

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

August 29, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

How Great Is Our God

By Chris Tomlin

Call to Worship: Psalm 111:1-3

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 44**

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God,
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made,
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r thro'out
The universe displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to thee;
How great thou art!
How great thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to thee;
How great thou art!
How great thou art!

When thro' the woods
And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze; (*chorus*)

And when I think
That God, his Son not sparing,

Sent him to die,
I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross,
My burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died
To take away my sin. (*chorus*)

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim:
My God, how great thou art! (*chorus*)

Scripture Readings:

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13-14

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

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

Then Will the Very Rocks Cry Out

By Mark Hayes

***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)

Children's Ministry COVID protocol will be consistent with "mask optional" churchwide policy.

Sermon Series: Romans: Gospel Partnership

Sermon Text: Romans 3:1-8 (ESV)

Sermon Title: Is God Faithful?

Why is grace so difficult for us, not only to grasp, but to appropriate in our lives? Why do we struggle with things like, receiving criticism? Why do we get so defensive? Why do we always have to be right? Why do we feel the need to prove ourselves? Why do we feel so inadequate?

In a nutshell, it is the issue of self-justification. Self-justification is not just a theological problem. It manifests itself in all sorts of ways, reaching across all areas of life. The human condition under the influence of sin is to always seek to justify ourselves.

This morning we will tackle this highly practical issue by looking at Romans 3:1-8 and exploring this from two perspectives. Here we go, another two-point sermon.

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

*“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”*

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

I. The Problem of Self-Justification

II. The Solution of Self-Justification

But the good news is that we don't have to justify or prove ourselves if we are in Jesus. Through Jesus and the cross, God justifies us. Our fundamental need in life is to receive this justification and then to learn how to live out of the implications of this to let this control how we approach God, ourselves, others and the world. May the grace of God truly grip our hearts and compel us to love God and others.

Reflection

*“Oh, the power, the melting, conquering, transforming power of that dear cross of Christ! My brethren, we have but to abide by the preaching of it, we have but constantly to tell abroad the matchless story, and we may expect to see the most remarkable results. We need to despair of no man now that Jesus has died for sinners. With such a hammer as the doctrine of the cross, the most flinty heart will be broken; and with such a fire as the sweet love of Christ, the most mighty iceberg will be melted. We need never despair for the heathenish or superstitious races of men; if we can but find occasion to bring the doctrine of Christ crucified into contact with their natures, it will yet change them, and Christ will be their king.” (Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Passion and Death of Christ*).*

***Hymn 94 (vs. 1-2, 4, 6)**

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;

I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

***The Benediction**

Postlude

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