* 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

Glory to God on High

Let earth and heav’n reply

Praise ye His Name!

His love and grace adore

Who all our sorrows bore

Sing aloud evermore, Worthy the Lamb!

Jesus, our Lord and God

Bore sin’s tremendous load

Praise ye His Name!

Tell what His arm has done

What spoils from death He won

Sing His great Name alone, Worthy the Lamb!

While they around the Throne

Cheerfully join in one

Praising His Name!

Ye who have see His blood

Sealing your peace with God

Sound His dear Name abroad, Worthy the Lamb!

(Tune: “Come Thou Almighty King “)

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Andy and Megan Davis will host a gathering for the adults on Friday, December 14th. Bring an appetizer or dessert.

Birthdays

11th– Elizabeth Charron     11th– Peggy Mohr     11th– Hannah Summers

11th– Jenny Williams                            15th– Carter Steeves

16th– Pamela Weinstock        17th– Joshua Davis

*“The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.”                                                 - Proverbs 11:17*

*“Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief” – Mark 9:24*

I really believe that Christ is all in salvation and yet I constantly look within for evidences of salvation.  I really believe that God is sovereign and yet I worry and complain. I really believe that God is the first cause of all things yet I can harbor anger and resentment.  I really desire likeness to Christ yet I still have a desire for sin.  Why these contradictions?  Because I have two natures - the nature of the first birth and the nature of the second birth.  One that always believes; one that never believes.  One that always sins, one that never sins.  These two natures operating in my one consciousness.  Hence my cry, *“Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief.”*

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OUTWARD OR INWARD

In the Old Testament, worship was fleshly and outward – circumcision in the flesh, killing animals, sprinkling blood, cleaning pots and pans, dancing and shouting when the ark, full of physical objects (tables of law, pot of manna, Aaron’s rod) was returned. This was all carried out in the nation of Israel, physical Jews, direct descendants of Abraham.

In the New Testament, worship is spiritual and inward – circumcision in the heart, faith in the righteousness and blood of Christ, carried out by spiritual Israel, spiritual Jews (elect believers) – *“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Phil 3:3).*If during the preaching of the Gospel, I started clapping and shouting, eyes would be drawn to me, and off of Christ – that is idolatry, that is flesh-worshipping, that is self-serving and self-glorying…. Scripture says, *“No flesh should glory in His presence.”*But *“He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (I Cor. 1:29,30).                                            – Brian DuFour*

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THE WORLD – THE GOSPEL

The world bears the Gospel a grudge because the Gospel condemns the religious wisdom of the world. Jealous for its own religious views, the world in turn charges the Gospel with being a subversive and licentious doctrine, offensive to God and man, a doctrine to be persecuted as the worst plague on earth.  As a result we have this paradoxical situation:  The Gospel supplies the world with the salvation of Jesus Christ, peace of conscience, and every blessing.  Just for that the world abhors the Gospel.                                               *- Martin Luther*

After many years of studying and preaching, meditation and observation, I think the Lord is beginning to show me just a little something of what He and Paul meant by the *“Offense of the cross” (Matthew 11:6; Galatians 5:6).*

The message of the cross (Christ crucified - *I Cor. 1:23; 2:2)*is of such PURE GRACE, that once the gist of it is perceived, it will inevitable offend man’s pride. Like a *“two-edged sword”(Heb. 4:12)*, it verily decapitates the sinner’s natural pride and self-righteousness, before ever clothing him in the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus *(II Cor. 5:21).*

PURE GRACE spits in the face of those human distinctions wherein men judge one another and commend themselves to themselves and others. Every man stands on the same level before the Gospel – *“Dead in trespasses and sin” (Eph. 2:1).*It pays no respect to prince or president because of his honor, or the wisest philosopher because of his learning, or the moralist because of his upright conduct, or to the religious man on account of his zeal and devotion. No, my friends, in the eyes of God’s justifying grace, that religious man who appears to be “as clean as a hound’s tooth” and the drunken pervert lyingyonder in his own vomit; that virtuous dedicated mom and the most notorious prostitute stand on the same level!

Oh, *“The offense of the cross!”*Precious beyond expression, yet so unpalatable and difficult for fallen man to swallow!  Each believes that in some way, he is in a better standing with God than are many others. The teetotaler feels certain God must place a higher premium on him that upon those wretched boozers, while the boozer says, “Sure, I get looped occasionally, but at least I’m not a self-righteous hypocrite like those teetotalers,” and he feels sure that God must be pleased by his honesty.

Have you learned the Gospel of PURE GRACE?  Have you experiences its power?  If so, you have learned two things: (1) The only qualification any sinner has to apply for God’s mercy is his sin and guilt and (2) The only hope any sinner has of receiving God’s mercy is the Gospel of PURE, FREE GRACE – unmerited favor.

*- Maurice Montgomery*

So great is the depravity of unregenerate man that, although there is nothing that he needs more than the Gospel, there is nothing that he desires less.                                                                                     *- Copied*