

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day
October 10, 2021
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Arranged by Jan Sanborn

Call to Worship: Isaiah 55:1

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 642**

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
Raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Confession of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism, 1 & 2

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in

fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: **Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

***Song of Praise**

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered ev'ry grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God, seated on his throne.
Come, let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Behold our God, seated on his throne.
Come, let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore him!

Who has felt the nails upon his hand,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Behold our God, seated on his throne.
Come, let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore him!

The Lord's Prayer / Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come: thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory: Lynne Fowlkes, flute

Great Is the Lord / He Is Exalted

Arranged by Joel Raney

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(During this song, children ages 4-6 may go to Children's Worship)

Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership

Sermon Text: Romans 4:9-12 (ESV)

Sermon Title: God's Story

Pastor Jeff Birch

⁹ Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

As we have been exploring through Paul's letter to the Romans, we have been emphasizing that Paul is a missionary at heart. His desire is to see the gospel reach the "ends of the earth." He is aiming to raise up and establish churches especially among the Gentiles throughout the Mediterranean world. Up to this point in his missionary endeavors he has made the church at Antioch his base of operations. Now he is interested in basing his mission out of the church that is centered in the cosmopolitan center of the empire, and that is the city of Rome. Thus, he is introducing himself to the Roman church and explaining the gospel that he has been "set apart for."

In Romans 4:9-12, the passage we are looking at this morning Paul is addressing a very practical issue: who is in and who is out. I say this is very practical because, whether we admit it or not, we all struggle with the issue of who is in and who is out. As C.S. Lewis wrote many years ago, we all desire to be a part of the "inner circle."

Paul will address this issue in two ways in this text. As such, it communicates the desire we should all have for the church and for our community here at LOPC. Paul says that:

- I. Gospel Doctrine (Leads to)
- II. Gospel Culture (The implication of gospel doctrine)

Understanding that we are accepted completely by grace leads to a culture that will be characterized by belonging. Everyone wants to belong and to be known. May our gospel doctrine lead to a gospel culture here at LOPC.

Reflection

“Through faith in Christ, therefore, Christ’s righteousness becomes our righteousness and all that he has becomes ours.” (Martin Luther)

“A man will be justified by faith when, excluded from righteousness of works, he by faith lays hold of the righteousness of Christ, and clothed in it appears in the sight of God not as a sinner, but as righteous.” (John Calvin)

The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

***Hymn 252**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

***The Benediction**

Postlude

**All songs covered by CCLI license #1257045*