

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

March 17, 2013

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Worthy

2 Samuel 22:1-4a: "And David spoke the words of this song to the Lord in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said, 'The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my savior, Thou dost save me from violence. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised...'"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Rev. 5:12

+We Adore Him

Hymn #7, "From All That Dwell"

Based on Psalm 117

We Confess Our Sin

O most high God, we humbly admit that we are as senseless men, and fools by nature. We do not know You or understand Your ways! We envy the evildoers who seem to flourish, though their destruction is certain. But O Lord, as You are exalted over evil-doers, so we adore You, that You are exalted over Your covenant people. Our sins do not confound Your mercy! Our transgressions are not beyond Your grace! We plead the person and work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, for our acceptance before You. And in Him again we ask, that You send forth the Spirit of adoption, into our hearts that we, by Him, may draw near. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #469, "How Sweet and Awesome is the Place"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Lam. 3:22-23

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #562, "All To Jesus I Surrender"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Ps. 119:9-16

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #298, "The Head That Once Was Crowned"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed in the back for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

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Welcome to Bethel Presbyterian Church! To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whomsoever will come-- this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We invite you to **sign** the attendance card in your bulletin and drop it in the offering. You are invited to stay for **Sunday School** which begins at 11:30.

REGARDING THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is for baptized believers who are in good standing in a Christian church (that is, not harboring unrepentant sin, not under any discipline of the church, and attending worship services faithfully). As fellow believers, we welcome you to participate in this New Covenant sacrament with us.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

In preparation for next week's worship (Theme:), please use the following hymns in your personal and/or family devotions this coming week: #s .

The Preface to Heaven: The Second Coming of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:5a

Study Notes for March 17, 2013

I. Introduction

- A. Most recently in this series, we have been discussing “The Preface to Heaven” in which we have seen a variety of different things that will precede our entrance into the Final...
 - 1. Five Truths we Must Confess when it Comes to the End Times
 - 2. The Signs of the Times
 - a. Their Purpose, Mt. 16:1-4.
 - b. Their Identity, Mt. 24:4-14.
 - 3. The Intermediate State
- B. This morning we are going to turn our focus to the Second Coming of Christ from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:5a. Consider the background of this passage...

II. The Preface to Heaven, Select.

- A. Five Truths we Must Confess when it Comes to the End Times
- B. The Signs of the Times
- C. The Intermediate State
- D. **The Second Coming of Christ, 1 Thes. 4:15-17; 5:1-5a.**
 - 1. **The Second Coming of Christ will be Impartial, v. 15, 16b-17a.**

*Point: Paul here is stressing the equality of the Second Coming of Christ. When Christ returns again, neither the dead nor the living will have an advantage! Both the dead and the living will be caught up “together” to meet their Lord! Christ’s Second Coming will be Impartial!

2. The Second Coming of Christ will be Glorious, vv. 16-17a.

Paul’s wording here is vivid. He places one powerful concept after another to convey the glorious nature of Christ’s Second Coming. Notice...

With a Shout

With the Voice of the Archangel

With the Trumpet of God

The Dead in Christ Shall Rise First

The Living will be caught up together with them

All will meet the Lord in the Air

What Moses Requested from the Lord and what we get!...

*Point: Unlike with Moses, the Second Coming of Christ will not be accompanied with the beholding of shadows or clefts in rocks. Rather, at the Second Coming we will see the undiluted and unveiled glory of the Lord!

3. The Second Coming of Christ will bring Unbreakable Communion with Christ, v. 17b.

Our Original Creation, the consequence of the fall, and the partial restoration in this life...

A picture of the relationship we have with Christ today is given to us in Song of Solomon 5:2ff...

*Point: Is our relationship with God breakable in this age? Not in the sense of its being, but certainly in the sense of its wellbeing! Truly God is forever pursuing us as His children (and never does He forsake us). But it is we who break the communion and so miss the joy of His presence! Such is the relationship we have with God today. But notice that in the end this “in part relationship” will be in full, “...and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Copies of all sermons are available upon request. Speak with Nels Nelson if you would like either an audio reproduction or a transcript. Or if you have access to the web, listen to or watch this or any sermon preached at BPC at www.bethelpreschurch.org.