

February 12, 2012

TODAY: Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.

Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Messages by the PASTOR

TELEVISION: WCHS - TV Channel 8, Charleston, WV, Sunday 7:00 a.m., and

WFXL - Fox 31, Channel 4, Albany, GA, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

RADIO: 98.7 FM-WISK, Americus, GA, Sunday 9:30 a.m.

INTERNET: SermonAudio.com

Visit our website at: [www.13thstbaptist.org](http://www.13thstbaptist.org)

(webcasting live during listed service times)

WEDNESDAY: Mid - week Service - 7:00 p.m.

Message by the PASTOR

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

*A refuge for sinners the Gospel makes known,  
'Tis found in the merits of Jesus alone;  
The weary, the tempted, the burdened of sin  
Are never exempted from entering in.*

*This refuge for sinners His love did ordain  
In Jesus, the Lamb, from eternity slain;  
In Christ the Redeemer Who lived and died,  
God's law and His justice are now satisfied.*

*Should conscience accuse us, as often it may,  
The blood of our Saviour has put sin away;  
In Jesus, our Surety, the sinner can view  
A city of refuge and righteousness too!  
(Tune: "How Firm a Foundation," p.368)*

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The comfort of a believer's heart lies not in a mere "feeling" that "everything will be all right." It lies in the Spirit of God's application of truth to our hearts and minds. It is comfort based on the promises of God who cannot lie, die, change or fail in any way. Oh it does produce wonderful feelings. But these feelings are the product of the assurance of faith, faith based upon that which is given us by God's grace through the merits of Christ's righteous blood.

—Pastor Gary Shepard

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Congratulations to Jimmy and Jessica Fain on the birth of their son, Carson Edward, born Feb. 3.

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### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Feb. 13 Jennifer Maynard

Feb. 18 Roberta Dean

16 Rob Golden

19 Brooke Maynard

Pat Toler

Sheila Salyer

17 Myrtle Fairchild

20 Kathy Keelin

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Our sincere sympathies and prayers go out to the Mahan family upon the death of Robbie Mahan who passed away Friday, February 3.

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There will be ladies' luncheon here at the church this Saturday, February 18, beginning at 11:30 a.m. There are sign-up sheets on the table in front of the pulpit.

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Consider the following words of John Newton, author of "Amazing Grace" –

We sometimes see published in the newspapers, acknowledgments of cures received. I think, if I were to publish my own case, that it would run something like this:

"I, John Newton, have long labored under a multitude of grievous disorders: a fever of ungoverned passions, a cancer of pride, a frenzy of wild imaginations, a severe lethargy [laziness], and a deadly stroke! In this deplorable situation, I suffered many things from many physicians, spent every penny I had—yet only grew worse and worse! In this condition, Jesus, the Physician of souls, found me when I sought Him not. He undertook my recovery freely, without money and without price—these are His terms with all His patients! My fever is now abated, my senses are restored, my faculties are enlivened! In a word, I am a new man! And from His ability, His promise, and the experience of what He has already done—I have the fullest assurance that He will infallibly and perfectly heal me—and that I shall live forever as a monument of His power and grace!"

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If we are recipients of God's sovereign mercy in Christ, we should never resent or begrudge God's mercy towards ANY other sinner. The great thing about God's mercy is that it is NEVER earned or deserved by any sinner. —Copied

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Daily Bible Reading for week: Feb. 12—18

Sunday—Num. 3-4

Monday—Num. 5-6

Tuesday—Num. 7

Wednesday—Num. 8-10

Thursday—Num. 11-13

Friday—Num. 14-15

Saturday—Num. 16-17

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### HAS CHRIST LAID HOLD OF YOU?

Even though we as believers are sinlessly perfect IN CHRIST, legally based on His shed blood and righteousness imputed, we are not yet sinlessly perfect within ourselves. That blessing of God's grace will come only in the final resurrection. Paul expressed his desire for this – "**If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead**" (Php. 3:11). But he also realized that he had not yet reached this goal within himself – "**Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus**" (Php. 3:12). The word "**apprehend**" means "to lay hold of." Paul was saying, in essence, "**I am reaching out, seeking to lay hold of Christ, Who has graciously and powerfully laid hold of me.**" We learn here that the Christian life begins not with the weakness of a human decision to follow Christ, but with God's powerful, effectual calling and His laying hold of His people whom He redeemed. This means that no Christian is his own person. He belongs to Jesus Christ who bought him. If we are truly saved by the grace of God in Christ, the reason we live and walk in Him is because HE laid hold of us and brought us from death to life, from self-righteousness to repentance, from unbelief to faith in Him (Php. 3:7-9). Has Christ laid hold of you? If He has, you will strive to lay hold of HIM. —Pastor Bill Parker

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### NO OTHER WAY

"**And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up**" (John 3:14). The deliverance of sinners from the claims of divine justice was dependent upon Christ bringing in everlasting righteousness for them by the sacrifice of Himself, therefore the Savior said to Nicodemus, "**even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.**" It was in this way the demands of God's law would be upheld and all the sins of those people entrusted to the Surety before the world began would be taken away, never to be remembered again. Those who insist that sinners can, by will, worth or work, make themselves acceptable to God, render the death of Christ needless and ineffectual. "**If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain**" (Galatians 2:21). Jonathan Edwards said, "If there be ground for you to trust in your righteousness, then all that Christ did to purchase salvation, and all that God did to prepare the way for it, is in vain." Our salvation was conditioned upon the faithfulness of Christ to fulfill His covenant obligation and give His life a ransom for many. There was no other way for a holy God to save sinners. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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CORRECTION – THE SPRING CONFERENCE WILL BE APRIL 19-22