

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Brethren, We Have Met to Worship #15

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

- June birthdays: Karen Smith 9<sup>th</sup>; DeeAnne Hodson 12<sup>th</sup>; Lincoln Jonilionis 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Rescue, CA is having their annual summer bible conference the weekend of July 3-5<sup>th</sup>.  
Scheduled speakers are:  
Darvin Pruitt – Grace Baptist Church, Lewisville, AR  
David Eddmenson – Bible Baptist Church, Madisonville, KY
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#### HYMN

### The Rock That Is Higher Than I #259

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#### MESSAGES

-brother Rex Bartley

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#### CLOSING HYMN

### How Can It Be? #67

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#### The Saints Hardest Struggle

The child of God must face all the afflictions that is common to the whole human race. We are not immune to family, health, financial and social problems. We all have been and will again be confronted with many hard and difficult situations. When God saves us we do not move on to EASY STREET. We then begin to fight the hardest battle that will ever be waged by anyone other than the Lord himself. This battle is with self, unbelief, doubt, hardness of heart, insincerity; things that war against the soul. The believer is the only one who knows anything about struggling with the flesh, dying daily, crucifying the flesh, self-denial, and giving SELF to the glory of God.

–Tommy Robbins (1948–2011)

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How sweet it is to awake every day knowing that God my Savior is on his throne, that he has purposed all that the day shall bring forth, and that he has purposed it for me, for my everlasting good.

– Don Fortner (1950-2020)

## Preaching the Sovereign Grace of God in Christ

When the Lord first planted this congregation, the pastor that God used to preach the ordination service made this exact statement, "If there is any place in this town, or within a reasonable driving distance of this town, where you can go and hear the gospel of God's free grace in Christ preached consistently and preached clearly, any place where you can go and worship God in truth, don't establish a church here. Go join up with them. This town is not big enough for two. And I am sure if there is another one here, it is struggling to make an existence. Go join up with them. If God enables you to call a pastor here then you are saying by that action that there is no other place where we can go and worship God and hear the gospel of his grace." That is the declaration a congregation makes when the Lord Jesus enables an assembly to call a pastor.

The preaching of the sovereign grace of God in Christ according to the scripture is a rare and precious blessing of God. Christ fitly joins his saints together by giving us this understanding. He compacts (cements) us together by effectually supplying a measure of grace to every joint, every member (Eph 4: 7; 16) He makes each member know our need of Christ and our need of the preaching of the gospel so that we know our need of one another. Christ and his gospel is our bond.

By this Christ makes the body edify itself in love (Eph 4:16). By Christ's presence, power and grace the body only increases in spirit. He gives us the same love, making us of one accord, one mind, by one Spirit. Christ edifies us by making us esteem the other better than ourselves so that rather than striving, rather than seeking the vain glory of being right and proving another wrong, Christ makes us humble ourselves, lay down our life, our wants, our rights. He makes us do so by the gospel declaring in our hearts that that is what Christ did for us in an infinitely greater way (Php 2: 1-11).

We work out our daily dealings with one another in fear and trembling knowing Christ is present, working his will and good pleasure (Php 2: 12-16). Therefore, we do not have to strive. Christ alone is able to make his servants stand (Rom 14: 4). So we set aside differences that we might continue together because Christ, the gospel and one another are more important than our prideful desires. By this effectual work, we are never diminished, only edified in love. Oh, many come and go; folks change churches like they change socks. But Christ uses even that to increase us so that rather than be diminished, we are edified in love. Christ is our Head and each saint is a member of his body. No member can say, "I do not need you." We need Christ, we need the preaching of the gospel, therefore we need each other (1 Cor 12: 17-27).

–pastor Clay Curtis

