

SERVING IN WORSHIP

March 19, 2023

Sunday Morning:

Call to Worship:

Romans 8:28-30

Austin Miller

Song Leader:

Dennis Blanton

First Prayer:

Michael Pittman

Presentation/Lord's Table

Larry Miller

Servers:

Barry Phillips **Dwight Mullett

Speaker:

Johnny Felker

Prayer & Announcements:

Mark Claypool

Usher:

Ralph Brown

Sunday Evening:

Call to Worship:

Luke 9: 46-48

Bary Phillips

Song Leader:

Larry Miller

First Prayer:

Stanton See

Speaker:

Johnny Felker

Lord's Table:

Dwight Mullett

Prayer and Announcements:

Mark Claypool

Usher:

Ralph Brown

Prayer List and Announcements

As most of you know, sister **Janett King** died this past Monday, and her funeral was Friday. I know we will all miss talking with her. She was always so uplifting and focused on others.

Jeanette Aldridge continues to feel well. She is staying in but feeling good.

Deborah Grigsby went to visit Mike on Friday. He continues to have trouble maintaining his weight, and doesn't like to eat much unless it is something Deborah brings him. Deborah says she is as well as can be expected in her physical health, but she continues to struggle with depression.

Fred Duggin continues to have difficulty with a-fib and feeling fatigued in the afternoon. Unfortunately he had to reschedule some of his tests due to Elaine's hospitalization. These tests will be in April. Elaine has been eating a bit better.

Betty Travis remains about the same this week. Pam and Sue are in Georgia for the funeral of Sue's cousin, but they hope to be back by Sunday evening.

Keith Barclay, a brother we have been remembering in prayer for some time, received a liver transplant a few weeks ago. His latest Facebook post indicates he is doing well post-op, and thanks everyone for their prayers.

****Let us continue to Remember in Prayer****

Chelsea Gilliam (friend of Betty Copley), Paige Toxey, Susie Martell & Allison Barton, Neal Smith, and Dalton Gregory.

Birthdays:

21st: Karen Miller

ELDERS: Johnny Felker & Doug Driver

DEACONS: Ralph Brown & Mark Claypool

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
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"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

March 19, 2023

Not in Vain

In our reflection on Jesus Christ, we must ever remember the fundamental nature of the gospel message:

"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared..."
(1 Cor. 15:1-5, NASB).

The gospel is grounded in the facts of the death, burial, resurrection, and appearances of Jesus. Without these historical realities, there is nothing on which to base the Christian's faith, and no particular reason to think we should be serving Him. With these realities, we have every reason for hope and living a life in accordance with God's holiness. Paul enumerates the appearances of Jesus and claims that his own conversion was due to the fact that Christ appeared to him. He then shows that without the resurrection, faith and preaching are "in vain," and those who died in Christ have perished (vv. 12-19). But, as Paul affirms, "now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (vs. 20).

Paul makes a series of arguments to show why denying the resurrection cannot make sense within a Christian's worldview and leads to other problems. If we denied resurrection, we are denying that Jesus was raised, and if we do that, what's the point of calling ourselves His disciples? Even if we, in our finite minds, cannot understand exactly how it works, that doesn't change the historical reality of Christ's resurrection that assures us all of our own resurrection.

In this context is given the well-known warning: "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals'" (vs. 33). The primary reference point here has to do with influences that would

**"Your lovingkindness, Oh Lord, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies." Psalm 36: 5**

Preacher's Pen points

“Bringing Many Sons to Glory”

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.” (Heb. 2:10)

* * * * *

The Father's eternal relationship with the Son was p_____.

He existed in the very i_____ of His Father (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:15)

He experienced the Father's g_____ (Jn. 17:5) and enjoyed the Father's l_____ (Mt. 3:17).

But the Father desired to have “m_____ s_____.”

It was a desire grounded in His l_____ (1 Jn. 4:8; Heb. 1:2).

The Father took a great r_____ in creating other sons.

He made us in His image and likeness with the power of c_____ (Gen. 1:26).

His desire for “many sons” was rewarded with a world full of r_____ sons (Gen. 3:6; Rom. 3:23)

The Father sent His only begotten Son to r_____ His fallen sons (Jn. 3:16).

We can become His a_____ sons (and daughters) by faith in Jesus (Rom. 8:14ff).

The Father wants His redeemed sons to be l_____ His Son (Rom. 8:29)

He will l_____ us like He loved His only begotten (Jn. 14:21, 23).

The Father will bring His redeemed sons to share His g_____ (Jn. 17:24; Rom. 8:19).

Important Lessons for Us!

We were made for a r_____ with the Father (Ac. 17:27).

We were made not for earth, but for h_____ (Mt. 25:34).

We have been given an amazing o_____ (Gal. 3:26-27).

If we reject the Father's offer of eternal life with Him, He will have no choice but to send us a _____ eternally (Mt. 25:41; 2 Thes. 1:7-9).

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cause us to doubt our conviction in the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. By doubting the resurrection, we open ourselves up to further corruption and the ultimate loss of our souls. Paul ties this doubt to the reason why some are sinning: “Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame” (vs. 34).

After Paul discusses the nature of the resurrection, he concludes: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Now notice the connection back to verses 12-19, where Paul argued that if Jesus was not raised from the dead, then faith is “vain” and preaching is “vain” (vv. 12-19). That word “vain” is the same used in verse 58, and the connection should be noted. If Christ wasn't raised, faith is vain; if He was raised, faith and all we do for Christ is worthwhile.

What makes our faith worthwhile (not in vain) is the fact of the resurrection. Because of the resurrection, we can know that we will be raised and that we are victors in Christ. The sting of death is defeated through Christ. If we have confidence that Jesus was raised, then we have confidence that everything we do in the Lord is worth our whole lives.

This is why doubt can become so destructive. If we are not so sure about the resurrection, then we will never have full confidence in serving Him. We will wonder if our labor is in vain. We may harbor that needling thought that we can spend our time doing something else more desirable. We may begin to think we are wasting our time, and our “religion” becomes a drudgery.

On the other hand, if we have confidence in the resurrected Christ, then we can know the value of what we do for the Lord. This is the direct connection. This is where we can ground our faith. This is how we can learn to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. We may then rejoice in this truth:

“For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (vv. 53-57).

(Doy Moyer/<http://www.vestaviachurchofchrist.com/3-27-2016>)