September 9, 2018

Sundays 9:00 am                                                                             WKYT     Channel 27-2

***It is requested that all children under the age of five stay in our nursery***

***so there will be no distractions during the preaching of the Gospel***

Come, let us join our cheerful songs

With angels ‘round the Throne

Ten thousand thousand are their tongues

But all their joys are one.  *(Repeat)*

Worthy the Lamb that died they cry

To be exalted thus

Worthy the Lamb, our lips reply

For He was slain for us.  *(Repeat)*

Jesus is worthy to receive

Honour and power divine

And blessings more than we can give

Be Lord forever Thine.  *(Repeat)*

Let all that dwell above the sky

And air, and earth, and seas

Conspire to lift Thy glories high

And speak Thine endless praise.  *(Repeat)*

The whole creation join in one

To bless the sacred Name

Of Him who sits upon the Throne

And to adore the Lamb.  *(Repeat)*

(Tune: “Majestic Sweetness”)

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            I will be leaving for vacation this afternoon and Lord willing,  return on the 27th.  Frank Tate from Hurricane Grace Church in Ashland will bring the message this evening. Andy Davis will preach the 16thand Aaron Greenleaf on the 23rd.  Don Fortner will preach the Wednesday services the 12th& 19thand Fred Evans on the 26th.  May the Lord be pleased to bless these men to preach the Gospel in my absence.

We will have a church dinner Sunday, September 30th.

Birthdays

9th– Todd Nibert              14th– Don Stephens

*“Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.”                                                      - Proverbs 12:1*

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*“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”* This is the only part of the prayer the Lord gave us to pray that He commented on.  *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:  But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”  (Matthew 6:12, 14-15).*

            We are not forgiven because we forgive.  We are forgiven for Christ’s sake (*Ephesians 4:32*).  If we refuse to forgive it demonstrates that we have never been forgiven.  When I confess my sins to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness, I am called on to ask Him to forgive me in the same way I forgive others.  The only way to forgive the man that has sinned against me is to forgive him the way Christ forgave me – completely and freely!  Forgiveness is the most God-like thing we can do and failing to forgive from our hearts insures that we will not be forgiven.

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            John had been speaking of love as the commandment, and the evidence of having passed from death to life (*John 3:11,14*).  The love he is speaking of is not the love between a man and woman, parent and child, or friend and friend.  That is natural love.  The love John is speaking of is divine!  Only the believer has this love, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

            Then John gives us a commandment regarding this love.  *“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue: but in deed and truth” (I John 3:18)*.  John is telling us to make sure our love is not only in concept and in our speech. He is telling us to make sure our actions give proof of that love.  It is only our actions that prove the reality of the love we say we have in our speech. “I love you” are either the most meaningless or meaningful words we can say.  The deeds behind the words determine whether the words are meaningless or meaningful.

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            Faith is trusting Christ. It is the end of mystery and the beginning of simplicity; the giving up of all those idle feelings and believings that aught else can save the soul, and the reception of that one master thought, that Christ Jesus is exalted on high to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins.     *– C. H. Spurgeon*

TEARS

            The law calls unclean every issue from the body – that is, every issue but one: tears.  It seems to be the only thing that we humans produce that is not repulsive to God.  Tears are precious to Him.  He is even said to collect them in a bottle (*Psalm 56:8*).  Hezekiah’s tears were counted on a level with his prayers (*Isaiah 38:5*).  Tears were considered suitable to bathe the feet of the Master.

            Tears of repentance are pleasing to the Lord.  Each drop is a testimony of a work of His grace that has brought the rebel to bay, reconciled the heart of an enemy, and called His prodigal home.  Do not fear to shed them and never despise them in another. If ever a holy thing came out of a man or woman, it must be those tears that flow from a heart broken by God’s grace.

            Tears of sorrow catch His attention. We think to impress the Lord with lofty language and ingratiate ourselves to Him with flattering words.  But the most poetic prayer ever uttered by men has not so much force as a tear shed in His presence.  *“In all their distress He too was distressed” (Isaiah 63:9)*.  Many a prayer is made of sobs and tears without words and the Lord hears with understanding and sees with mercy and He is moved with compassion for them. Such tears shed at the Throne of grace stir up Divine mercy to help us in time of need.

            Tears of love, gratitude and praise are sweet to Him.  The sinful woman bathed the Lord’s feet with her tears and though the tearless Pharisee was offended at her presence, the Lord was glad to have her loving service and He blessed her by repeating to her that she had been forgiven and her faith had saved her.

            Do not despise tears! The Lord does not.  Do not despise your tears or the tears of others.  Sweet they are to God.  Let them flow, for they are signs neither of weakness, unbelief nor immaturity. They are powerful testimonies before the Lord. The Lord Jesus, Himself, prayed with crying and tears, and was heard (*Hebrews 5:7*).  Let us follow His example.                                                         *- Joe Terrell*

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