

**Genesis 8: 13-22; “Noah Going Out of the Ark”, Sermon # 7 in the series –
“The Life of Noah”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on
April 30th, 2023, in the Morning Worship Service.**

Last week we were looking at God’s faithfulness to remember Noah. And specifically we saw that God was faithful to give Noah, and indeed all of His elect people, the assurance that they need, both as a young believer and an older believer. I showed you that there is assurance needed by all believers in times of affliction as well. In those times, Christ is there for them to show them that they are Christians. He is there for them to answer their inquiries as to whether they are making progress in putting sin to death in their lives, and He is there to show them whether or not His life is at work in their life to bring forth fruit unto God.

The Christian life is a New Life, based upon a New Birth. It is the life of Christ in the soul of man, and that life leads the new believer to make certain responses to God’s faithfulness, which we want to examine this morning. Noah’s response to all that God had faithfully done for him in bringing him out of judgment and into a new world and a new life, is a picture of what the New Testament believer should do when they are delivered from their sins. The question that we are asking this morning is: What is it that Noah did, that you should do as well, when you are forgiven of your sins, and you enter upon the Christian life? Noah’s response is seen in terms of what he did when God landed him on the mountains of Ararat and dried up the waters for him.

1st of all – It says that Noah removed the covering of the ark and he looked.
(verse 13)

All of this previous year, Noah had been buried in the ark. He had been shut in with his family, waiting until God’s judgment would subside. He had to wait until the waters receded far enough for land to appear. He had been safe in the ark. He had been safe in this strong refuge which is a picture of the finished work of Jesus Christ. He had been baptized into Christ. That is, he entered into that finished work, and he had declared his faith in Christ by pledging to go through the waters of judgment in this ark. This baptism saved him, not his being submerged into those waters, but his passing through them in Christ, the ark. And thereby all his sins were washed away, even as all the sinners of that day died beneath the waves. Noah died to sin in the ark.

Baptism can be a deceptive ordinance if you trust in it apart from entering into the finished work of Jesus Christ. To go through a ceremony when you are an infant, and for your parents to promise that they will raise you with Christian principles, that is no guarantee that you will become a Christian or are a Christian. A little water sprinkled, poured, or plunged into, will not save at all, without Christ. But Noah was safe in the ark. He was baptized by going through those waters, in complete identification with Christ. And now he had landed in a new world. God had remembered Noah in his faithfulness. And now Noah was about to enter upon a new life in this new rejuvenated world.

So he removed the covering of the ark and he looked. Even so, dear Christian, you must remove the cover off of the Christian life to which you are called, and you must look. Is the ground dry? Has all of God’s wrath been removed, and your sins forgiven? Has the Holy Spirit been given to you to instruct you, to give comfort and assurance to you? Has the Spirit of adoption as a son or daughter been given to you, whereby you cry out in prayer and praise, “Abba Father?” “Papa God?” (Romans 8: 15) Look and see! You will need to get an overview of the Christian life.

You will need to see what this new life and this new world are all about. The ground is dry, and so there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Now you will begin to see, as Noah did, when the covering of the ark was removed, that your entering in to Christ, was to transport you out of the kingdom of darkness and into His marvelous light. (1st Peter 2: 9) Now you open your eyes to see that you have been turned from the power of Satan to God. You know that you will need to trust in Christ for everything you will need in your future. Now you see that

you have not only received forgiveness of sins, but also an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Christ. (Acts 26: 18) What a glorious position Noah was in, to be able to look down from the mountain that the ark rested on, and to realize that he would not die but live and tell of the works of the Lord. The right hand of the Lord had done valiantly and he was being led in triumph by God. (Psalm 118: 17) What a marvelous feeling it must have been to have been able to look down and see the dry ground and to realize that here was a new creation, old things had passed away; behold, all things had become new. (2nd Corinthians 5: 17)

God had brought him there, and it was God who had had opened the way to this new life. He must have felt the truth of Isaiah's words even before they were penned, which are found in chapter 43, verses 16- "Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters, who brings forth the chariot and the horse,....., Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?" "This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise." Ask yourself now if you have this very real sense of deliverance from judgment that Noah did, and whether or not it has led you to respond to God in praise, when you see what He has delivered you from and what He is bringing you into.

2nd – Noah responded by obeying the command of God to him, to go out of the ark, and to be fruitful and multiply.

God had remembered Noah, as we have seen, in His assuaging the waters of the flood and bringing him gently in to this new land. And now we see Noah's remembering God in his exiting from the ark. He didn't leave until he received the commandment to leave. He did not simply shout – Hurrah, I am saved! But he waited for his marching orders, regarding what he would do next. This is also characteristic of all true Christians who would be faithful. A true Christian has been set free and is at complete liberty, but his freedom and desire is to keep the commandments of God. Noah had seen that the surface of the ground was dry in the first month, on the first day of the month.

But he did not go out until the second month, on the twenty seventh day of the month. It was only when God spoke to him and told him to go out, that he went out. He waited until God said it was alright to leave, until his word and commandment came to him. Psalm 119: 45 says, "And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts"...And verse 47, "And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love." When a person is saved by grace and delivered from wrath, he doesn't then say, "I am no longer under law, I am under grace, and so commandments and rule keeping have nothing to do with me."

He doesn't set aside the law of God. It is established in his mind and heart, to be learned and loved, and kept and obeyed, even as Christ did when He came into the world. A true Christian knows that the law and the commandments could not save him, and that even by trying hard to keep them he could never find favor with God. But in Christ, he sees their excellence and value, and strives to keep them out of a thankful heart. Listen to Paul in Romans 3: 27-31. "Where is boasting then: It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law."

Verse 31 – "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary we establish the law." In other words the law is established on its right footing for the Christian. He keeps God's commandments not to be justified, but to be pleasing to God. Not to earn or merit favor, but because they are his delight, because they were Christ's delight and he would be more like Christ. A Christian is a servant of God. He goes when God says, "Go," and he comes when God says, "Come." When Noah went out of the ark he was being sent on a mission and he was being given a commission. Verses 16 and 17 say – "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your son's wives with you." "Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

The purpose of God regarding man and animals is that they might be fruitful and multiply, and thus bring glory to Him. This is why they left the ark and went out into this new world. This is the great commission given to man and the animals as creations of the Almighty. It is that every good thing that God has placed in you is to have good effects and multiply upon the earth. And God has made man to have dominion over all the works of His hands. God has put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, even the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, it says in Psalm 8: 6-8. It concludes with this statement, "O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth." So, you and I were created to show forth the excellency of God.

God renewed this great commission to His creation when Noah stepped out on to dry land. He did so to reinforce the truth to Noah that this is His purpose with regard to man and beast, that they would strive to bring glory to Him. No creature lives to himself or herself, but to God. So it is also in the Christian life. Each Christian is saved with a purpose in mind. God commands Him to come into the ark of Christ and be saved. He places him in church with all the other "animals" that He has saved. But He doesn't keep him there 7 days in the week. He is to be fruitful and multiply spiritually, so that God might be glorified in him, and by him.

He is to fill his world with good works and words of righteousness and truth. He is to see if he can multiply the number of disciples in and around himself. He is to take the gospel to every creature and teach others all the things which Christ has commanded him. He is to put forth efforts for the kingdom of God, that the kingdoms of this world might feel the beauty and the force of truth and grace upon them. Let me ask you, dear believer if you are doing this? Are you sincerely praying and putting forth efforts to see people around you become disciples of Christ? Noah went out of the ark, but in his going out his family went with him.

And this leads me to apply this truth in this way. In our attempts at fruitfulness and fruit-bearing for the kingdom of God, we are not to leave our families behind. Your witness, fathers, is not just speaking the words of the gospel to those who will hear you. Your witness is also to be seen in how you will teach and lead your family. This is just as important. Do you want them with you in your activities outside of work? Or are they seen as a burden? They should be your chief joy, along with your Lord.

You should be bringing them into many, if not most of, the activities that you are involved in outside of your work. You should see them as a part of the outreach and witness of your life. "Children are a gift of the Lord." "The fruit of the womb is a reward." "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth." "Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." (Psalm 127: 3-5) And so, as you witness to people around you, do not think that the kingdom will be composed only of people that look like you, or even think like you do. As a Christian, you will want to bring to church, sinners of all types. Because Christ died for all kinds of people, all kinds of sinful people. People of all tribes and nations. If you can, should teach them and work with them and draw them into the purposes of God in order that all creation might praise God.

You want to see God save sinners, and they won't come if you have a selfish view of the Christian life. The church is exclusive in that only those who believe in Jesus may be saved, but she is inclusive as to who is a candidate for salvation. I hope that you will pray with me that we see the power of Christ save all kinds of people, and place their families into the flock of this church, so that His great name might be glorified.

3rd – Noah built an altar to the Lord. (verses 20-22)

We have repeatedly been told in this account of Noah, that he did according to all that God commanded him to do. And so, we might wonder that Noah would build an altar and offer sacrifices without being commanded to do so. But we need to understand that Noah did not need a commandment to show forth his thankfulness to God in this way. He was offering up the sacrifices of praise and Thanksgiving for the great deliverance he had been shown. And certainly God would not restrain him in this, or disapprove of it. This is why God had commanded Noah to

take more clean birds and animals, than unclean. He was told to take seven of each kind, so that the extra one beyond the 3 pairs, could be offered in sacrifice unto God. This was something that was very pleasing to God, because Noah's offering pointed forward to Christ. This is intimated in Ephesians 5: 1, 2 when Paul says, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor, or aroma.

The idea that these words convey, is no doubt taken from the very passage that we are studying this morning. Because it says in verse 21, "And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, 'I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.'" He knew that in this new world that men would be sinful. But He also knew that He would send His Son to be the Savior of the world. God was pleased, that Noah's first real action of any significance after stepping out of the ark was an act of worship.

He was setting up the divine institution of worship again, upon the earth. And the basis of his actions in building this altar and offering these sacrifices was the death of Christ which would yet come in the future at God's appointed time. But it is typified for us here in the sacrifice which Noah offers. This is why God was pleased with it. God is not pleased with altars and sacrifices that men build and bring now, in these days. For Christ's finished work on the cross is the only altar we sacrifice upon. And our thanksgiving is to God, for Him.

Hebrews chapter 13, verse 10 says, "We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat." In other words, if any person claims that Christ's offering of Himself and His sacrifice are not enough; that He is not the complete fulfillment of all the sacrifices offered up before on altars in the Old Testament, then they do not have a right to partake of the benefits of His death and resurrection. Christ's sacrifice is a sweet-smelling savor to God. It never needs to be re-done or re-enacted again. It just needs to be proclaimed and received with Thanksgiving.

This is what Noah did. And this is what every true Christian does as well. Our altar is Christ and His finished work. His sacrifice was sufficient to forgive, and to cover, and to take away all of our sins. And we believe it. And we receive it, with thanksgiving. And all true instituted worship of God is based upon Christ's once-for-all finished work. We draw near to God through Him, and on the basis of His blood and righteousness we offer our praise to God. Now, the sacrifices that we offer are called "the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." And we do not forget to do good and to share with other people also, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased, it says in Hebrews 13: 15, 16.

So, ask yourself this morning: What will my response be to what God has done, in giving to me the gift of Jesus Christ. Will you remove the covering off the Christian life this morning and look? Will you look to see if you have been delivered from wrath, and made a new creature in Christ? Will you make your calling and election sure? Will you serve God by keeping His commandments? Will you worship God through Jesus Christ each Sunday by offering to Him the sacrifice of praise? Will you offer Him the morning and the evening sacrifice of praise every day, but especially on the Lord's Day which is His day?

Why not begin today, if you never have before? Offer your heart to God upon the finished work of Jesus Christ. God is well pleased with Him. And He will receive you to Himself. And then, consciously set up your worship of Him in your own heart, and in your family also. And help us to uphold it here in this church as well.