March 24, 2019

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.***

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now may the Lord reveal His face

And teach our stamm’ring tongues

To make His sovereign, reigning grace

The subject of our songs.

No sweeter subject can invite

A sinner’s heart to sing

Or more display the glorious right

Of our exalted King.

Grace reigns to pardon crimson sins

To melt the hardest heart

And from the work it once begins

It never once departs.

‘Twas grace that called our souls at first

By grace thus far we’re come

And grace will help us through the worst

And lead us safely home.

(Tune: “Am I A Soldier? “ p. 414)

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Birthdays

27th– Jessica Clark           29th– Bryant Martin           30th– Sherri Morris

*“A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.” - Proverbs 14:25*

There is never an excuse nor any justification for any sin committed!  Nor is there a denial that sin has been committed!  Facing my sin and sins honestly makes me cry out, *“God be merciful to me the sinner!”*

IF BAPTISM DOES NOT SAVE, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Baptism is a ceremony, there is no saving efficacy in it nor is it a means through which grace is conveyed.  But, that does not take away from its importance.

The marriage ceremony does not cause a man and woman to love one another.  They love each other before they participated in the marriage ceremony.  But if they refuse to participate in the marriage ceremony, and live together without it, they say by that, that they do not love one another enough to be totally committed to one another.  This shows how important the marriage ceremony is.  There is no true love without it. Baptism is the same.  It does not cause salvation.  It speaks of a relationship that was already there before the ceremony. And that relationship was caused by what baptism depicts: Union with Christ.  For someone to refuse Baptism is like someone who refused the marriage covenant and ceremony.  That person says by their actions, “I do not love Christ enough to commit to Him.” Love like that is not love at all!

Yes, Baptism is important – *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16)*

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*“Of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.” - John 1:16*

***“Of His fullness.*”**In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.  ***“Have we all received.”***  All of the elect, all who believe.  In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and ye are complete in Him*.****“And grace for grace.”***Grace is the cause of grace.  We are given this grace because of grace.  The only reason for grace is grace.  It is never earned or merited!  That safeguards two things.  There is no reason for anybody to boast and there is not reason for anybody to despair.

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When we say “The doctrines of grace” we err. It is the doctrine of grace. Total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints are not separate doctrines, but one doctrine. They all stand or fall together. It is not possible to believe one without believing them all, and it is not possible to deny one without denying them all.  The doctrine of grace is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I HAVE NEVER SINNED

That phrase is hard to write, even harder to say…but I, and every believer eternally united to Christ, have never sinned.  A believer has two separate, distinct, opposing natures…. the flesh (the old man) and the spirit (the new man).

The man writing this article in the flesh is a sinner, and can only sin.  I sinned when I wrote the title to this article.  But the new man, the spirit of Christ in me, is holy and righteous, and has never sinned.  The real me, the eternal me, is eternally righteous.  No, I don’t fully understand that, but I really do believe it, because God’s Word declares it.  Speaking of His elect, spiritual Israel, He says, *“I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cutoff” (Isaiah 56:5).*The everlasting name He gives to His church follows in the book of Jeremiah, *“And this is the name wherewith she shall be called, the Lord our righteousness” (Jer. 3:16).*

Our everlasting, eternal name is the Lord our Righteousness!  That means throughout all eternity past and eternity to come, I have never sinned and never will.  Every believer is therefore eternally justified, not guilty, nothing to be charged with, for in Christ I have never done any wrong.                                                   *- Brian DuFour*

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OUR ASSEMBLIES

By God’s all-wise appointment, our assemblies are the life, the food, and the nourishment of our souls.  It is the **main** way whereby we publicly identify with Christ and His Gospel.  We evidence our love for Christ by our loyalty and support of one another in opposition to all false worship.  **Many things** will rise up in competition to the diligent attendance of our assemblies.  We must recognize and refuse to give in to anything that is opposed to what Christ commands.  The **total falling away** of a graceless professor always **begins** with this neglect, this disassociation with God’s people *(Hebrews 10:25).*

*– John Owen 1616-1683*