

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

September 26, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mr. Harold Parker, trombone

Be Still My Soul

By Katharina von Schlegel

Call to Worship: Psalm 66:1-4

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 170**

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,

Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,

Robed in the blooming garb of spring:

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,

Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,

And all the twinkling, starry host:

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!

Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration,

Now and for evermore be thine.

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; he was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from

the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable "I Am",
The King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ,
And marvel at this love divine,
God's perfect Son was sacrificed
To make me righteous in God's eyes.
This river's depths I cannot know,
But I can glory in its flood;
The Lord Most High has bowed down low,
And poured on me his glorious love,
And poured on me his glorious love.

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

Come to Jesus

By Chris Rice

***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 3:27-31 (ESV)

Sermon Title: Gospel Realities

Pastor Jeff Birch

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

We don't like when people boast, do we? But, let's be honest, we all boast from time to time. Where is boasting when it comes to our relationship with God? According to Paul, and the gospel, it is excluded. If salvation is a gift, if we are forgiven and counted as righteous before the only judge that counts, how can we boast that we had anything to do with it at all? The answer: we can't. And, here, in Romans 3:27-31 Paul concludes this section that began at v.21 summing up the conclusions and realities that come from vv.21-26.

Paul is dealing with the question of what are the realities, the implications that come from the gospel of grace? The realities that spring forth from the truth that righteousness is a pure gift, one that is received by faith alone. In these short five verses Paul explains two realities that stem from the fact that our standing and status before God is completely a gift from him due to the work of Christ and thus eliminates all of our boasting about ourselves.

These two gospel realities are:

I. There Is One Way

II. There Is One Family

May we learn to cultivate lives that are not only gripped by the gospel but live out of the realities of the gospel.

Reflection

“So often people say I don’t feel like I’m good enough yet. And at once I know that I have been wasting my breath. They are still thinking in terms of themselves (boasting). They have to do it. It sounds very modest to say, Well, I don’t think I’m good enough, but it’s a very denial of the faith. The very essence of the Christian faith is to say that he is good enough and I am in him. As long as you go on thinking about yourself like that and saying, I’m not good enough; Oh, I’m not good enough, you are denying God – you are denying the gospel – you are denying the very essence of the faith and you will never be happy.” (Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Spiritual Depression)

*Hymn 355

We Are God’s People

We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of his Spirit, established by his Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in him we stand:
O let us live transparently,
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God out-poured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once giv’n:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases heav’n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace;
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

*The Benediction

Postlude: Mrs. Amy Reber

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