

THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

March 17, 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

O LORD,

You know my great unfitness for service, my present deadness, my inability to do anything for your glory, my distressing coldness of heart. I am weak, ignorant, unprofitable, and loathe and abhor myself. I am at a loss to know what you would have me do, for I feel amazingly deserted by you, and sense your presence so little; You make me possess the sins of my youth, and the dreadful sin of my nature, so that I feel all sin, I cannot think or act but every motion is sin. Return again with showers of converting grace to a poor gospel-abusing sinner. Help my soul to breathe after holiness, after a constant devotedness to you, after growth in grace more abundantly every day. O Lord, I am lost in the pursuit of this blessedness, and am ready to sink because I fall short of my desire; help me to hold out a little longer, until the happy hour of deliverance comes, for I cannot lift my soul to you if you of your goodness bring me not nigh. Help me to be diffident, watchful, tender, lest I offend my blessed Friend in thought and behavior; I confide in you, lean upon you and need you at all times to assist and lead me. O that all my distresses and apprehensions might prove but Christ’s school to make me fit for greater service by teaching me the great lesson of humility.

-- (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* *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* Hymn # 43

A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory Hymn* *On Jordan’s Stormy Banks* Hymn #777

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings Ushers

A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

Choral Message..... *Home in Gloryland Medley* Arr. Smith

Message Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* *Breathe on Me* Hymn #396

- 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

68. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee (Ex. 20:12).

69. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving the honor and performing the duties belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors (Eph. 5:21), inferiors (1 Pet. 2:17), or equals (Rom. 12:10).

70. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbids the neglect of or doing anything against the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in their several places and relations (Mt. 15:4-6; Ez. 34:24; Rom. 13:8).

71. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God’s glory, and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment (Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:2, 3).

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 20

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday, March 23

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast

Church Watch this month: Jerry Crawford

Expelling Worldliness with a New Affection

By Sinclair Ferguson

Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847) was one of the most remarkable men of his time—a mathematician, evangelical theologian, economist, ecclesiastical, political, and social reformer all in one. His most famous sermon was published under the unlikely title: “The Expulsive Power of a New Affection.” In it he expounded an insight of permanent importance for Christian living: you cannot destroy love for the world merely by showing its emptiness. Even if we could do so, that would lead only to despair. The first world-centered love of our hearts can be expelled only by a new love and affection—for God and from God. The love of the world and the love of the Father cannot dwell together in the same heart. But the love of the world can be driven out only by the love of the Father. Hence Chalmers’ sermon title.

True Christian living, holy and right living, requires a new affection for the Father as its dynamic. Such new affection is part of what William Cowper called “the blessedness I knew when first I saw the Lord”—a love for the holy that seems to deal our carnal affections a deadly blow at the beginning of the Christian life. Soon, however, we discover that for all that we have died to sin in Christ, sin has by no means died in us. Sometimes its continued influence surprises us, even appears to overwhelm us in one or other of its manifestations. We discover that our “new affections” for spiritual things must be renewed constantly throughout the whole of our pilgrimage. If we lose the first love, we will find ourselves in serious spiritual peril.

Sometimes we make the mistake of substituting other things for it. Favorites here are activity and learning. We become active in the service of God ecclesiastically (we gain the positions once held by those we admired and we measure our spiritual growth in terms of position achieved); we become active evangelistically and in the process measure spiritual strength in terms of increasing influence; or we become active socially, in moral and political campaigning, and measure growth in terms of involvement. Alternatively, we recognize the intellectual fascination and challenge of the gospel and devote ourselves to understanding it, perhaps for its own sake, perhaps to communicate it to others. We measure our spiritual vitality in terms of understanding, or in terms of the influence it gives us over others. But no position, influence, or involvement can expel love for the world from our hearts. Indeed, they may be expressions of that very love.

Others of us make the mistake of substituting the rules of piety for loving affection for the Father: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!” Such disciplines have an air of sanctity about them, but in fact they have no power to restrain the love of the world. The root of the matter is not on my table, or in my neighborhood, but in my heart. Worldliness has still not been expelled.

It is all too possible, in these different ways, to have the form of genuine godliness (how subtle our hearts are!) without its power. Love for the world will not have been expunged, but merely diverted. Only a new love is adequate to expel the old one. Only love for Christ, with all that it implies, can squeeze out the love of this world. Only those who long for Christ’s

appearing will be delivered from Demas-like desertion caused by being in love with this world.

How can we recover the new affection for Christ and his kingdom that so powerfully impacted our life-long worldliness, and in which we crucified the flesh with its lusts?

What was it that created that first love in any case? Do you remember? It was our discovery of Christ's grace in the realization of our own sin. We are not naturally capable of loving God for himself, indeed we hate him. But in discovering this about ourselves, and in learning of the Lord's supernatural love for us, love for the Father was born. Forgiven much, we loved much. We rejoiced in the hope of glory, in suffering, even in God himself. This new affection seemed first to overtake our worldliness, then to master it. Spiritual realities—Christ, grace, Scripture, prayer, fellowship, service, living for the glory of God—filled our vision and seemed so large, so desirable that other things by comparison seemed to shrink in size and become bland to the taste.

The way in which we maintain “the expulsive power of a new affection” is the same as the way we first discovered it. Only when grace is still “amazing” to us does it retain its power in us. Only as we retain a sense of our own profound sinfulness can we retain a sense of the graciousness of grace.

Many of us share Cowper's sad questions: “Where is the blessedness I knew when first I saw the Lord? Where is the soul-refreshing view of Jesus and his word?” Let us remember the height from which we have fallen, repent and return to those first works. It would be sad if the deepest analysis of our Christianity was that it lacked a sense of sin and of grace. That would suggest that we knew little of the expulsive power of a new affection. But there is no right living that last without it.

NOTES:

Church Contact Information:

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Interim Pastor: Lucas Mann
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Youth Pastor: Travis Gosnell
Music Leader: Deck Balentine
Pianist: Jean Powell
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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.

Poplar Springs Baptist Church



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”
Ephesians 1:3 – 6

THE LORD'S DAY, March 17, 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