

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Walden David

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#666 I Am Thine, O Lord

#678 More About Jesus

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#383 Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

#701 My Jesus, I Love Thee

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#652 We Have Heard the Joyful Sound

Sermon: "The Day of Atonement"

Hebrews 9:11-14

#650 Send the Light

#549 There is Sunshine In My Soul

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#639 Rescue the Perishing

#837 I Need Thee Every Hour

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy

Prayer by: Robert Ward

#548 The Lily of the Valley

#648 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Sermon: "Twelve Ordinary Men: Simon the Zealot"

#643 Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom

#634 We'll Work Till Jesus Comes

Closing Prayer by: Daniel Balch

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

September 16, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

I Know Whom I Have Believed

We had memorial services this past week for two of our sisters in Christ. Having only been here for a few months, I did not have the pleasure of knowing either of these two dear ladies. But I know that many of you counted them as close friends and mourn their loss. I have enjoyed the opportunity to know more about them through the reminiscences some of you have shared with me. And, most of all, I appreciate the fact that both were valued members of this church family.

The text for Sister Caballero's service in particular struck me. It is a familiar one, from Paul's second letter to Timothy. *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing (2 Timothy 4:6-8).*

This is the last of Paul's letters that has been preserved for us. It was written during his final imprisonment in Rome. The aged soldier of the cross is facing imminent death. He writes this letter to the young preacher Timothy, his son in the gospel, knowing the rigorous work and hardships he will face. So Paul does his best to counsel him on meeting those challenges. He writes that he has been called to be a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why he suffers so much. Then he says, *But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me (2 Timothy 1:12).* Paul says he knows whom he has believed. The same faith that sustained Paul should inspire Timothy – and it will see us to victory, too.

Notice the imagery in this passage. Paul indicates that he possesses something of great value, something that is in danger of being lost and that he is unable to protect by himself. But in Jesus Christ, Paul has found a protector. He will safeguard what has been given to Paul.

I know whom I have believed. Paul never met Jesus in the flesh as far as we know. Perhaps he encountered him during Jesus' earthly ministry, but, if he did, he was not convinced. No, Paul only truly met Jesus when his name was Saul, and he was making havoc of the church. He was on his way to Damascus, under the authority of the High Priest, to bring Christians back to Jerusalem to face charges. But on the road, he was knocked to his knees by a blinding light

Our Sick

Doris Trahan is taking chemo treatments.

Phillip Cottle is in Kindred Hospital in Houston.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Ronnie Davis, Bill Luncford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Cheryl Mast, Robert White

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard, Dr. Ronald Davis, Frances Petree

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meet Monday, Sept. 17th at 7:00 pm.

We will be having a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, Sept. 20th at 8:30 am.

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies class is Wednesday, Sept. 19th at 10:00 am.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Margaret Nicholls. She passed away last week and the service was Saturday.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bob Parker	Danny Balch	
Bobby Rader	Shannon Smith	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

Communion Preparation: Lynette Ward
 Nursery Attendants: Lynette Ward, Debra Faneros

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Sept. 23rd: Glenda Wiggins
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Sept. 23rd: Raven Lartigue, Sharon Lartigue

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and the voice of Jesus asking, *Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?* He went into the city, where a preacher by the name of Ananias came to him and asked *Why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.* Standing before King Agrippa many years later, Paul said he was not disobedient to that heavenly vision. He not only believed in Jesus, he went and proclaimed him in Damascus, Jerusalem, Judea, and even to the Gentiles.

Since meeting Jesus on the Damascus road, Paul had come to know him through years of prayer and providence. Because of his total commitment, Paul was confident that Jesus would do what he had promised to do. His commitment included full compliance in living the kind of life that Jesus wanted him to live.

This Jesus that Paul had such confidence in was the same Jesus who had protected Peter on the water in **Matthew 14**. He was the same Lord who delivered the apostles from jail in **Acts 5**. He was the one Paul would write about in **1 Corinthians 15:55-57**, *“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.*

We have the same opportunity to know Jesus that Paul did. We may not literally encounter him on the highway. But we can know Him through the experience of Scripture. We may know Him through our own time of prayer. And when we come to know Him, the same assurance that Paul had is available to us. For all those who know him, who love His appearing, who live His kind of life, there is that crown of righteousness waiting. The victory has been won! But that confidence Paul had requires an unconditional surrender of our human will to the will of Jesus Christ. Have we done that?

Bryant Perkins

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

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