our redeeming Lord.

Proclaim salvation from the Lord

For sinful, dying men

His hand has writ the Holy Word

With an immortal pen.

Oh might I hear Thy heavn’ly tongue

But whisper, “Thou art mine!”

Those precious words would raise my song

To notes almost divine!

(Tune: “According to Thy Gracious Word” p.192)

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The Central Grace Church in Rocky Mount, Virginia will have a Bible Conference November 9-11. David Eddmenson will be preaching.

Birthdays

28th– Drew Charron       28th– Emma Steeves      30th– Tucker Greenleaf

1st– Charles McGuire      3rd– Conner Dickerson   3rd– Jeff Sullivan

*“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”                        – Proverbs 6:16-19*

DULL OF HEARING

*“Ye are dull of hearing”  - Hebrews 5:11*

Without doubt we can struggle through hearing a message because it was poorly prepared or even unsound! We get nothing from it and think, “Is the fault mine?”  But if the Gospel is preached and it is not speaking to me, either my heart is not there, I am hearing as a judge and critic, or I am not hearing as a sinner. And it could be we are being chastened by the Lord. How important is hearing? *“Faith cometh by hearing.”*Not only did the Lord say, *“Take heed what ye hear,”*He also said, *“Take heed how ye hear.”*If my heart is not there, if I am hearing in a critical way or not hearing as a sinner, Lord, give me those ears of which our Lord said, *“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”*

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DO YOU NEED THE GOSPEL?

Years ago I heard that Martin Luther was once approached by one of the church members and asked, “Why do you preach the Gospel to us every week?”  Luther replied, “Because, every week you come here looking like you need it!”  I might add my own twist by saying that I preach the Gospel every week because I ALSO need it. I need it a much as anyone to whom I preach.  I am not a fountain of the Gospel; I am only a pipe through which God is sometimes pleased to send His Gospel.  Apart from His provision of Gospel Truth and Spirit, I am empty and useless, or as the Psalmist put it, *“Poor and needy.”*

One reason we do not make church attendance a rule here is that we are convinced that God’s people NEED the Gospel and will come to hear it preached when they can. The danger is not so much in not attending the worship gatherings of the church; it is in discovering that one has no interest in attending them and must be forced to attend by threats or promises.

Do you need God’s Gospel? Then be where it is preached at every opportunity.                                              *- Joe Terrell*

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When God intends to fill a soul, He first makes it empty.  When He intends to enrich a soul, He first makes it poor.  When He intends to exalt a soul, He first makes it sensible to its own miseries, wants, and nothingness.                                                                       *- John Flavel*

I liked the remark of a good brother from this platform the other day, when he said that Gospel ministers were fishers, and that we were to fish with nets. It was all a mistake that we were to catch people with a bait; that was angling, and there was nothing about angling in Christ’s commission.  We are to fish with nets. Now, what is a net for?  The net is to shut the fish up; it goes under them, around them, everywhere, and shuts them up so that they cannot get out.  That is exactly what God does with poor sinners whom He means to save. He shuts them right up. He puts the net round them, and they cannot get out.  Only when the net quite encloses his fish can the Gospel fisherman get them out of the sea of sin, and lift them into the boat where Jesus sits.  We must get the net right round them – shut them up by the law that they may be brought to Christ. Every avenue of escape is closed against you forever, sinner, except one, and that is Christ, who says, *“I am the door.”*  There is no other door, neither upwards nor downwards, to the right nor to the left, before nor behind. You are ruined and destroyed, O sinner, and perish you must, if left to yourself.  There is none in earth, or heaven, that can help you, save only one; and oh, if the Lord will lead you to look to Him, what a blessed thing it will be.                              *- C. H. Spurgeon*

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IGNORANCE

There is not greater proof that a man is ignorant of the Truth savingly and a stranger to Christ experimentally, than for spiritual pride to reign in his heart.  *“Behold his soul is lifted up, is not upright in him” (Habakkuk 2:4)*.  The graceless Pharisee, blind to the real character and purpose of the law, prayed thus with himself, *“God I thank Thee, that I am not as other men”,*while the penitent Publican, seeing himself in the light of God, dared not lift up his eyes to heaven, but smote upon his breast (the seat of his spiritual leprosy) and cried, *“God be merciful to me, the sinner.”*

The proud religionists of Christ’s day exclaimed, *“Behold, we see” (John 9:41)*’ but the Psalmist prayed, *“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”*Thousands of deluded people who profess to be Christians prate about their consecration, victories, and attainments; but the apostle Paul said, *“I count not myself to have apprehended” (Philippians 3:13).                       – Arthur W. Pink*

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As God hath two dwelling-places, heaven and a contrite heart, so hath the devil – Hell and a proud heart.                              *- Thomas Watson*