

Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church

Order for the Worship of God — 10:30 a.m. on May 16th 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nahum 1:2-7

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

OPENING HYMN

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (TH# 479)

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and
watching,
watching for you and for me.

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is
pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his
mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

Refrain:
Come home, come home,
ye who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

4 Oh! for the wonderful love he has
promised
promised for you and for me;
though we have sinned, he has mercy
and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

Affirmation of Faith The Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647)

Questions 31-32

Leader: What is effectual calling?

People: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Leader: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

People: They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 50:15-21

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

Psalms 56:3

SERMON

When I am Afraid, Part 2

Rev. Jake Susek

PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

CLOSING HYMN

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus (TH# 481)

1 O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
and life more abundant and free!

2 Through death into life everlasting
he passed, and we follow him there;
over us sin no more hath dominion-
for more than conqu'rors we are!
[Refrain]

Refrain:
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow
strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.

3 His Word shall not fail you- he
promised;
believe him, and all will be well:
then go to a world that is dying,
his perfect salvation to tell! [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

CCLI: 11601899

SERMON NOTES

“When I am Afraid.”

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Psalm 56:3

PART II: *Divine Providence*

Reflections:

“Lord who made the lion and the lamb, you decreed I should be what I am.
Would it spoil some vast eternal plan, if I were a wealthy man?”
Tevye in The Fiddler on the Roof

“The Sovereignty of God is the one impregnable rock to which the suffering human heart must cling. The circumstances surrounding our lives are no accident: they may be the work of evil, but that evil is held firmly with the mighty hand of our sovereign God...all evil is subject to him, and evil cannot touch His children unless He permits it. God is the Lord of human history and of the personal history of every member of his redeemed family.” Margaret Clarkson

“When it comes to assassinations, the question isn’t who pulled the trigger, but who supplied the bullet.” (I can’t find the source)

Section 3.) God, in His ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at His pleasure. (WCF)

Once a boy, when asked by his mother if he has caught any fish, responded, “Today, we experienced the bad hand of providence.” Same Lake, Different Boat

Introduction:

Objective: *To manage* our fears in ways that God is honored and others are encouraged.

Today: We need to talk about Divine Providence
(III: the high diving board at Knoebels)

Let’s Observe the Text, Romans 8:28

[a] **The syntax**
(the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language.)

ESV: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

NASB: “And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

THE ISSUE: Do things work out for good *by themselves*, or does God *cause it to be so*?
(A textual variant, Ο Θεος – “The God”...)

[b] **To WHOM are these words addressed?** Believers in Jesus Christ
-those “loving God” (present tense) / those “called according to His purpose.”
Believers are often referred to as “the called” – I Peter 2:9,10 / Acts 2:38 / I Co 1:9 / Jude 1

[c] **The verse describes something God DOES** - He “works” (εργον = energy)
ALMIGHTY / INTERVENES

ALMIGHTY: God does *whatever, whenever, however* he wants – subject to His nature.

Job 42:2 - “I know that no plan of yours can be thwarted.”

Ecc 7:14 - “When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad consider: God has made the one as well as the other.”

INTERVENES:

ILL: Hamilton, Jefferson and the Deists...
Eph 1:11 - He “works all things after the counsel of his will.”

IMPLICATIONS?

Is God the author, instigator, the “behind the scenes” cause of sin?

The answer is no!

Does God permit, or allow sin / calamities (secondary causes)?

The answer is yes!

A CONCERN and a LIMITATION:

[i] Larry King Panel – *What happens when a person dies? Why 9/11?*

Father Michael Manning (RC)

“I believe that God was continually working with these people that were ready to fly into that building, trying his best as he could with all of the grace that he had to avert them from something terrible like that.” Mary Ann Williamson (Spiritualist)

“I agree.....God was working with all of the people who perpetuated the act. But God gave us free will and God himself will not violate that law.” Ellen Johnson (Atheist)

“If you are a person who thinks that there is a creator who is – omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent and then you make excuses for this all-powerful being for allowing 9/11...for allowing over 100,000 people to die in a tsunami...then when a member of the clergy asks you to pray for anything because God answers prayer, forget about it!”

[ii] Last episode of Seinfeld - *To not act, when you can, makes you culpable...*

If you COULD prevent a tragedy, crime, abuse, a holocaust from happening but did nothing to prevent it from happening...the question would be Why not?

***Why does God allow / permit / ordain the righteous to suffer? And why some, and not others?

Mystery:

Acts 2:23 - “This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

[Divine Sovereignty / Providence and Human Responsibility]

[d] What does “Good” mean?

“Christlikeness / God’s Glory”

“Our trust must be in the sovereign will of God, as He works in the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives for our good and His glory.”
Jerry Bridges in Trusting God

The Application is in the Present Participle...αγαπωσιν (lovING)

#1. Loving.....God (αγαπωσιν)

#2. Believing....God....for the “mix”....

#3. Taking....Responsibility