

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

May 8, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Miss Mary Strickland

None but Jesus
Arranged by Brooke Ligertwood

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-3

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 347 (vss. 1-3, 5-6)

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word:
From heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,

She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.

Confession of Sin

Need of Confession Psalm 53:1-3

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. ² God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

O God of grace, you have imputed our sin to our substitute, and have imputed his righteousness to our soul, clothing us with a bridegroom's robe, decking us with jewels of holiness. But in our Christian walk we are still in rags; our best prayers are stained with sin; We need to repent of our repentance. We are always going into the far country, and always returning home as prodigals, always saying, Father, forgive us, and you are always bringing forth the best robe. Grant us never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, the exceeding wonder of grace.

Amen. (Adapted from *The Valley of Vision*).

Assurance of Pardon Psalm 32:5

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Song of Praise 500

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Carlton Curtis, tenor

We Shall Behold Him

By Dottie Rambo

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 8:1-4 (ESV)

Sermon Title: The Gift of Freedom

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8 is probably one of the most profound chapters in all of the Bible. It is like climbing Mount Everest. For the next several weeks, we will be making this climb as the apostle Paul lays out for us his argument concerning how the Christian can experience God. He is concerned that we not simply believe in God as an abstraction, but that we actually experience Him and His presence. Jesus worded it that we actually learn to abide in Him.

And the key to experiencing God is the Holy Spirit. Romans 8 is all about the Holy Spirit. Throughout this chapter Paul, will unfold how the Holy Spirit indwells the believer and unites the believer to God. Paul spends the chapter building up to a crescendo which he reaches in vv.38-39, where he assures the follower of Jesus that nothing in all the universe can separate him or her from the love of God. Hopefully, you will be able to be with us as we climb the mountain and explore the riches of what it looks like to actually experience God.

This morning, we begin with the first four verses of Romans 8, beginning with the powerful promise “*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” Imagine if we understood and lived on the basis of this promise. We will learn in these opening verses:

- I. The Assurance of a Reality
- II. Based on a Reason
- III. Designed for a Purpose

Reflection

“Human comparison is a poison we drink for all the wrong reasons, and it always kills. It kills relationships. It kills friendships. It kills memories. And it kills us from the inside out. The secret to enjoying God’s fatherhood is not in pretending that we deserve it, which always leads to unhealthy, ego-driven self-loathing, but instead to remember who we are and how deeply God loves us in Jesus. The Father’s love for Jesus means that I don’t have to pretend that I’m worthy. I am loved because of Jesus” (Mike Khandjian, *A Sometimes Stumbling Life*).

Hymn 455 (vss. 1-3)

And Can It Be That I Should Gain
And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

(Chorus)

Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all! Th'Immortal dies:
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.

'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more. (*Chorus*)

He left his Father's throne above
(So free, so infinite his grace!),
Humbled himself (so great his love!)
And bled for all his chosen race!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me! (*Chorus*)

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn 455 (vss. 4-5)

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

(*Chorus*)

Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own. (*Chorus*)

The Benediction

Postlude

Oceans
By Matt Crocker

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