October 6, 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

When this passing world is done

When has sunk yon radiant sun

When I stand with Christ on high

Looking o’er life’s history

Then, Lord, shall I fully know

Not ‘til then, how much I owe.

When I stand before Thy Throne

Dressed in beauty not my own

When I see Thee as Thou art

Love Thee with unsinning heart

Then, Lord, shall I fully know

Not ‘til then, how much I owe.

Chosen not for good in me

Wakened up from wrath to flee

Hidden in the Saviour’s side

By His Spirit sanctified

Teach me, Lord, on earth to show

By Thy love, how much I owe.

(Tune: “Rock of Ages” p. 126)

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            Aaron Greenleaf will bring the message this morning and Frank Tate the evening message.  I am on vacation and will return Tuesday.

Birthdays

7th– Sharon Fugate                8th– Jimmy Hicks                 8th– Charles Nibert 10th– Wilma Stephens         11th– Hunter Small                 12th– Doug Hacker

            *“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.”                            - Proverbs 18:19*

WHAT FREE WILL DENIES

            Before we can see what free will denies, we first have to know what is meant by free will.  Free will says that a man’s destiny is dependent upon the choices he makes.  His will is free to choose to allow God to save him, or reject God’s offer of salvation. His eternal destiny is determined by his free will.

            If I believe my will is free, there are three things I deny.  (1) I deny that God is sovereign.  I say His sovereignty does not extend to my will.  That is a complete denial of His sovereignty.  (2) I deny that I am a sinner in the Biblical definition of the word. According to the Bible, men are dead in sins (*Ephesians 2:1*).  That means they are completely unable to do anything to save themselves. Free will is a denial of that.  (3) Free will is a denial of free grace.  You cannot believe in salvation by grace and free will.  Free will is nothing less than salvation by works.  The teaching of free will is a denial of the Gospel!

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            When Paul said,  *“I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified*”, he is not saying that is the only theme he was going to preach on, and will ignore everything else.  He is saying that is the only message there is.  There are no other themes to ignore.

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            When I am brought to the place of seeing present tense I have nothing to recommend myself to God, and have nowhere to look but Christ alone, I have been brought to a good place and the only safe place. Christ is always the only way to the Father all the time!

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            *“Go ye unto all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).*  He does not say wait for them to come to you.  It is our responsibility to see to it that all men hear the Gospel.  The results are in His hands.

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            The feather flies in the wind, but it has no inherent power to move; and consequently, when the gale is over, it falls to the ground. Such is the religion of excitement.  But the eagle has life within itself, and its wings bear it aloft and onward whether the breeze favors it or not. Such is religion when sustained by conviction of the Truth.                                        *- C. H. Spurgeon*

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            I should never have found peace with God nor come to love the Lord at all if it had not been that I distinctly saw that He, Who knew no sin, was made sin for me that I may be made the righteousness of God in Him.                         *– C. H. Spurgeon*

THE OBTAINING OF MERCY

            *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”            – Hebrews 4:16*

            To obtain mercy we begin by asking for mercy.  To ask for mercy presupposes these three things. (1) I have no merit.  (2) My sin is all my fault.  If I do not take complete responsibility for my sin, I cannot really ask for mercy.  (3) Mercy is in His hands to give or withhold.  If the Lord passes me by, I cannot complain of unfairness. Once again, if I do, I am no longer asking for mercy, but demanding my right.  And we are told to come to the Throne of grace with boldness, cheerful confidence, to obtain this mercy!  How can we do that without being presumptuous?  *“For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.  Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace*(free, unmerited favor),*that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*Those who truly come obtain mercy!

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WEAKNESS AND ACCOUNTIBILITY

            Aaron is called in *Psalm 106:16, “The saint of the Lord.”*Without question he was a believer.  But he was a weak man.  When the children of Israel told him to make them gods which would go before them, Aaron complied and became the chief participant in this great sin *(Ex. 32:1-5)*.  Moses said to Aaron, *“What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them” (Ex. 32:22).*Aaron refused to take responsibility…he said that the people were set on mischief, so they gave me gold, *“And there came out this calf” (Ex. 32:24).*He was the one who fashioned the golden calf with a graving tool *(Ex. 32:2-4)*.  Yet he would not admit responsibility!

            If I blame someone or something else for my wrong behavior, my weakness in not the problem. It is someone or something else’s fault. But when I see it is my fault, because of my sinful weakness, I will cry to the Lord for strength, and He will help me. That is what Paul meant when he said, *“When I am weak, then am I strong” (II Cor. 12:10).*Wherever you find a person who refuses accountability and personal responsibility, you will find a person who remains a weakling.  When somebody sees their sinful weakness is the problem, they will cry to the Lord for strength.