February 24, 2019

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

I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love Divine

And with unfaltering lip and heart, I call the Saviour mine

His cross dispels each doubt, I bury in His tomb

Each thought of unbelief and fear, each lingering shade of gloom.

I praise the God of peace, I trust His truth and might

He call me His, I call Him mine, My God, my Joy, my Light

In Him is only good, in me is only ill

My ill but draws His goodness forth, and me He loveth still.

‘Tis He Who saveth me, and freely pardon gives

I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives

My life with Him is hid, my death has passed away

My clouds have melted into light, my midnight into day.

(Tune: “This is My Father’s World” p. 39)

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We Welcome Gabe Stalnaker and his wife Hannah. Gabe is the pastor of the Kingsport Sovereign Grace Church in Kingsport TN.  He will bring both messages today.  I am preaching for the Sovereign Grace Church in New Caney, TX and will return home tomorrow, Lord willing.

Our Bible Conference is March 8-10.  There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.  We will not have service on Wednesday, March 6th.

Birthdays

1st– Caleb Benton

*“A friend loveth at all times and a brother is born for adversity.”*

*- Proverbs 17:17*

The man who measures things by the circumstances of the hour is filled with fear; the man who sees Jehovah enthroned and governing has no panic.                           *- G. Campbell Morgan*

*“Behold Thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in these is continuance, and we shall be saved.”                                         - Isaiah 64:5*

All sin is offensive to God and never to be excused.  But here is the fact. We have sinned and we are continuing to commit the same sins. Every believer struggles with indwelling sin, secret sins, thorns in the flesh that beat him black and blue.  We still have an evil nature that has an appetite for sin.  We do not excuse this and we ask for grace to not be tempted by these sins. We ask for grace to commit them no more.  We are not smugly indifferent toward them.  But one thing these sins do. They are a testimony that the only righteousness we have is Christ’s.  And our thought should not be, we must not be saved since we commit those sins… but that we shall be saved by Christ in spite of our sins!  Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Not people who used to be sinners but have gained victory over their sins, but present tense sinners. I am a sinner.  He came to save sinners.  Saved I must be!

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MAN’S INABILITY: GOD’S ABILITY

Man’s inability and God’s ability.  We must believe them both or in reality we believe neither.  Those who believe God is omnipotent; whatever He wills must come to pass because He has the ability to make it come to pass, must of necessity believe that man has no ability, and it is only God’s ability that enables him to do what he could not do.  If man has some spiritual ability, God’s omnipotence is not needed.  But if I realize that my sin has completely disabled me, how thrilled I am to find out that is no hindrance to God saving me! It is Him that works in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure (*Phil. 2:13*).  Just as we trust His righteousness only when we see we have none, we look to His ability only when we see we have none.  Man’s inability is a platform for God to display His ability in salvation.  We truly believe that, *“He is able to keep that which we have committed to Him against that day.”*

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Election is Sovereign – “The purpose of God.”  The Bible reveals God to be sovereign in creation, providence, and salvation. When men object to God’s sovereignty exercised in election, we do well to point them to the apostle’s words in *Romans 9:20-21, “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?  Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?”*Men have been told for so long that God is in their hands, it is no wonder that many are astonished to hear that the Bible says it is just the opposite.                                   *- David Pledger*

BE YE THANKFUL

This is a command. *“Be ye thankful” (Col. 3:15).* In another place Paul said, *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thess. 5:18).*Being thankful is not being thankful because things could be worse. Being thankful is being thankful because things could not be better!  If God really is sovereign, whatever happens is best because He is in control of it.  It may bring joy, it may bring sorrow, but whatever it brings, it is best.  Whether our hearts are bubbling over with joy or breaking in sorrow, we are thankful.  Whatever He does is best!  We may not understand how it is best, but we do believe it is best.  Therefore we are thankful!

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THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN

In the King James version of *I Corinthians 4:6*we read that we are *“Not to think of men above that which is written.”*The *“of men”*is in italics, showing us that it was not in the original, but supplied by the translators to help us to understand what is being said.  In the context, they were right, but it could and should read, *“Not to think above that which was written.”*  We should never believe something that we have arrived at from a logical inference… “If this is so, then this also must be so” … Not necessarily!  We are fallible men, and our logic may lead us in the wrong direction.  We believe that which was written.  And we are not to go above or beyond that which was written. How many errors are born from wrong suppositions or supposed logical inferences.  Remember the words of Moses…*“The secret things belong to the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

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*‘The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him.”                                                              - Psalms 28:7*

You would not even have had grace enough to know you were nothing if God had not given it to you. To be nothing is ours by nature; but to know that we are nothing and to confess that we are nothing is a gift of His grace.  Brethren, we are emptier than emptiness, and more vain than vanity.   We may tax language and use extravagant hyperboles, but we shall never be able fitly to estimate our own utter insignificance.  We are weakness itself, hampered with the conceit of power; and yet if we can say in truth, *“The Lord is my strength”*, we cannot estimate how strong we are, for there is no measuring omnipotence.   *– C. H. Spurgeon*