

Instructions for the Path of Perseverance

Psalm 25

Introduction

- Structure
- Style
- Focus

I. Who Persecutes

A. Enemies on the Outside

B. Enemies on the Inside

II. Who Provides

A. The Comfort of the Content

B. The Content of the Comfort

III. Who Perseveres

A. The Heart of the Persevering

B. The Heart of Perseverance

Welcome To Fifth Street Presbyterian Church

Our purpose for meeting together today is to meet with our Lord as a body of believers. We meet that we might hear Him speak in the reading and preaching of His Word. And, we meet to respond to His voice in our songs, prayers, and affirmations. In the ordinary worship of God we find extraordinary grace, encouragement and reason to hope. This corporate worship of God is the most important thing that happens upon the earth and we are delighted to have you with us as we approach the Father in Christ's name by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week at a glance:

Today	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	11:00 A.M.	Morning Worship
	12:30 P.M.	Choir Practice
	5:00 P.M.	Evening Service
Tuesday	10:30 A.M.	Ladies Bible Study
	7:00 P.M.	Session
Wednesday	7:00 A.M.	Men's Calvin Discussion
Thursday	7:00 P.M.	Ladies Bible Study

Visitors: We would appreciate a record of your visit, which you can provide by filling out one of the visitor's cards that you will find in the pew. Please place the card in the offering plate. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Evening Service: We will meet in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. this evening. We sing, pray, hear God's Word, and enjoy fellowship. We meet every Sunday and have a meal together on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

A group of men meet on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Einstein Brothers Bagels on Broadway to discuss sections of Calvin's Institutes. We have begun book two of the institutes and invite you to join us for good coffee and a helpful discussion of the doctrines of our faith.

We are planning a church wide luncheon following the morning worship on May 3. Please bring your favorite casserole, meat dish, or dessert that will feed three times your family. Also, please bring your dish ready to serve, (just needs warming).

Christianity Explored We are offering this class during our Sunday school hour as a way of introducing those interested to this program, as well as a means of encouraging and training ourselves for the work of reaching others for Christ. We are very glad to be able to make the Christianity Explored materials available. This class is a study of the Gospel of Mark designed to introduce Christ to the unconverted, it will last for seven weeks and includes a brief video, a study of Mark, and discussion. If you are interested please speak with James Hescok.

For the next few months we will be making use of the Heidelberg Catechism's explanation of the Apostles' Creed for our affirmation of faith. We hope you will find it helpful in your understanding of the rich truths expressed in this creed and that it will enrich your worship as we with this creed join with voices of the past and voices from around the world in the confession of our Faith.

The offering counters this week are: Matt LaRoy and Milford Brinton.

Thoughts on Worship

Why do we worship? There is more than one right biblical answer. Surely at the top of the list is "for His own glory" (1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 29:1-2). There is no higher answer to "why do we worship?" than because the glory of God is more important than anything else in all creation. The chief end of the Church is to glorify and enjoy God together forever, because the chief thing in all the world is God's glory (Philippians 2:9-11). There are other answers as well: because God said to, because God created us to worship, because God saved us to worship, because it is our natural duty as creatures and joyful duty as Christians to worship, because our worship is a response of gratitude for saving grace, because those with new hearts long to hear His word and express their devotion, because God wants to bless us with Himself, because God has chosen us for His own inheritance and seeks to commune with us in His ordinances, and more.

The Goal and Meaning of Public Worship

Our aim, as the congregation gathers to meet with God in public worship on the Lord's Day, is to glorify and enjoy God, in accordance with His written Word. That is, the very purpose of assembling together as the people of God in congregational worship is to give to the Lord the glory due His name and to enjoy the blessing of His promised special presence with His own people, in obedience to His instructions set forth in the Bible. Corporate worship (so-called because the body or corpus of Christ, that is, the people of God, the Church, is collectively involved in this encounter with God) is sometimes referred to as "gathered," "assembled," "public," or "congregational" worship. All of these names are helpful, and bring out different dimensions of this important aspect of biblical worship. Though the Bible indicates that there are, in addition to public worship, other distinct and significant facets of Christian worship (like family worship, private worship and life worship), the importance of public worship is featured in both the Old and New Testaments. When Psalm 100:2 and Hebrews 10:25 speak of "coming before the Lord" and "assembling together" they are both addressing public or gathered worship.

The great distinctive of our whole approach to public worship here at *Fifth Street* Presbyterian Church is that we aim for the form and substance of our corporate worship to be suffused with Scripture and scriptural theology. An apt motto for this approach is: "Read the Bible, Preach the Bible, Pray the Bible, Sing the Bible, See the Bible."

Adapted from the Statement from First Presbyterian Church, Jackson MS.

