January 5, 2020

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

Jesus Christ our God and Savior

Guide, and counselor, and friend

Bearing all our misbehavior

Kind and loving to the end.

Nothing but Thy blood, O Savior

Can relieve us from our smart

Nothing else from guilt release us

Nothing else can melt the heart.

Law and judgment do but harden

All the while they work alone

But a sense of blood-bought pardon

Soon dissolves a heart of stone.

Trust Him, He will not deceive us

Though we see through glass so dim

He will never, never leave us

Nor will we depart from Him.

(Tune: “Jesus Calls Us” p. 374)

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We will observe the Lord’s Table this evening.

We extent our sympathy to Brian and David DuFour and their families on the death of their father.

Birthdays

5th– Michael Mohr              6th– Annette DuFour            6th– Nathaniel Sligh

7th– Henry Lynn        8th– Rachel Harries         9th– Nancy Benton

9th– Emily Bryan                                   10th– Cali Warta

*“Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife.” - Proverbs 17:1*

LOSING A SENSE OF NEED

The lukewarm state of the church of Laodicea nauseated Christ.  And what is this state of lukewarmness?  They lost their sense of need! *“Thou sayest I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17).*A sense of need is essential in walking with Christ.  *“He healed them that had need of healing.”  “The whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.”*Ten times, David, the man after God’s own heart, described himself as *“poor and needy.”*  The only way I can hear the Gospel is as poor and needy. When that leaves, I start to analyze, see if I agree, and critique.  The doctrine of the Gospel looses its sweetness.  It is one thing to know the meaning of election.  It is another thing to need it!  It is one thing to understand justification.  It is another to need to be justified.  May the Lord keep us poor and needy!

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*“Let your moderation be known to all men.”  - Philippians 4:5*

This does not mean let everybody see your temperance over your appetites.  The word is usually translated gentle.  It means forbearing, not insisting on the letter of the law, a sweet reasonableness, patient, non-judgmental.  If there is an attribute that we would want others to see that would adorn the Gospel we profess to believe, this is what God calls upon us to demonstrate to others! Moderation!

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How is love to God expressed?  It is expressed by love to His people. How I love the Lord is only seen in how I love you. To say I love Him and to then mistreat you makes my profession of love to Him hollow and meaningless.  As John said, *“Let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and truth.”*

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If a person is near-sighted, he only needs corrective glasses, but if he is blind, he needs the miracle of sight.  If a man is sick, he only needs medicinal help, but if he is dead, he needs the miracle of life.  If a man has only strayed from the way, he needs directions, but if a man is completely lost, he needs to be found. *- Rolfe Barnard*

The most difficult thing for any of us to do is to TOTALLY and COMPLETELY trust and rest in our blessed Lord Jesus to redeem us, sanctify us, and make us accepted to the Father.  We are so prone to self-righteousness and works that we have a constant battle trying to remember that *“man at HIS BEST STATE is altogether vanity”*, and in his WEAKEST MOMENTS is no less loved and accepted if he is in Christ.  As brother Fortner said, “My relationship with the eternal God (in Christ) does in great measure determine what I do.  But what I do (good or bad) in no way determines my relationship with the eternal God.”  Actually, *“In my flesh dwelleth NO GOOD THING.”  “In the flesh no man can please God.”*It is in Christ that the Father is well pleased; and only in Christ can He love, accept, and be pleased with me. I did not come to Christ on the basis of my works, nor am I kept in Christ on the basis of my works!  I looked to Him then for all things, and I look to Him now for all things!  Any look within will serve only to discourage and depress me; but looking to Christ, the Author and Finisher of my faith, will only encourage, for He never changes. His gift of life and calling to grace is without change.  The command, *“Look unto Me and be ye saved,”*is not only the hope and strength of the seeking sinner, but it is the constant hope and strength of the believing sinner.  I know my sins, but I rejoice in His grace. I know my weakness, but I rest in His strength.  I know my emptiness, but I am complete in Him.  “Oh what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear,”all because we do not cast our sins, our souls on Christ and LEAVE THEM THERE!

*- Henry Mahan*

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CONFIDENCE IN GOD’S GRACE

Do we really have confidence in the grace of God?  If we do, we will be satisfied with His grace and His grace alone.  If we have confidence in His grace, we will not try to offer up anything of our own as a reason for God to bless us. If we have confidence in His grace, we will rest secure that, whatever happens in this life, God will preserve us blameless for the next life.  If we have confidence in His grace, we will not try to build a church with fleshy enticements but will be satisfied with preaching and teaching the grace of God, knowing that God will call His sheep by that Gospel.  If we have confidence in the grace of God, we will not be quick to judge others or even ourselves, but will be patient with our brethren, knowing that God grows His people at His own rate and that what His grace has begun, His grace can finish.  If we have confidence in the grace of God, we will be much more at rest, knowing that all things are moving in their proper direction to their assigned goal.   *- Joe Terrell*