

Why is there such a devaluation of the sacraments in our day? It is because we have become practically anti-supernatural and simultaneously super-spiritual in our theology, so that we are, on the one hand, bored with God's ordinary means of grace (the sacraments) and on the other hand have stopped believing that God can and does use those means to accomplish His purposes. That is to say, we are guilty of a sort of unbelief.

We have replaced the sacraments with spiritual exercises of our own making. A survey of virtually any evangelical bookstore finds dozens of books on spirituality, self-denial, church growth, and recovery from various addictions. Some of these contain useful advice; so did some of the medieval handbooks of spiritual direction. But few of them contain the Gospel, and almost none of them make any reference to the use of the Lord's Supper as a mean to Christian growth. Even Reformed churches that confess the Supper to be one of the two divinely instituted means of grace normally serve the Supper only quarterly.

R. Scott Clark

Order of Worship

July 22, 2012

Prelude

SMC Music Team

Invocation

Welcome and Announcements

A Gospel Moment

Celebrating His Presence

Preparation for Worship

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Call to Worship

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

All praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, the God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul He fills, the God who every sorrow stills,
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r hath made His gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning dawn or evening shade His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of His might, lo, all is just and all is right,
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to Him in time of need, Lord God, O hear my calling!
For death He gave me life indeed and kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be; O thank Him, thank our God with me,
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not His flock, His chosen generation;
He is their Refuge and their Rock, their Peace and their Salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand He leads His own, His chosen band,
To God all praise and glory!

Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God!

Grace Flows Down

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree;
As grace flows down and covers me.

Chorus: It covers me, it covers me,
It covers me, and covers me.

(repeat all/repeat chorus)

The Blessing

Minister: The grace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Greeting One Another in the Name of the Lord

Experiencing Renewal

Psalm 121

I lift my eyes up to the mountains,
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from You, Maker of Heaven,
Creator of the earth. *(repeat)*

Chorus: O how I need You Lord, You are my only hope;
You're my only prayer.
So I will wait for You to come and rescue me,
Come and give me life.

(repeat verse/repeat chorus twice)

You Are My All in All

(to be sung in a round / Men & Women)

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the Treasure that I seek, You are my All in All.
Seeking You as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool, You are my All in All.

(women restart at the beginning)

(men continue with chorus)

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again I bless Your name. You are my All in All.
When I fall down, You pick me up;
When I am dry, You fill my cup. You are my All in All.

(repeat chorus two times)

I Want to Know You

In the secret, in the quiet place,
In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait only for You,
'Cause I want to know You more.

Chorus: I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice;
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face;
I want to know You more.

I am reaching for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry hindrance aside, out of my way,
'Cause I want to know You more. (*chorus*)

(last time repeat chorus)

Pastoral Prayer

Song of Preparation to Hear God's Word

(Children ages 4-6 may be dismissed for Children's Church during song)

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed; for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake.”

Deepening Our Commitment

Preaching of the Word

Tim Posey

Series: Christian Growth
“The Sacraments: Part 2” selected texts
Theme: Sacraments as a Means of Grace

Introduction:

- I. What Are Types of Sacraments in the Bible? (Numbers 1:53, 5:1-4; Leviticus 16:21-22; Jeremiah 7:4; Galatians 3:27-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17)
 - A. Old Testament types
 - B. New Testament realities

- II. How Is Christ the Quintessential Sacrament? (Colossians 1:15)
 - A. The image of the invisible God
 - B. Everything that happens to Christ happens for us

- III. How Do the Sacraments Work?
 - A. We are united with Christ in the sacraments through the work of the Holy Spirit
 - B. God imparts His gracious salvation in Christ to us through the physical elements and ritual actions of the sacraments
 - C. Sacraments impart God's grace in Christ to us when these physical elements are joined to the world
 - D. The sacraments are received through faith

Conclusion:

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Song of Response

Thy Mercy, My God

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirit revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

Benediction