

January 4, 2015

TODAY: Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.
Messages by PASTOR JIM BYRD
INTERNET: SermonAudio.com
Visit our website at: www.13thstbaptist.org
(webcasting live during listed service times)
WEDNESDAY: Mid - week Service - 7:00 p.m.
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Salvation is of the Lord

Tune: Doxology

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

*Adore the God of endless days,
Lift up your heart to Him in praise;
O magnify His sovereign grace,
And to the Lord salvation trace.*

*The Father long ago decreed,
Salvation for His chosen seed;
To God the Son in love He gave
A multitude that Christ would save.*

*Exalt the Savior, praise His Name;
He saved us from our guilt and shame!
Christ bought the people of His choice,
Lift up His praise with heart and voice.*

*When far from God and dead in sin,
The Spirit wrought a work within;
Since He our sinfulness has shown,
We trust in Jesus Christ alone.*

*Saved by God's free and sovereign grace,
A chosen, ransomed, quickened race;
Praise God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in one.*

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Allan Ison, Pastor of Middlefork Baptist Church, is preaching today at the First Baptist Church in Almont, MI.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan. 7 Lloyd Busch
Trish Trabant
Aiden Parker
9 Matthew Kuehne

Jan. 11 Jim Byrd
Barbara Marsh
John Burton
12 Caleb Malone

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“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:9). O the everlasting salvation that we have in Jesus Christ! He is the same, and will be the same for ever and ever, and the righteousness He has wrought out for us is like Himself, it is an everlasting righteousness. It covered our first parents. It is true they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves, but God rejected them, as He will reject our self-righteousness, and clothed them with the skins of beasts that had probably been slain in sacrifice. Abraham had to look to this Jesus for righteousness, and so had the prophets, and so have we. It is an everlasting righteousness, covering all the election of grace in ages gone by, covering them all today, and that will cover them all tomorrow, making them accepted in the presence of a holy God. As it is written, we are **“accepted in the Beloved,”** beheld all fair and perfect in the Lord Jesus. And as respects the blood of this salvation, it is **“the blood of the everlasting covenant.”** All the church of God in ages past has been purged from sin in the blood of Jesus, and the church of God at this day is looking by faith to the blood of the slaughtered Lamb. It will be the same to us tomorrow and as long as we live. And when we have gone to glory we shall shout, “Victory through the blood of the Lamb and the word of His testimony!” That blood will still maintain its power. —John Kershaw, 1853

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THERE IS A SUBSTITUTE

The **“good news”** of the gospel is that there is a Substitute who has stood in the place of every repentant sinner and bore the wrath of God in his place. He did this for all whom the Father had given Him from all eternity. It is for them that He prayed in **John 17**. They are **“His sheep.”** The Father gave them to Him, and He died for them (**John 10:15, 29**). Substitution is the very heart of the gospel. Christ did not simply give His life to make salvation possible for those who contribute their part to what He has done by repenting and trusting Christ. He it is that gives repentance and faith (**2 Timothy 2:25; Ephesians 2:8**). Christ did not say to the religious Jews of His day that they were not of His **“sheep”** because they did not believe; rather, He says, **“Ye believe not because ye are not of My sheep” (John 10:26).** If they had been His sheep they would have believed. The **“good news”** is that all whom the Father has given to the Son, and for whom He died, will believe and manifest true repentance and faith. This they will do willingly and with gratitude in their hearts. It is God's work. He cannot fail. —Bill Clark

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GOD IS NOT NEEDY

Most preachers proclaim a god who has many wants and needs. They say things like, “God wants to bless you; He wants you to be healthy and prosperous; He has a wonderful plan for your life, but he needs you to let him have his way.” Let me be unmistakably clear: any god who requires your cooperation in order to make his plans come to pass is not the God of the Bible and any preacher who preaches such a god is a false prophet. A weak and feeble god is merely an idol, an image that came forth from man's vain imagination. The true God sets Himself forth in His Word as that One Who does whatever He desires to do, Who always performs His will. **“My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isaiah 46:10).** David declared, **“But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased” (Psalm 115:3).** Again, the Psalmist said in **Psalm 135:4-5, “For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.”** Job said, **“But He is of one mind, and who can turn Him? And what His soul desireth, even that He doeth” (Job 23:13).** It is written that the Lord, **“worketh all things after the counsel of His own will” (Ephesians 1:11).** Turn a deaf ear to those who set forth a wimpish god whose purpose is dependent upon the cooperation of the creature in order for it to come to fruition. The God of the Bible is not needy, we are. —Pastor Jim Byrd

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*Daily Bible Reading for week: January 4—January 10
Sunday—Gen.12-15 Monday—Gen.16-18
Tuesday—Gen. 19-21 Wednesday—Gen.22-24
Thursday—Gen. 25-26 Friday—Gen. 27-29
Saturday—Gen. 30-31*

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A Christian lives by faith as Esau lived by his sword (Genesis 27:40). He did not live upon his sword, that would have been hard living indeed; but he lived on what his sword brought him. So the believer does not live upon his faith itself, but by it; that is, he lives upon what faith brings home to him, even the love, the righteousness, the atonement and the intercession of Christ. —Augustus Toplady

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“O love the LORD, all ye His saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”

—Psalm 31:23-24