December 15, 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

We have Thy promise, gracious Lord

O then fulfill Thy precious Word

Thou wilt be where Thy people meet

To make our joyfulness complete.

We ask Thy gracious presence here

From worldly thoughts, O keep us clear

And set our hearts on things above

With sweet enjoyment of Thy love.

We ask from our great living Head

Give us Thy Holy Spirit’s aid

While we engage in prayer and praise

To be supplied with every grace.

‘Tis Thine alone, Almighty Lord

To speak the soul-reviving Word

‘Tis Thine to give the hearing ear

‘Tis Thine to drive away all fear.

(Tune: “From Every Stormy Wind That Blows” p. 355)

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There will be no evening service next Sunday, Dec. 22ndor Wednesday, Dec. 25th.

Birthdays

16th– Cindy Farmer             19th– Amanda Janes               21st– Erik Charron

*“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?”                                                               - Proverbs 20:6*

ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS

In *Titus 2:14*we are given two reasons for Christ giving Himself for us.  (1) To redeem us from all iniquity.  (2) To purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.  God’s people are zealous of good works. That does not mean they are thinking about the good works they should perform.  When Mary broke the alabaster box of ointment on the Lord’s feet and wiped them with the hairs of her head, she was not thinking, “This is a good work I am performing.”  She was thinking of the excellency and glory of the Saviour.  She loved Him.  She felt an impulse in her heart to do this, ands she did it.  The Lord said, *“She hath wrought a good work upon Me.”*Anything done out of love for Christ is a good work.  The reason a believer is zealous of good works is that zeal is directed toward Him.  That is what makes it a good work.  If Mary had thought, “What a good work I am performing” … it would not be a good work!

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OF WHOM I AM CHIEF

*“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (I Timothy 1:15)*.  I doubt that there has ever been a man more thoroughly committed to and surrendered to Christ than Paul.  I doubt that there has ever been a man who loved Christ more than Paul.  Yet, when Paul speaks of the demographic who go under the name “sinners”, he says, *“Of whom I am chief.”*The very “I am” is in the present active tense.  He did not say, “Of whom I was chief,” but present tense, right now, *“Of whom I am chief.”*It is those who know the most of and live nearest to the Lord who feel that way.  You cannot walk with the Living God and see yourself any other way.  I am sure there were those who would object,  “If that is the case what were you saved from?” Others would object that it is wallowing in it, or using it as an excuse for sinful behavior.  But there are others who would say, “You are wrong Paul…..of whom ***I***am chief.”

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It is one thing to mourn for sin because it exposes us to hell, and another to mourn for it because it is an infinite evil; one thing to mourn for it because it is injurious to ourselves, and another to mourn for it because it is wrong and offensive to God.  It is one thing to be terrified; another to be humbled.                                                                                       *- G. Spring*

SOME THOUGHTS ON ASSURANCE

If we are looking for assurance, we are looking for the wrong thing, and are putting the cart before the horse.  How many people bring sorrow on themselves by looking within for evidence that will give them assurance for their salvation.  Do not seek assurance.  Seek Christ! Do not look within for assurance.  Look to Christ!  If you rest in who He is, and what He did, you will have assurance.  If you look for assurance anywhere else, the outcome will be either no assurance, or a false assurance!

Is what Christ did on the cross enough to save you?  Believing it is will give you assurance!  But if assurance is the thing you are seeking, you will not have it!  Here is a sobering thought.  It is possible to have assurance, full assurance of your salvation, and not be saved.  Many, who while on earth truly believed they were saved, will hear from Christ those awful words, *“Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”*But it is also possible to have saving faith, and no personal assurance.  Faith believes *“He is the Saviour.”*Assurance believes “I am saved.”  But remember…true assurance rises from faith… looking to Christ.  Lack of assurance is the result of looking within, rather to Him.

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THE TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS

*II Corinthians 4:6-7*

*“The light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ Jesus”*is called a TREASURE because it is RICH TRUTH which sets men free; it has RICH BLESSINGS such as wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; it contains RICH AND PRECIOUS PROMISES; it brings to us the RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN CHRIST.

This treasure is *“In earthen vessels”,*meaning the ministers to whom God entrusts this Gospel and through whom He sends the Gospel to His sheep.  These ministers are God’s men; but they are still men, weak and frail, subject to like passions and infirmities, *“That the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”*Whatever is accomplished in the proclamation of the Gospel by these men is the result of God’s purpose and work, certainly not of us. Paul wrote in *I Cor. 15:10-11, “I have labored more abundantly than they all, YET NOT I, but the grace of God which was with me.  Therefore, whether it were I or they, so we preach and so ye believed.”*Let not one grain of faith be in the wisdom of any man, but in the wisdom and power of God – WHICH IS CHRIST!                     *- Henry Mahan*