

THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

August 5, 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

Creator and Redeemer God,

Author of all existence, source of all blessedness, I adore you for making me capable of knowing you, for giving me reason and conscience, for leading me to desire you; I praise you for the revelation of yourself in the gospel, for your heart as a dwelling place of pity, for your thoughts of peace towards me, for your patience and your graciousness, for the vastness of your mercy. You have moved my conscience to know how the guilty can be pardoned, the unholy sanctified, the poor enriched. May I be always among those who not only hear but know you, who walk with and rejoice in you, who take you at your word and find life there. Keep me always longing for a present salvation in Holy Spirit comforts and rejoicings, for spiritual graces and blessings, for help to value my duties as well as my privileges. May I cherish simplicity and godly sincerity of character. Help me to be in reality before you as in appearance I am before men, to be religious before I profess religion, to leave the world before I enter the church, to set my affections on things above, to shun forbidden follies and vanities, to be a dispenser as well as a partaker of grace, to be prepared to bear evil as well as to do good. Oh God, make me worthy of this calling, that the name of Jesus may be glorified in me and I in Him. (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* *Lead On, O King Eternal* Hymn #724

A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory Hymn* *Fairest Lord Jesus* Hymn #87

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Tithes and Offerings Ushers

A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

Choral Message..... *Let Your Holy Rain Fall Down* Arr. Hamilton

Message Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* *Moment by Moment* Hymn #545

- 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

93. How are these Commandments divided?

Into two tables(Exod 34:28) the first of which teaches in four commandments, what duties we owe to God; the second, in six, what duties we owe to our neighbor(Matt 22:37-40).

94. What does God require in the first Commandment?

That on peril of my soul’s salvation, I avoid and flee all idolatry,(1 Cor 10:7,14) sorcery, enchantments,(Lev 19:31) invocation of saints or of other creatures;(Matt 4:10) and that I rightly acknowledge the only true God,(John 17:3) trust in Him alone,(Jer 17:5) with all humility(1 Pet 5:5,6) and patience⁷ expect all good from Him only,(Ps 104:27-30) and love,(Deut 6:5) fear(Deut 6:2)and honor(Deut 10:20) Him with my whole heart; so as rather to renounce all creatures than to do the least thing against His will.(Matt 5:29)

95. What is idolatry?

Idolatry is to conceive or have something else on which to place our trust instead of, or besides the one true God who has revealed Himself in His Word. (Eph 5:5)

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, August 5

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. Evening Service
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry

Wednesday, August 8

7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Saturday, August 11

9:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7

Nursery this week:

Mary Brock
Theresa Engel

Church Watch this month:

Mike Posey, Jr.

Discovering God’s Will

By Sinclair B. Ferguson

Walking in the will of God produces a distinctive life-style. There will be certain characteristics which will be true of all Christians in all places and in every age. There are abiding qualities about true Christians which would make them recognizable by their fellow believers in very different epochs of church history.

But for every Christian the question arises, not, What is true of all Christians always? but, *What is the will of God in this particular, unique situation in which I find myself?* We have to face the issue of the nature of the principles which govern Christian conduct. How do we discover the will of God when we are faced with a possibly bewildering array of choices?

The exposition of the Christian walk is a major theme in one of Paul's letters and this further question is also a theme with which Paul dealt at some length. We find him discussing it in his First Letter to the Corinthians. . .

Paul's principles remain valid. Not only so; they are of great practical usefulness to us in discerning what the will of the Lord is in our lives. A careful study of them gives rise to a series of questions which will help to unfold what God's guidance might be in any given situation.

1. Is it Lawful?

The Corinthians emphasized the (biblical) principle that Christ has set them free. Paul retorted that *freedom is not the only principle in the Christian life*. Freedom is for something. God has set us free for holiness. He has blessed us with freedom from the guilt and bondage of sin - but not in order that we might become enslaved to the very sins for which Christ died to redeem us!

This is powerfully reinforced by the apostle [in 1 Cor 6:9-11]. Paul provides a long list of the kinds of sinful conduct which are contrary to membership of the kingdom of God. He does not mean that these heinous sins are the unforgivable sin. Some of the Corinthians had indulged in these very sins before they were converted. Yet they had been washed, sanctified and justified through Christ! But they had to be radically converted in order to be fitted for the kingdom of God. No anarchy is present there - it is a kingdom, a monarchy, and is governed by the great and holy commandments of God.

What is Paul's point? It is that *no action which is contrary to the plain word of God can ever be legitimate for the Christian*. No appeal to spiritual freedom or to providential circumstances can ever make what is ethically wrong anything else but sinful. For the Christian is free only to love and obey the law of God. Therein lies his true freedom.

We can often reduce the possible choices that face us at different times in our lives by this very simple question: *Is it lawful?* How readily Satan seems to be able to blind us just here - and we lose sight of the fact that we have been saved in order to be made holy.

2. Is it Beneficial to Me?

If our first question is concerned with the nature of the action itself, our second one must be concerned with its consequences. It may be true (in a sense) says Paul, that "all things are permissible" [cf. 1 Tim 4:4; Rom 14:14, etc.]. "But not everything is beneficial" [1 Cor 6:12].

Do you every find yourself challenged on a course of action by a fellow-Christian, and automatically respond: "What's wrong with it?" It is the most natural form of self-defense. But it may well hide a guilty conscience. For, in our hearts of hearts we know, as Paul so incisively teaches, that this is not the

really important question. There may be "nothing wrong with it"; but there may be nothing right with it; it may not prove to be beneficial to me.

The question I must learn to ask is: Will it bring benefits, as far as I am able to judge, so that my relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ is strengthened? Will it draw me nearer to Him?

There are so many areas in which this applies. When I am faced with a choice of occupation, or a sphere of work, or a move to another part of the country, with all that it involves in terms of fellowship, ministry and spiritual influence, I am surely obliged to ask this question. Of course, it is not the all-determining factor in each instance. But it is an important factor in many cases.

I may find myself with the opportunity to spend a sum of money on something on which I have set my heart. But is it God's will? Well, let the question be introduced into my thinking: Will it benefit? Or, will it have the tendency to consume my time, energy and interests in such a way that I will be spiritually the poorer? Will it complicate, rather than simplify my life?

Of course, no two people will give exactly the same answer in every situation. We are no longer speaking about whether a course of action is lawful for the Christian. We are considering only actions which are. But something which has a neutral influence on one person may be detrimental to another. We are not called to judge other men's consciences [1 Cor 2:15; 4:3-5]. But "the spiritual man makes judgments about all things", and this is what we are enabled to do when we ask: "Is it beneficial to me?" It may or may not be in others' experience. That is not my concern. I am responsible to Christ for my own stewardship. Is this beneficial to me?

3. Is it Enslaving?

"Everything is permissible to me": - but I will not be mastered by anything [1 Cor 6:12]. There is a play on words in what Paul says: These things are all within my power - but will I end up in their power? Again, assuming that what is being considered falls into the category of things legitimate, this question can only ultimately be answered in personal terms.]

What is the principle? It is that the Christian must always, through the grace of the Spirit, be master of himself. Paul illustrates this later in 1 Corinthians. In the race all who compete have already gone into strict training. They have sought to master and subdue all their natural appetites so that, instead of being mastered by them, they will master their bodies and make them their slaves [1 Cor 9:27].

What happens to the athlete who nibbles at cream cakes and tucks away too many calories? A moment comes in the race when he ceases to be the master, and the appetites to which he has yielded strangle every last ounce of energy out of him. They have him at their mercy and all hope of winning a prize must be abandoned. Is there not a clear parallel in the Christian life? It is possible to make choices which, eventually, will tend to squeeze out our spiritual energies; to commit ourselves to things which, however legitimate in general terms, will eventually become the dominating and driving force in our lives.

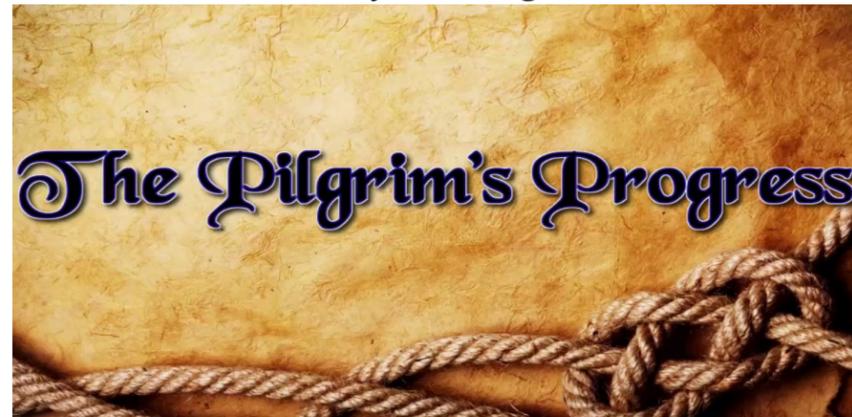
Of course we have our spiritual liberties. But when we find ourselves unable to enjoy the Christian life without our liberties, then we have become enslaved to them. There is, for example, presumably no built-in evil about owning a new car, or living in pleasant house, or enjoying various foods, spending time in various pursuits, or with certain kinds of people. But when we cannot be content without them; when we simply must have them - they are no longer our liberties, but our chains. The Christian should develop in Christ a sensitivity to those things to which he will most readily allow himself to be brought into bondage. "Will this enslave me?" will be a question never

far from his thinking. "I will not be mastered by anything" is a good motto text for the man who has received a spirit of self-discipline [2 Tim 1:7].

To be continued...

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 or call (864) 861-2196.

Wednesday Evening Service



Church Contact Information:

Church/Fellowship Building: (864) 861-2190
Office/Parsonage: (864) 861-2196

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Church Office: 6466 Poplar Springs Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692
Hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4
Email: balentine@poplarspringsws.org
Pastor:
Youth Pastor: Travis Gosnell
Music Leader: Deck Balentine
Pianist: Jean Powell
Website: www.poplarspringsws.org

Poplar Springs

Baptist Church



“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 5, 2018

**6000 Poplar Springs Road
Ware Shoals, SC 29692
(864) 861-2196
www.poplarspringsws.org**

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Worship: 11:00 am