

Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church

Order for the Worship of God — 10:30 a.m. on November 22nd 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Colossians 2:13-15

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

OPENING HYMN

To God Be the Glory (TH# 55)
Fanny J. Crosby (1875)

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that we may go in.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives. (Refrain)

Refrain:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended to the dead.
The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Zechariah 3:1-10

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 9:1-13

SERMON

A Clean Conscience

Rev. Jake Susek

PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

CLOSING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God (TH# 98)
Martin Rinckart (1636)

1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven—
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

BENEDICTION

CCLI: 11601899

SERMON NOTES

“A Clean Conscience – A Cleaned-Up Life”

Hebrews 9

Reflections:

“An angry God above them, a guilty conscience within them, a yawning hell beneath them.”

C.H. Spurgeon

In OT Jewish cosmology, earth was the center of the Universe. The land of Canaan was the center of the earth. Jerusalem was the center of the land of Canaan. The temple was the center of the city of Jerusalem. The Holy of Holies was in the center of the Temple. The Holy of Holies was therefore the “center” of the Universe, and in the center of the Cosmos, God’s message was, “*My life for yours.*” Taken from Thomas Howard in Splendor in the Ordinary

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

What is a “Conscience”?

“An inner sense of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one’s own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good.”

Grk: συνειδησις = with/know = “awareness”....

One of the greatest burden in life is a “guilty” conscience.

-Usually, a sense of “**guilt**” carries with it a sense of “**shame**” that leads to a sense of “**fear**” regarding the consequences if what we’ve done becomes known.

Before Men it is Horrible...

*Think of a young person who gets involved with immorality... (STD’s)

*Think of an adult who gets involved in illegal activities...(Prison)

*Think of foolish actions done by us that cause great harm to others...

Before God it is Overwhelming...

“Every mouth shall be stopped and the whole world will be held accountable to God.

“The wicked will not stand in the judgment.

“It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God

One of the greatest fears: *A “seared” conscience* (I Tim 4:2)

No “fear” of God, not taking Him seriously, ignoring consequences, denying hell.

One of the greatest blessings: *When God bring conviction of sin.*

[Better to “feel” a truth than to just “know” it] – [but how do you deal with it?]

(9:9,14)

I. The OT “Regulative Principle” for Worship:

9:1-7

Structure: *Outer Courts (People) 1st Section (Priests) H-H (High Priest)*

Personnel: *Priests (daily) - High Priest (yearly)*

Note: Priests w/ vestments – offering sacrifice

Furniture: Menora – Table w/ Bread / Altar / Basins / Ark of Covenant

Picture: Separation / Repeatable

Roman Church’s structure...Courts / Priests / Vestments / Altar / Holy of Holies (Tabernacle) / Candles / Incense / Basin / a repeatable “offering up”...

II. The Problem: Vs. 8-10

a. The H.S. revealed the Holy Place is not yet opened (unlimited / open access)

b. The rituals only deal with “outward” things...cf. *circumcision*

c. The sacrifices could not perfect the conscience of the worshiper

“perfect” – τελειωσαι [It means different things in different contexts!]

*A “perfect” meal.....= Delicious

*A “perfect” word spoken....= Fitting

When I got banned from the Royersford Dry Cleaners...(wrinkles / spots)

POINT:

The OT system of continual sacrifices indicated that the solution to the problem of sin had not yet arrived. They had an “awareness” (i.e., a conscience) that they were still “dirty” and needed to offer repeated sacrifices for as long as they continued to sin.

(i.e., the rituals *pointed* to God’s solution, but *they weren’t* the solution)

III. The Solution: Vs.11-14 “*The grace of God always comes w/ blood on it.*”

What the blood / sacrifice of Christ accomplished:

Focus:

a. It “purifies” our conscience from dead works to serve the living God-

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POINT:

When a person places their faith in the Lord Jesus, they have an “awareness” that before God they are purified / cleansed (their sins have been removed) AND the way to be cleansed is not through the “dead works” (spoken negatively of the *ineffectiveness* of the OT sacrifices and rituals) but by faith in Jesus.

Believers now enjoy an eternal (*lasting*) redemption / salvation.

b. It “puts away” our sin - 26

αθετησις = to reject, refuse, to make invalid or “annul”...

Colossians 2:13,14...

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses..., God made you alive together with Christ, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by **canceling** (εξαλειψας –wipe away, wipe out, remove, cancel, destroy) the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside nailing it to the cross. God disarmed the rulers...(Satan)”

Martin Luther

“So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: “I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ,

Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!”

Johnny Carson and Joan Rivers...

Jesus and all those whom the Father has given him...

“God – not counting (holding) their sins against them.” II Co 5:19

***When we believe, “cleansed” ---- When we continue to trust “cleaned up”.**