

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

March 13, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Arranged by Philip Keveren

Call to Worship: Isaiah 55:1-2

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 38**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

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.**

Reception of New Members

***Song of Praise**

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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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: Chancel Choir

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

By Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

***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.

Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership

Sermon Text: Romans 6:20-23 (ESV)

Sermon Title: Two Destinations

Pastor Jeff Birch

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This morning, we are finishing Romans 6, and Paul is summarizing what he has been teaching throughout the chapter. He has been teaching how there are two realms, sin and grace, and why the realm of grace could not possibly lead to living in sin.

In verses 20-23, Paul finishes this exploration of why the realm of grace does not lead to a life of sin by explaining that there are two destinations to these two realms of sin and grace. So, vv. 20-23 are a contrast of the two destinations of the two realms. Sin leads to death, whereas grace leads to life and shalom. Paul is obviously encouraging the Roman Christians to pursue holiness in their lives by presenting themselves as servants of righteousness.

The outline for this passage is actually quite simple. Paul is answering the question as to why we should pursue holiness and present ourselves as servants of righteousness. The two answers are:

I. Because Sin Destroys Everything

II. Because Grace Restores Everything

Reflection

*“In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight – a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in who he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be. Sin hurts other people and grieves God, but it also corrodes us. Sin is a form of self-abuse” (Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. *Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*)*

The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

***Hymn 247**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded

With thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place
Look, on me with thy favor,
Vouch-safe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest Friend,
For this, thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee.

***The Benediction**

Postlude

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