

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, Our Help in Ages Past #10

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

- June birthdays: Karen Smith 9th; DeeAnne Hodson 12th; Lincoln Jonilionis 12th
-

HYMN

Pass Me Not #235

MESSAGES

-pastor Gabe Stalnaker

- -
-

CLOSING HYMN

Day by Day #299

Confidence in Christ

I have no confidence in self.

No confidence in this world.

No confidence in the riches of this world.

No confidence in the pleasures of this world, the treasures of this world, the acclaim of this world.

No confidence in the knowledge and the wisdom of this world.

No confidence in any of my knowledge or my understanding.

No confidence in the flesh.

But all my confidence is in Christ alone. Give me Christ or yet I die. For me to live is Christ—and to die is gain, for then I shall be with him. For Job, Christ was all. He knew that his Redeemer liveth. And he knew that his eyes should behold Him (*Job 19:25-27*).

—pastor Ian Potts

“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Philippians 3:2-3

“As an ox goeth to the slaughter”

Prov. 7:22

A few years ago I was visiting my dear friend Don Bell at his farm in Tennessee. I noticed that Donnie had locked a steer up in one of the barn stalls and was feeding and watering it. When I ask him about it he told me he was fattening it up to slaughter it. I noticed all the cows standing around the outside of the stall wanting in. You could see how anxious they had become. Some were pawing the ground. Some were bellowing, and others running and slinging their heads and still others were trying to look inside the stall.

As I stood and looked at this sight, I thought to myself, "You poor, dumb animals! You have no idea what is happening here. This steer is being fattened up for the slaughter. A few more weeks and he will be loaded in a stock trailer and hauled away to the slaughter house - killed, gutted, skinned, and cut to pieces, and you are anxious to get in that stall with him? You want your end to be like his?"

This scene is played out every day in our society. There are sinners, unbelievers, rebels who are being fattened, by their sins. They fill their bellies with it like a hungry beast. They lap it up like a thirsty dog laps up water until suddenly, a dart strikes through their liver and the sword of justice cuts their throat. And yet, someone is standing there anxiously waiting to take their place. Like those dumb cows, gathering round the stall wanting nothing more than to get their share.

You and I see it all the time; the life someone lives is showing others the way to hell and many imitate them. The path they walk will take them down to the chambers of death, and yet many follow. And not only do they follow, but they do it willingly, and with a measure of satisfaction. The path of darkness leads to hell and yet they love it. A father, who died in his sins, and the son who follows his footsteps. A mother who died in her rebellion against the Lord and the daughter who follows her example - one poor, miserable soul following another to the slaughter!

No wonder Peter cried out on the day of Pentecost, "Save yourselves from this untoward (crooked) generation." If the blind follow the blind they will both fall into the ditch.

Leave the path of sin. It is the path to eternal death. Flee to Jesus Christ and be hid from the coming slaughter.

—pastor Bruce Crabtree

