

July 8, 2018

TODAY: Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.
Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD
Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.
Message by PASTOR BILL PARKER
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 GRACE

*Tune: “O For A Thousand Tongues,” (CM)
Words by Pastor Jim Byrd*

*How great our guilt and sinfulness,
How hopeless was our case;
But God in love ordained to save
Vile sinners by His grace.*

*Into this world the Savior came,
For all His chosen race;
For us He drank the bitter cup,
To save us by His grace.*

*Christ Jesus died upon the cross,
He took His people’s place;
To raise us from the depths of sin,
O what redeeming grace!*

*When God the Spirit grants us faith
We will the Son embrace;
And cast our souls upon the Lamb
Who saved us by His grace.*

*Someday in glory all the saints,
Will gaze upon His face;
And magnify the name of Christ,
Who saved us by His grace.*

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“Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:1-2).

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 8 Rob Elliott
9 Joyce Armstrong
10 Becky Reffitt

July 11 Katie Cunningham
14 Russell May

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You are invited to attend the wedding of Pam Cox and Dallas Smith on Saturday, July 21 here at the church. Music will begin at 4:15 p.m. There will be a reception following at 6:00 p.m. at the Shriners on Rt. 60. Please RSVP to Rhichondra Davis-Smith @ 740-646-0207 if you plan to attend the reception.

Congratulations to Kelsey West and Ken Keller who were married yesterday in Lexington.

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The following portion of a letter (which I slightly edited for clarity) was written by John Newton to Miss M____ B____, dated March 13, 1781. I believe he sets forth the feelings and desires of every child of God.

“To live a life of faith on the Son of God as our wisdom, righteousness, and strength is what we attain to by very slow degrees, and at best, but imperfectly. We are always capable of further advances and frequently we need to learn over again that which we thought we had learned already. My thoughts on this point, I believe, are very clear, but in practice I fall sadly short and feel that the principles of self and unbelief are still deeply rooted in me. However, I trust I am in the school of the great Teacher and I humbly hope He will carry on the work He has begun. What I want, what I pray for is a simple dependent spirit, to be willing to put myself entirely into His hands, to follow Him without asking questions, to believe Him without making objections and to receive and expect everything in His own time and in His own way. This is the course we take when we consult a physician; we consult him, but we do not pretend to direct him. Thus would I give myself up to my heavenly, infallible Physician; but that is just another branch of the good which, when I would do, I find evil is present with me.”

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You may impose all sorts of rules, regulations and requirements, rituals and organizations on churches and individuals; but if the Lord does not have their hearts, it is all futile. However, a heart devoted to Christ is a heart in love; and true love needs none of these other things. *“I am His and He is mine.”*

—Henry Mahan

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PARTICULAR, EFFECTUAL REDEMPTION

In the Word of God, redemption was always for a particular people. In the garden of Eden, the animals that the Lord killed were for Adam and Eve, not for any of the fallen angels. When Abel offered to God the firstling of his flock, he brought it to God for his family and himself, not for Cain and his family. When the Passover lambs were killed, they were sacrificed for the firstborn of the Israelite families, not for the firstborn of the Egyptian families. On the Day of Atonement when the high priest of Israel killed a goat and offered it to God upon the altar, that sacrifice was only for the sins of Israel, not for the sins of any other nation. Even so, when Christ came into this world, it was for the purpose of redeeming a specific people, the elect of God. When He laid down His life, it was to satisfy justice for those given Him by the Father in the covenant of grace. Let there be no misunderstanding, we consider the teaching of universal redemption to be heresy because it is contrary to the Word of God and makes the success of the Savior’s redemption conditioned upon the will of sinners. The *“Good Shepherd”* did not lay down His life to make salvation a possibility for all mankind; He died *“to save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21).

John Own (1616-1683) made three logical declarations in defense of the truth of Christ’s particular, effectual redemption. Any person who honestly considers these three statements must acknowledge that they are reasonable. I have paraphrased his words.

1. If Christ died for all the sins of all men then all men must be saved and universalism is true because sin once atoned for, there remains no more ground for punishment. However, the teaching of universal salvation is contrary to the Scriptures which plainly state that many do in fact perish in their sins.

2. If Christ died for some of the sins of all men then no person will be saved because un-atoned sin must bring forth death. We know this theory is also false because there are some who are saved by the grace of God which means all of their sins were paid for by the death and resurrection of Christ.

3. If Christ died for all of the sins of some men then all of those in whose stead He laid down His life must be saved because their sins have been put away, separated from them as far as the east is from the west. Justice has been satisfied for them and since Christ has been condemned in their stead, those people must be saved. This is the doctrine of particular, effectual redemption which is the message of the Word of God.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

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*To return evil for good is devil-like;
To return evil for evil is beast-like;
To return good for good is man-like;
But to return good for evil is God-like.*