

# THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

August 12, 2018

We gather today as “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant ... ” Hebrews 12:23-24a

## A Time for Preparation

### *Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship*

Sovereign God,

Your cause, not my own, engages my heart, and I appeal to you with greatest freedom to set up your kingdom in every place where Satan reigns; Glorify yourself and I shall rejoice, for to bring honor to your name is my sole desire. I adore you that you art God, and long that others should know it, feel it, and rejoice in it. O that all men might love and praise you, that you might have all glory from the intelligent world! Let sinners be brought to you for your dear name! To the eye of reason everything respecting the conversion of others is as dark as midnight, but you can accomplish great things; the cause is yours, and it is to the glory that men should be saved. Lord, use me as you will, do with me what you will; but, O, promote your cause, let your kingdom come, let your blessed interest be advanced in this world! O do you bring in great numbers to Jesus! Let me see that glorious day and give me to grasp for multitudes of souls; let me be willing to die to that end; and while I live let me labor for thee to the utmost of my strength, spending time profitably in this work, both in health and in weakness. It is your cause and kingdom I long for, not my own. Oh, answer you my request!

(The Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

**Ringing of Bell** ..... Judah Gosnell

**Announcements**..... Deacon

## A Time for Praise:

### *Prelude*

### *Call to Worship*

Scripture and Prayer ..... Travis Gosnell

• *Hymn of Praise* ..... *Thou Art Worthy* ..... Hymn #100

• ..... *Worthy or Worship*..... Hymn #153

## A Time for Offering:

• *Offertory Hymn* ..... *O How I Love Jesus* ..... Hymn #92

Offertory Prayer

### *Offertory*

Tithes and Offerings ..... Ushers

## A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

*Choral Message* ..... *On Eagle’s Wings* ..... Arr. Wagner

Message ..... Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

## A Time for Surrender:

• *Hymn of Response* ..... *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* ..... Hymn #591

• Benediction

### *Postlude*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

## *Affirmation of Faith – Westminster Larger Catechism*

### **96. What does God require in the second Commandment?**

That we in no wise make any image of God, (Deut 4:15-19) nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded us in His Word. (1 Sam 15:23)

### **97. May we not make any image at all?**

God may not and cannot be imaged in any way; as for creatures, though they may indeed be imaged, yet God forbids the making or keeping any likeness of them, either to worship them, or to serve God by them. (Exod 23:24)

### **98. But may not pictures be tolerated in churches as books for the people?**

No, for we should not be wiser than God, who will not have His people taught by dumb idols, (Jer 10:8) but by the lively preaching of His word. (2 Pet 1:19)

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## Opportunities of the Week

### **Sunday, August 12**

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Evening Service

### **No Youth Ministry**

### **Wednesday, August 15**

7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

### **Nursery this week:**

Crystal Thomson

Theresa Engel

### **Church Watch this month:**

Mike Posey, Jr.

# Discovering God’s Will

By Sinclair B. Ferguson

Part 2

## **4. Is it Consistent with Christ's Lordship?**

Sin of tragic proportions had erupted in the congregation at Corinth. Consequently, Paul asks whether they rightly understood their relationship *to the Lord*. The only chapter in which he does not use this title for Jesus is chapter 13! It deeply troubled him that the Corinthians failed to realize that they were not their own; they had been bought at the great price of their Master's life blood [1 Cor 6:19,20; 7:23].

What is Paul's concern? It is that whenever a Christian engages in a course of action he does so in union with Christ. *Nothing* severs that relationship. Not even sin can annul it. That is the horrific truth. Whenever the Corinthians gave themselves to gross and indecent sin, *they were dragging Christ into it*.

Sometimes we say that the principle by which any action may be judged is: Can I take Christ there? There is truth in that. But it is not the whole truth. For, Paul emphasizes, we have no choice in the matter. We *do* take Christ there. As those who are united to him we cannot leave him behind. So the real question is: Can I take Christ there and look him in the face wiyout shame? Is this course of action, this decision I am taking, totally consistent with my personal confession that "Jesus Christ is my Lord"?

Again, it should be emphasized that on its own this question is of limited help. It may answer my questions about the Lord's will immediately (particularly if the answer is 'No'). but it is not in itself an all-sufficient test. It is not the final litmus paper by which we can judge the Lord's will. We need to take all these questions into consideration. We may find, having sought to answer them all, that there is still a momentous decision which God expects us to make. But it can hardly be doubted that much confused thinking began to be cleared away from the church at Corinth as these penetrating questions were set before them. We too will find the same.

## **5. Is it Helpful to Others?**

When we move further on in the First Letter to Corinth, we find Paul asks similar questions of a different situation - an indication that we are on the right track when we assume that these questions have a wide and valuable application to many areas of our thinking. But he added others.

I must not rest content with asking whether a course of action will be personally helpful. Will it have a like beneficial effect on others? Indeed, do I engage in it with a view to serving and helping them? Or, am I in danger of "destroying the work of God"? [Rom 14:20] When speaking of the Christian's personal freedom, and the way it must be balanced over against the weakness and strengths of others, Paul confesses: "I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good, but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example . . ." [1 Cor 10:33].

Jesus lived by this principle. When he summarized his commitment in his great prayer to the Father, he said: "I am sanctifying myself *for their sakes*" [John 17:19]. We should be concerned to help and please others. Paul affirms, "For even Christ did not please himself" [Rom 15:3]. Does this not drive home to us the fact that the will of God (and therefore his guidance) is the most demanding thing in the world? does it not pierce to the dividing place in our lives between soul and spirit? [Heb 4:12] For we are often concerned with guidance in order that our lives may be freed from anxiety and uncertainty - so that we may have a measure of personal comfort and security. God, on the other hand, is concerned that we should be cast upon Him to do His

will, *whatever the enduring cost*. The will of God is shaped in the image of His Son's Cross. The will of God means death to our own will, and resurrection only when we have died to all our own plans.

Did we really appreciate that this was what we were letting ourselves in for when we said that we wanted guidance?

#### 6. Is it Consistent with Biblical Example?

Do not be surprised that Paul's discussion reaches its conclusion with these words: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" [1Cor 11:1]. "What would Paul have done?" "What would Christ Himself have done?" these are the questions we can now ask. Are there incidents, or is there teaching in Scripture, which can be applied to the situation in which I find myself? Will it give me a clue to the will of God for my life now? [Cf. Phil 3:17; 2 Thess 3:7; 2 Tim 3:10; Heb 6:12; 13:7].

We are not left to our own imagination in dealing with this question. The only Christ we know - for that matter the only Paul we know - is to be found in the pages of Scripture. Here again we are driven back to our great principle: we discover the will of God by a sensitive application of Scripture to our own lives.

The apostle Peter speaks in similar vein. Christ suffered for us, and in doing so He left us an example that we should follow in His footsteps [1 Peter 2:21]. He uses a very picturesque word, which means a model of pattern to be copied. It is the kind of expression we would use of a teacher's light pencil outline which a child would fill in with a heavier hand and fill out in his own unique way. What a picture of the Christian life! Christ teaches us to live by faith by walking His life before us, and then saying: "Now, put your feet into these footprints of mine, and you will soon learn".

This is exactly what we are to do. We are to go over the lines which Christ has drawn in, lines which we find in the Scriptures We are to take His hand, and find His footprints in Scripture, and then to follow them. Because of his apostolic ministry Paul was able to encourage his contemporaries to follow him because he followed Christ. There is still an application of that which will benefit us in our thinking.

Yet, even here, Paul cannot escape from the ultimate challenge, "whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" [1 Cor 10:31]. We cannot escape this challenge either. It is the non-negotiable norm of Christian living. If my heart goes out for His glory, then I will find the yoke of these questions easy, and the burden of gospel holiness to which they urge me is light indeed:

*Is it lawful? Is it beneficial? Is it enslaving? Is it consistent with the Lordship of Christ? Is it beneficial to others? Is it consistent with the example of Christ and the apostles? Is it for the glory of God? For that matter, am I living for the glory of God?*

*The task Thy wisdom hath assigned  
O let me cheerfully fulfil,*

*In all my works Thy presence find,  
And prove Thy good and perfect will.*

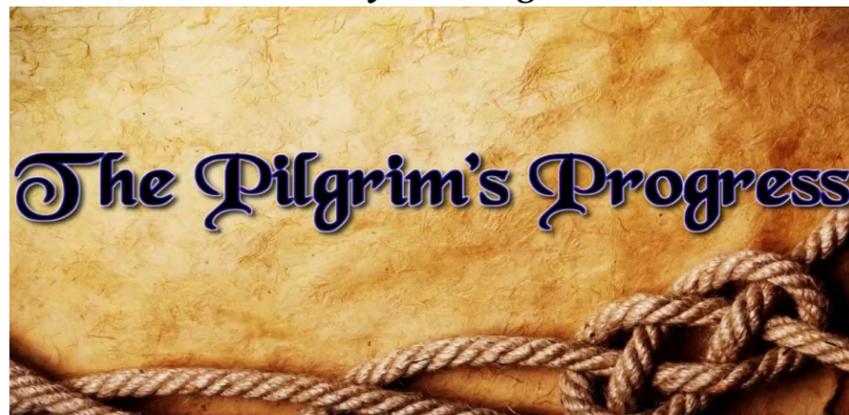
*Thee may I set at my right hand,  
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
And labour on at Thy command,  
And offer all my works to Thee.*

*Give me to bear Thy easy yoke,  
And every moment watch and pray,  
And still to things eternal look,  
And hasten to Thy glorious day*

Charles Wesley

We thank you for worshipping with us today. We trust that your heart has been encouraged, your spirit filled, and that you will leave here equipped for the work to which God has called you. If you would like to find out more information about Poplar Springs Baptist Church, please visit our website: [www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org) or call (864) 861-2196.

#### Wednesday Evening Service



#### Church Contact Information:

Church/Fellowship Building: (864) 861-2190

Office/Parsonage: (864) 861-2196

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 124, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

Church Office: 6466 Poplar Springs Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

Hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4

Email: [balentine@poplarspringsws.org](mailto:balentine@poplarspringsws.org)

Pastor:

Youth Pastor: Travis Gosnell

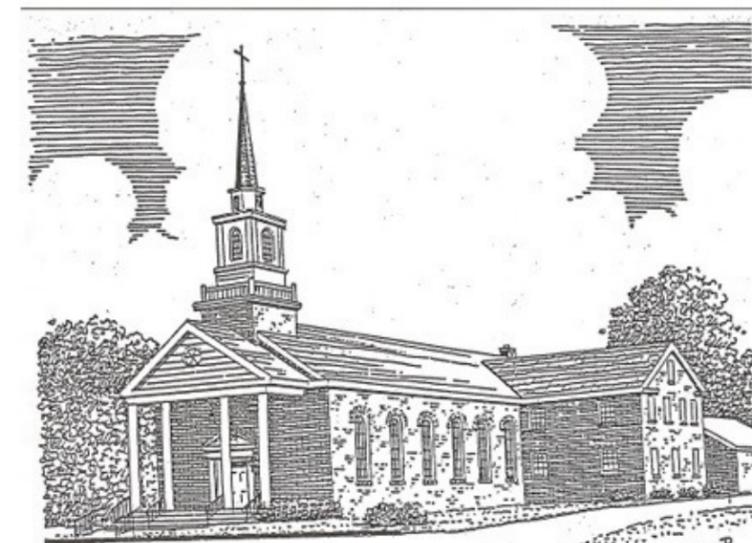
Music Leader: Deck Balentine

Pianist: Jean Powell

Website: [www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)

# Poplar Springs

# Baptist Church



Poplar Springs Baptist Church

Ware Shoals, S. C.

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”*

*1 Corinthians 10:31-33*

**THE LORD'S DAY, AUGUST 12, 2018**

6000 Poplar Springs Road

Ware Shoals, SC 29692

(864) 861-2196

[www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Worship: 11:00 am