

CALL TO WORSHIP

Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 40

SCRIPTURE READING

Sun- Bob M.

Wed- Mike S.

HYMN

My Faith Has Found A Resting Place # 228

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- As it pleases our Lord, Brother Eric Lutter and his wife Michelle will visit us at the end of May. I am excited for their fellowship! Kimberly and I are planning a cookout at our home for the same weekend.

CLOSING HYMN

My Savior's Love # 452

REBELS OR REVOLUTIONISTS

In great conflict and warfare, politically, the only difference between a rebel and a revolutionist is which one YOU are **for**.

In this great conflict of life and immortality, spiritually, the only difference between a rebel against the Lord and a regenerated child of God - is which one HE is **for**.

During times of heavy conflict, the child of God can rightfully say with Paul- *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be **for** us, who can be against us?"* (Rom 8v31)

- KBT

GIVE YOUR EAR TO YOUR PASTOR

It is important to remember to give your ear to your pastor. That's the man whom your Lord was pleased to send to your congregation to labor in that field. He that listens will notice that what is being said is important for the unity of that local body (Phil 3:15-16). The Lord blesses that word peculiarly to that body. It may be a blessing to others elsewhere, but it's meant specifically for the people there. You don't want to miss it.

When the Lord sent our very first gospel preacher to New Jersey, I made it a point to tune my ear to his messages. Listening to other preachers I used to hear when I was alone came to a complete stop. My pastor was from the deep south and pronounced things differently. He said "naked" rather than "naked". And "pin" apparently meant "pen" and things like that. Phrases were different. He preached through books of the bible, and I had gotten used to spotty topical messages taken in at random. But the Lord blessed his word to my heart. I heard the voice of my Savior speak to me and my heart was knit with my pastor's. I grew to appreciate his labors and thanked God for sending me a faithful pastor who distributed the bread to me that God had given to him.

I'm thankful for the messages of other pastors. They truly are a blessing and I can always recognize why they are loved by brethren throughout the land. We preach the same gospel, after all. The point is that it's not healthy to listen to others at the neglect of giving our primary attention to the one whom God joined unto us in union. I will just note that conferences are different in that, those visiting pastors were chosen of God being asked by your pastor. The word they bring will be made a precious blessing to all that attend with purpose. I'm speaking of those who would willfully neglect their pastor's messages.

It's a tremendous blessing to sit in a local church with a faithful gospel preacher. There's a reason why every member is there, including your pastor. Pray for one another regularly. Come to services regularly. Give ear to the word being preached by the man God raised up and sent to you. It's easy to pick messages from the internet with engaging titles and from passages that strike an interest in us. It's easy to dismiss what we don't like. It's easy to hear what we want, because it doesn't require the same prayerful desire to know why God is saying this to me and to apply it in my own heart and household, in the field of labor where God has put me.

- Eric Lutter (Nixa, MO)

Why Are Afflictions Good for Me?

It takes the work of God in grace for us (believers) to see the benefits of “God sent afflictions”---Sanctified Afflictions.

1. Afflictions wean our affection from the world, and puts it on Christ.
2. Afflictions takes our focus off the things of this world and puts it on our relationship with Christ. **Colossians 3:1-3** *‘If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.’*
3. Afflictions are our teachers sent from God. It is through afflictions that we understand, and learn the statutes of God. This is how we learn the truth by experience, and not just by the letter. **Psalms 119:71** *‘It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.’* It is amazing how much better we understand the word of God reading it through tears.
4. Afflictions keep us from going astray or bring us back after going straying. **Psalms 119:67** *‘Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.’*
5. Afflictions humble us, they keep pride in check.
6. Afflictions correct a spiritually bad attitude. The medicine may be bitter, but the effect is sweet.
7. Afflictions draw us nearer to our Father.
8. They work for our eternal good. **Romans 8:28** *‘And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.’*

If we could see the many spiritual benefits of afflictions, we would rejoice in them, realizing that our heavenly Father loved us so much to send them to us.

- John Chapman (Spring Lake, NC)

San Diego Grace Fellowship

“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”

1Cor 1v23-24

March 12th, 2023

Service Times

Sunday - 9:30 AM
- 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 6:30 PM

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