April 14, 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

I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love Divine

And with unfaltering lip and heart, I call the Saviour mine

His cross dispels each doubt, I bury in His tomb

Each thought of unbelief and fear, each lingering shade of gloom.

I praise the God of peace, I trust His truth and might

He calls me His, I call Him mine, My God, my Joy, my Light

In Him is only good, in me is only ill

My ill but draws His goodness forth, and me He loveth still.

‘Tis He Who saveth me, and freely pardon gives

I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives

My life with Him is hid, my death has passed away

My clouds have melted into light, my midnight into day.

(Tune: “This is My Father’s World” p. 39)

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UPCOMING BIBLE CONFERENCE

Katy Baptist Church, Fairmont, WV                     April 19-21

Central Grace Church, Rocky Mount, VA            May 3-5

Hurricane Road Grace Church, Ashland, KY       May 10-12

Lantana Grace Church, Crossville, TN                 June 21-23

Birthdays

14th– Anna Williams        15th– Jaiden Wilson         17th– Betty Groover

20th– Becky Rigsby                 20th– Kim Daniel

*“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city.”*

*– Proverbs 18:19*

ONESIPHORUS

Paul spake of those in Asia who had turned away from him.  He mentioned two of them by name.  What heartache and grief they caused Paul and what grievous judgment they brought on themselves.  But in *II Timothy 1:16*, he mentions a man named Onesiphorus. He said, *“He oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain.”*  He was a constant, refreshing source of encouragement to Paul and was not ashamed, but identified with Paul in the trouble he had and the chains he endured for the Gospel’s sake.  Paul said, *“When he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.”*This was before the aid of cell phones, google maps, and Uber.  *“In how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.”*I do not want to be like the two men mentioned who turned away from Paul, for whatever the reason was.  I am sure they justified themselves in doing it.  I wan to be like Onesiphorus.  May the Lord give us grace to be like him.

What disciple is known for his doubting? Thomas.  *“The other disciples therefore said unto Him, we have seen the Lord. But He said unto them, except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.”*And who was the one disciple who was not there when the Lord appeared? *“For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.”*To not attend public worship service is to demonstrate a lack of relish for His presence, and insure the weakening of our faith.  I am sure Thomas had reasons for not being there, and I am equally sure Thomas should have been there.

*“He that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness” – Romans 12:8*

Showing mercy is one of the gifts of the church that Paul spoke of in *Romans 12*.  And what a precious gift it is.  It is in the character of the believer – *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”* Showing mercy is to be moved to sympathy at the distress and trouble of others and doing what you can to help. Remembering God’s mercy toward you – it is easy to be moved to show mercy and to help others!  Is there a need to be told we should show mercy with cheerfulness?  Yes.  To show mercy begrudgingly or unwillingly is not really showing mercy.  God delights in mercy *(Micah 7:18)*.  And we are to love mercy, be merciful, and show mercy cheerfully.

KNOWING THIS FIRST

*“Knowing this first, that no Scripture is of any private interpretation.  For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

The Bible is the inspired Word of God.  We do not use the Bible to prove what we believe.  We go to the Bible to find out what to believe.  And I am so grateful for a written, perfect and complete revelation. Because God wrote it, no part is to be rejected or thought to be of secondary importance. If a man really believes the Bible is the inspired Word of God, he will believe all that it says! And bow to all that it says.

TRUE WORSHIP

True worship is not primarily a cultural thing.  It is not simply offering to God our sentiments and feelings expressed according to our culture.  It is based on a knowledge of the majesty and holiness of God and what He requires in worship.  It is not primarily cultural; it is spiritual.  Those who know the true God will come into His presence with holy awe and reverence, whatever their cultural background.

Africans, it is true, like rhythm and music but so does the rock-loving culture of the West, as evidenced by what takes place in discos or in other entertainment.  Our worship should not be an expression of our culture, but of the holiness and majesty of God and our gratitude for His grace towards us in Christ.  A true knowledge of Christ will lead to worship, which is God-glorifying, whatever the cultural background.  There will be more putting our hands over our mouths (*Job 40:4*) and covering our faces (*Isaiah 6:2*) than there will be hands in the air and dancing in the aisles! When people know the true God, their worship is reverent and God glorifying, whatever their cultural background.

*- Bill Clark, Missionary*

The real way to translate free will is, *“We will not have this man to reign over us.”*Our problem is we cannot with our free will keep Him from reigning.  His will is sovereign over ours!