

THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

February 24, 2019

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

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,

Your understanding is unsearchable and infinite, Your arm cannot be stayed, Your agency extends through limitless space, all works hang on thy care, with You time is a present now, Holy is thy wisdom, power, mercy, ways, works. How can I stand before thee with my numberless and aggravated offences? I have often loved darkness, observed lying vanities, forsaken Your given mercies, trampled underfoot Your beloved Son, mocked Your providences, flattered You with my lips, broken Your covenant. It is of Your compassion that I am not consumed. Lead me to repentance and save me from despair; let me come to You renouncing, condemning, loathing myself, but hoping in the grace that flows even to the chief of sinners. At the cross may I contemplate the evil of sin, and abhor it, look on him whom I pierced, as one slain for me, and by me. May I never despise his death by fearing its efficacy for my salvation. And whatever cross I am required to bear, let me see him carrying a heavier. Teach me in health to think of sickness, in the brightest hours to be ready for darkness; in life prepare me for death. Thus, may my soul rest in You, O immortal and transcendent one, revealed as thou art in the Person and work of thy Son, the Friend of sinners.

(The Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

Ringling of Bell Judah & Felicity Gosnell

Announcements..... Deacon

A Time for Praise:

Prelude

Call to Worship

Scripture and Prayer Worship Leader

- *Hymn of Praise* *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Hymn #1

A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory* Hymn *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* Hymn #320

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings Ushers

A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

Choral Message..... *Now to the King* Arr. Wilkinson

Message Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Hymn #539

- 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 – the Baptist Catechism, 1813

58. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain (Ex. 20:7).

59. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names (Mt. 6:9; Deut. 23:58), titles (Ps. 68:4), attributes (Rev. 15:3, 4), ordinances, (Mal. 1: 11, 14), word (Ps. 136: 1, 2) and works (Job 36:24).

60. What is forbidden in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment forbids all profaning and abusing of anything whereby God makes himself known (Mal. 1:6, 7, 12; 2:2; 3:14).

61. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is, that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment (1 Sam. 2:12, 17, 22, 29; 3:13; Deut. 28:58, 59).

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, February 24

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
 7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry
 7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry
 8:00 p.m. Church Conference

Wednesday, February 27

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Nursery this week: Theresa Engel

Church Watch this month: Jerry Crawford

Christian Love

By J.C. Ryle

(Part 3)

II. Let me show, secondly, WHAT the love of the Bible really is.

III. Let me show, thirdly--where the love of the Bible comes from.

Love, such as I have described, is certainly not natural to man. Naturally, we are all more or less selfish, envious, ill-tempered, spiteful, ill-natured, and unkind! We have only to observe children, when left to themselves, to see the proof of this. Let boys and girls grow up without proper training and education--and you will not see one of them possessing Christian love! Mark how some of them think first of themselves, and their own comfort and advantage! Mark how others are full of pride, passion, and evil tempers! How can we account for it? There is but one reply. The natural heart knows nothing of true love.

Christian love will never be found except in a heart prepared by the Holy Spirit. It is a tender plant, and will never grow except in one soil. You may as well expect grapes on thorns, or figs on thistles--as look for love when the heart is not right.

The heart in which love grows, is a heart changed, renewed, and transformed by the Holy Spirit. The image and likeness of God, which Adam lost at the fall, has been restored to it, however feeble and imperfect the restoration may appear. It is a "partaker of the Divine nature," by union with Christ and sonship to God; and one of the first features of that nature is love. (2 Peter I. 4.)

Such a heart is deeply convinced of sin--hates it, flees from it, and fights with it from day to day. And one of the prime motions of sin which it daily labors to overcome, is selfishness and lack of love.

Such a heart is deeply sensible of its mighty debt to our Lord Jesus Christ. It feels continually that it owes to Him who died for us on the cross, all its present comfort, hope, and peace. How can it show forth its gratitude? What can it render to its Redeemer? If it can do nothing else, it strives to be like Him, to drink into His spirit, to walk in His footsteps, and, like Him--to be full of love. "The love of Christ shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit" is the surest fountain of Christian love. Love will produce love.

I ask my reader's special attention to this point. It is one of great importance in the present day. There are many who profess to admire love--while they care nothing about vital Christianity. They like some of the fruits and results of the Gospel--but not the root from which these fruits alone can grow, or the doctrines with which they are inseparably connected.

Hundreds will praise love--who hate to be told of man's corruption, of the blood of Christ, and of the inward work of the Holy Spirit. Many a parent would like his children to grow up unselfish and good tempered--who would not be much pleased if conversion, and repentance, and faith, were pressed home on their attention.

Now I desire to protest against this notion, that you can have the fruits of Christianity, without the roots--that you can produce Christian tempers,

without teaching Christian doctrines--that you can have love which will wear and endure, without grace in the heart.

I grant, most freely, that every now and then one sees a person who seems very charitable and amiable, without any distinctive Christian religion. But such cases are so rare and remarkable, that, like exceptions--they only prove the truth of the general rule. And often, too often, it may be feared in such cases the love is only apparent, and in private it completely fails. I firmly believe, as a general rule, you will not find such love as the Bible describes, except in the soil of a heart thoroughly imbued with Bible religion. Holy practice will not flourish without sound doctrine. What God has joined together, it is useless to expect to have separate.

The delusion which I am trying to combat, is helped forward to a most mischievous degree by the vast majority of novels, romances, and tales of fiction. Who does not know that the heroes and heroines of these works are constantly described as patterns of perfection? They are always doing the right thing, saying the right thing, and showing the right temper! They are always kind, and amiable, and unselfish, and forgiving! And yet you never hear a word about their religion! In short, to judge by the generality of works of fiction, it is possible to have . . .

excellent practical religion--without doctrine,
the fruits of the Spirit--without the grace of the Spirit,
and the mind of Christ--without union with Christ!

Here, in short, is the great danger of reading most novels, romances, and works of fiction. The greater part of them give a false or incorrect view of human nature. They paint their model men and women as they ought to be, and not as they really are. The readers of such writings get their minds filled with wrong conceptions of what the world is. Their notions of mankind become visionary and unreal. They are constantly looking for men and women such as they never meet--and expecting what they never find.

Let me entreat my readers, once for all, to draw their ideas of human nature from the Bible, and not from novels. Settle it down in your mind, that there cannot be true love without a heart renewed by grace. A certain degree of kindness, courtesy, amiability, good nature--may undoubtedly be seen in many who have no vital religion. But the glorious plant of Bible love, in all its fullness and perfection, will never be found without union with Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Teach this to your children, if you have any. Hold it up in schools, if you are connected with any. Lift up love. Make much of love. Give place to none in exalting the grace of kindness, love, good nature, unselfishness, good temper.

But never, never forget, that there is but one school in which these things can be thoroughly learned--and that is the school of Christ. Real love comes down from above. True love is the fruit of the Spirit. He who would have it--must sit at Christ's feet, and learn of Him.

(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.

NOTES:

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

Interim Pastor: Lucas Mann
(864) 909-7564

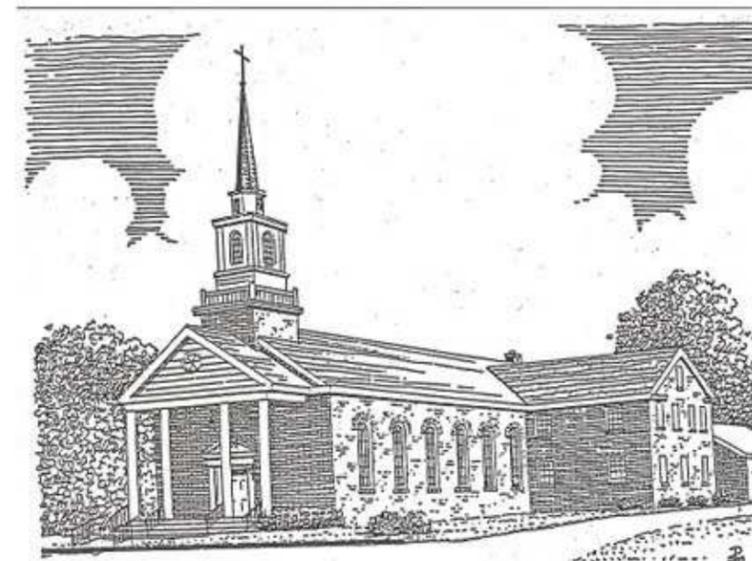
Youth Pastor: Travis Gosnell

Music Leader: Deck Balentine

Pianist: Jean Powell

Website: www.poplarspringsws.org

Poplar Springs Baptist Church



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Ware Shoals, S. C.

“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an [h]utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased’— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.” 2 Peter 1:16-18

THE LORD’S DAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

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

Interim Pastor Lucas Mann

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Worship: 11:00 am