

When preaching about faith in Christ and His vicarious humanity I sometimes use and develop an illustration taken from John Welsh, the son-in-law of John Knox, who used to point out that our grasping of Christ by faith is itself enclosed within the might grasp of Christ, and it is in Christ's grasp of us rather than in our grasp of Him that our salvation and certainty lie. In this connection I sometimes recall what happened when my daughter was learning to walk. I took her by the hand to help her, and I can still feel her little fingers tightly clutching my hand. She was not relying on her feeble grasp of my hand, but on my strong grasp of her hand, and even my grasping of her grasping of my hand.

Is that not how we are to understand the faith by which we lay hold of Christ as our Savior? It is thus that our grasp of faith, feeble though it is, is grasped and enfolded in the mighty grasp of Christ who identifies Himself with us, and puts Himself in our place, making what is ours wholly His own, so that we may have wholly made over to us what is Christ's. Think of that in terms of St. Paul's wonderful statement, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Thomas, James and David Torrance, *A Passion for Christ*

Order of Worship

November 18, 2012

Prelude

SMC Music Team

Invocation

Welcome and Announcements

A Gospel Moment

Celebrating His Presence

Preparation for Worship

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance

Forgive us our sins, O Lord. Forgive us the sins of our youth and the sins of our age, the sins of our soul and the sins of our body, our secret and our whispering sins, our presumptuous and our careless sins, the sins we have done to please ourselves, and the sins we have done to please others. Forgive us the sins that we know, and the sins that we know not; forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all because of Your great goodness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Call to Worship

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression, righteousness He will maintain.

Food He daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris'ner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eyes to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger He befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
*Over all God reigns forever, through all ages He is King;
Unto Him, thy God O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

(repeat at asterisk)

Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God!

Hide Me In Your Holiness

Hide me Lord, in Your holiness,
Every sin I now confess.
Praise to You, forgiving Lord,
Hide me in Your holiness,
Hide me in Your holiness.

(repeat)

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

You Do All Things Well

Mountain maker, ocean tamer,
Glimpses of You burn in my eyes,
The worship of heaven fills up the skies.

Chorus: You made it all, said "Let there be"
And there was—all that we see,
The sound of Your voice, the works of Your hands,
You do all things well, You do all things well,
You do all things well.

Star creator, wind breather,
The strokes of Your beauty, brushed through the clouds,
Light from the heavens, touching the ground. *(chorus)*

Only Your Mercy

Only Your mercy, only Your grace
Only Your Spirit brings us to faith;
O what a wonder that You chose us first
Not by our merit, but Your perfect work.

Only Your goodness, only Your love,
Only Your pardon poured out in blood;
Your righteousness exchanged for our sin,
O what a Savior, O what a friend!

Chorus: Jesus, we long to worship You,
And give You all glory and praise;
All that You are, all that You have,
We have received by faith.

(repeat verse 1)

(repeat chorus twice)

You Are Worthy of My Praise

I will worship (I will worship) with all of my heart (with all of my heart).
I will praise You (I will praise You) with all of my strength (all my strength).
I will seek You (I will seek You) all of my days (all of my days).
I will follow (I will follow) all of Your ways (all Your ways). (*chorus*)

I will bow down (I will bow down), hail You as King (hail You as King).
I will serve You (I will serve You), give You ev'rything (give You ev'rything).
I will lift up (I will lift up) my eyes to Your throne (my eyes to your throne).
And I will trust You, (I will trust You),
I will trust You alone (trust You alone). (*chorus*)

Chorus: I will give You all my worship, I will give You all my praise.
You alone I long to worship. You alone are worthy of my praise.

(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)

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." (*refrain*)

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed His own blood for my soul. (*refrain*)

My sin— O the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more; Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (*refrain*)

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, "Even so" it is well with my soul. (*refrain*)

Refrain: It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul); It is well, it is well with my soul.

Deepening Our Commitment

Preaching of the Word

Tim Posey

Series: Colossians: The Supremacy of Christ
"Stable and Steadfast in the Gospel" Colossians 1:21-23
Theme: The Hope Held Out in the Gospel

Introduction:

- I. What We Were (v. 21)
 - A. Alienated
 - B. Hostile minds
 - C. Evil deeds

- II. What Now by Grace We Are (v. 22)
 - A. Reconciled
 - B. The Purpose
 1. Holy
 2. Blameless
 3. Above reproach

- III. How We Must Go On (v. 23)
 - A. The perseverance of faith in the Gospel
 1. Positively
 2. Negatively
 - B. Focusing on the hope that comes from the Gospel
 - C. Qualifying the Gospel

Conclusion:

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Song of Response

Amazing Love!

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;
That I, the guilty one may go free? *(chorus)*

And so they watched Him die despised, rejected;
But O, the blood He shed flowed for me. *(chorus)*

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away, live again.

Chorus: Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God, giv'n for me;
My debt He pays and my death He dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

(last time repeat chorus)

That I might live.

Benediction