

July 22, 2018

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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SAVED BY SOVEREIGN GRACE

Tune: "Praise the Savior," (8.8.8.5.)

Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

*By the Lord's determination,
I was chosen to salvation;
I will give Him adoration,
Saved by sovereign grace.*

*With His blood the Savior bought me,
Lovingly the Shepherd sought me,
And His Spirit now has taught me,
Jesus saves from sin.*

*Member of a holy nation,
Saved from endless condemnation;
By the Spirit's generation,
I have life in Him.*

*Lost in sin, the Savior found me,
Jesus broke the chains that bound me;
O what love and grace surround me,
I am safe in Him.*

*What a Refuge of salvation,
Christ the Rock is my Foundation;
This my joyful contemplation,
Saved forevermore.*

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"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 23 Sara Trimble
26 Michael Sturm

July 27 Ella Pennington
29 Amanda Conley

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We extend our sincere sympathy to Bobbi Skelly whose mother (Teresa Kuehne's grandmother) passed away this past Tuesday. She lived in Ashland, Ohio.

Congratulations to Dallas and Pam (Cox) Smith who were united in marriage yesterday here at the church. May the Lord give them many years of joy together.

Next Sunday we will partake of the Lord's Supper at the close of the service and then have lunch together; there will be no evening service. Sign-up sheets for food are on the front table.

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MADE WILLING

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power" (Psalm 110:3). We categorically denounce the error of free-willism which insists the Lord's purpose in salvation hinges upon the will of man which is free to accept or reject Jesus Christ as Savior. On this point, as in all others, we bow to the Word of God. *"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy"* (Romans 9:16). Those who believe Christ do so because they are *"born of God"* (John 1:12-13).

Having said that, it is necessary that people understand that when we denounce free-willism, we do not mean to imply that those who are converted are brought to a knowledge of Christ against their will, that they are forced into the kingdom of grace whether they want to come or not. The Lord's people believe, worship and serve Him with a willing heart. We willingly repent and embrace the gospel; we willingly trust Christ as our only Hope of glory. We willingly attend the public ministry of the gospel, read the Word of God and pray to our heavenly Father; we willingly bow to Him as Lord. We willingly attend the place of worship and willingly contribute towards the expenses of the gospel. The reason we willingly do these things is because the Lord made us willing in the day of His mighty power which worked within us *"to will and to do of His good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:13). —Pastor Jim Byrd

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Earthly possessions, honors and relationships have no value beyond this world; but to be forgiven of sin and made a joint-heir with Christ Jesus is of the greatest eternal value! To learn this in heart is to avoid covetousness (which is idolatry) and to enjoy peace and contentment with much or little. *"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* (1 Thes 5:18).

—Henry Mahan, from our bulletin, 2/3/1991

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BEFORE

The fall of Adam did not catch God off guard; it did not take Him by surprise. From old eternity our Lord had made provision for the salvation of a multitude of Adam's race. Those ordained unto salvation were chosen in Christ *"before the foundation of the world"* (Ephesians 1:4). Before there was ever a sinner, God had appointed the Savior and the means whereby He would justify the ungodly, through the death of that Savior. The people of God would be redeemed with the *"precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was made manifest in these last times for you"* (1 Peter 1:19-20). Before the first sheep went astray, God had already provided the Shepherd Who would *"lay down His life for the sheep"* (John 10:11). Before we became in debt to the law of God, God had already appointed that One who would redeem *"us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us"* (Galatians 3:13). Before we ever became separated from God due to our sinfulness, in His infinite wisdom, the Lord had already designed the means of our restoration and reconciliation, through the substitutionary death of His Son declared to us in the gospel. *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory"* (1 Corinthians 2:7). Before we became alienated from God, the Lord promised that the gospel would be proclaimed to His people to whom He would grant faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; But hath in due times manifested His word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour"* (Titus 1:1-3). —Pastor Jim Byrd

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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 those the Father had given him from all eternity. It is for them that He prays in John 17. They are *"His Sheep."* The Father gave them to Him; and He died for them (John 10:15, 29). Substitution is at 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 you are not of My sheep."* 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