

CALL TO WORSHIP

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken #185

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

- May birthdays: Tim Burnett 11th ; Lilah McPheeters 30th
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HYMN

Leave It There #353

MESSAGES

-pastor Gabe Stalnaker

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CLOSING HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say #225

The Importance of This Fellowship to Me

Personally, I have never been involved in a congregation where there is such a bond of love and fellowship in the gospel as we enjoy here. God has greatly blessed us! So far as I know, there are no factions, divisions, or controversies among us. We have one desire: We want to worship the Lord. We have one work: We want to preach the Gospel. We have one purpose: We want the glory of God. Our fellowship, I believe, is built around the gospel. Religious tradition, family ties, and social similarities have nothing to do with it. We are a family of redeemed sinners, whose hearts are united to one another in the love of Christ. This fellowship ought to be guarded by prayer and strengthened by brotherly love. I ask you to guard it and cherish it for the glory of Christ, for your own sake, and for my sake as well.

– Don Fortner (1950-2020)

John wrote, “We love him, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) There has never been a single second in my life that I have loved Christ as He ought to be loved. And yet, there has never been a moment in or before time that my Lord and my Savior, Jesus Christ, has not loved me. So, by experience, I must agree with the beloved John, “I love Christ because He first loved me.”

– pastor David Eddmenson

“At the end of two full years” (Genesis 41:1)

God had promised Joseph that he would exalt him. That his own family would come and bow down before him. But this promise was slow in being fulfilled. Joseph was betrayed by his brethren, sold as a slave, falsely accused, and put in prison where his feet were hurt in the stocks.

Joseph had interpreted the dream for Pharaoh's butler, but the butler had forgotten to speak on Joseph's behalf. For two full years Joseph languished in prison. What an opportunity to grow weary and doubtful and unbelieving, and even bitter. How Satan must have tempted Joseph to curse the butler and accuse God - "Two full years"!

But the verse says, " At the end of two full years." The promises of God are sure to those in Christ, but the wheels that bring those promises can turn very slow sometimes, but the promises will arrive. There is an end that God has in mind. Now is the time to be tried - and sometimes tried sore too. Trials that are not only deep as Joseph's dungeon but trials that last for years as his did. But the promise will come. Wait patiently for it, (Heb.6:11-15).

Dear brother Fortner used to say, "Don't judge God by his providence, but judge his providence by him." Joseph lived in the faith that God was good and was working all these trials for a good end (Gen.50:20). This kept him from being swallowed up in weariness and from growing bitter at God or man.

–pastor Bruce Crabtree

There Am I

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”– Matthew 18:20

I read these words in an article Bro. Henry Mahan wrote: “I wonder if we do not often meet together in the name of Christ and forget the guest of honor.” I know that, apart from God’s grace, I will do that very thing. I don’t want to do that. Each time I gather here with you, I want to come feeling my need to worship our Lord and Savior, to truly bow before him in my heart, sing his praises, and call upon his name. With such an honored guest, let us, like Mary, set at His feet and give Him our undivided attention. Jesus Christ has that right and deserves no less.

–pastor Larry Criss

