

# THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

November 11, 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 LORD,

Your will is supreme in heaven and earth, and all beings are creatures of your power. You are the Father of our spirits; your inspiration gives us understanding, your providence governs our lives. But, O God, we are sinners in your sight; you have judged us so, and if we deny it we make you a liar. Yet in Christ you are reconciled to your rebellious subjects; give us the ear of faith to hear him, they eye of faith to see him, the hand of faith to receive him, the appetite of faith to feed upon him; that we might find in him light, riches, honor, eternal life You are the inviting One, may we hearken to you; the Almighty Instructor, teach us to live to you; the Light-Dweller, inaccessible to man and angels, hiding yourself behind the elements of creation, but known to us in Jesus; possess our minds with the grandeur of your perfections. Your love to us in Jesus is firm and changeless, nothing can separate us from it, and in the enjoyment of it nothing can make us miserable. Preserve us from hypocrisy and formality in religion; enable us to remember what you are and what we are, to recall your holiness and our unworthiness; help us to approach you clothed with humility, for vanity, forwardness, insensibility, disorderly affection, backwardness to duty, proneness to evil are in our hearts. Let us never forget your patience, wisdom, power, faithfulness, care and never cease to respond to your invitation.

(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* ..... *Holy, Holy* ..... Hymn #69

## A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory Hymn* ..... *What Wondrous Love Is This*..... Hymn #314

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings ..... Ushers

## A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

*Choral Message* ..... *Ten Thousand Years* ..... Arr. Cole

Message ..... Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

## A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* ..... *Room at the Cross for You* ..... Hymn #487

- 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*

### **Q. How is the word made effectual to salvation?**

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation (Neh. 8:8; Acts 26:18; Ps. 19:8; Acts 20:32; Rom. 1: 15, 16, 10: 13, 14, 15, 16, 17; 15:4; 1 Cor. 14:24, 25; 1 Tim. 3:15, 16, 17; ).

### **Q. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?**

A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence (Pr. 8:34), preparation (1 Pet. 2:1, 2), and prayer (Ps. 119:18); receive it with faith and love (Heb. 4:2; 2 Thes. 2:10), lay it up in our hearts (Ps. 119:18), and practice it in our lives (Luke 8:15; James 1:25).

### **Q. How do baptism and the Lords supper become effectual means of salvation?**

A. Baptism and the Lords supper become effectual means of salvation, not for any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them, but only by the blessing of Christ (1 Pet. 3:21; Mt. 3:11; 1 Cor. 3:6, 7), and the working of the Spirit in those that by faith receive them (1 Cor. 12:3; Mt. 28:19).

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## Opportunities of the Week

### **Sunday, November 11**

12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Evening Service

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry

### **Wednesday, November 14**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Nursery this week:** Crystal Thomson  
Theresa Engel

**Church Watch this month:** Tommy Bryant

# Who Should We Invite to Thanksgiving Dinner?

*by John Piper*

(Part 2)

## Living by the Law of Reciprocity

Now you would think Jesus has ruffled enough feathers at one dinner: exposing the legalist's ability to twist the law in order to protect their selfish convenience and exposing the pride of those who crave the praise of men. You would think the party is over. But he is not done yet.

He said also to the man who had invited him, "Whenever you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers, or your relatives or your rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and it be a repayment for you. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For it will be repaid to you in the resurrection of the just." (Luke 14:12–14)

Up till now Jesus has talked to the guests. Now he turns to the host. "Don't touch that snake, lest it bite you and you die." "Don't climb that rope, lest it break and you fall." "Don't invite your friends and brothers and relatives and rich neighbors to dinner, lest you be repaid in kind." What an unearthly argument! "Danger! Repayment ahead!" "Warning! This repayment may be dangerous to your health!" Who on earth would talk like that? Probably somebody whose kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36); somebody who knows that 1,000 years on this earth are like yesterday when it is gone (Psalm 90:4); somebody who knows that our life is but a mist that appears and in a moment vanishes away (James 4:14); who knows that he who saves his life now will lose it later, and he who loses it now in love will save it later (Mark 8:35); and who knows that there will be a resurrection unto eternal life, a resurrection of the just to live with God a million millennia of eons, if indeed he was our God on this earth. Jesus is the man. No man ever spoke like this man. And the people who call him Lord ought not to be like any other people.

Take heed how you hear. There are some whose first and only reaction to Jesus' words will be: "Well, he can't mean that, because then we would have no more church suppers, no more Sunday School socials, no more family reunions, and even the Lord's Supper would have been wrong." Then, having thus defused the text and bent the sword of the Spirit, they move on to the next passage and right on through the New Testament justifying themselves and, just like the Pharisees, manipulating the law of Christ to preserve their unruffled tradition and convenience.

There is no better defense against the truth than a half-truth. And the half-truth is, Jesus does not intend to end all family meals and gatherings of friends. But the truth is: there is in every human heart a terrible and powerful tendency to live by the law of earthly repayment, the law of reciprocity. There is a subtle and relentless inclination in our flesh to do what will make life as comfortable as possible and to avoid what will inconvenience us or agitate our placid routine or add the least bit of tension to our Thanksgiving dinner. The most sanctified people among us must do battle every day so as not to be

enslaved by the universal tendency to always act for the greatest earthly payoff.

The people who lightly dismiss this text as a rhetorical overstatement are probably blind to the impossibility of overstating the corruption of the human heart and its deceptive power to make us think all is well when we are enslaved to the law of reciprocity, the law which says: always do what will pay off in convenience, undisturbed pleasures, domestic comfort, and social tranquility. Jesus' words are radical because our sin is radical. He waves a red flag because there is destruction ahead for people governed by the law of reciprocity.

### **It Really Matters Who You Invite to Dinner**

I stress the danger of living for earthly repayment (for ease, convenience, comfort, tranquility) because Jesus stressed it. Listen to these other sayings. Luke 6:24: "Woe to you that are rich, for you have received back your consolation." The rich are condemned because the use of their money showed where their heart was: they used it to secure their lives and pad themselves with comfort and luxury and consolation, instead of using it to meet the needs of the suffering.

Jesus takes this saying from Luke 6:24 and makes a parable out of it in Luke 16:19ff.:

*There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; and the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." But Abraham said, "Son, remember that you in your lifetime received back your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things. But now he is comforted here and you are in anguish."*

Why didn't the rich man give Lazarus the crumbs from his table? Because Lazarus was in no position to pay back any good thing. The rich man's life was governed by the law of reciprocity, by the earthly benefits he could receive back in all his dealings. He wore the finest clothes and feasted sumptuously and did not inconvenience himself with the poor, sick man at his very door. And so he went to hell, where everybody will go who uses his money to feast sumptuously with comfortable, respectable guests instead of using it to alleviate suffering.

When you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. You will be blessed because they cannot repay you! You will be blessed because they cannot repay you! What an amazing thing for Jesus to say! We get ourselves braced for some good, solid self-denial. We screw on our willpower to exercise some disinterested benevolence. And Jesus turns around and says: Your self-denial for the poor will bring you great blessing. Your

benevolence is not, nor ever could be, disinterested. Indeed, your eternal interest is at stake. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). "If you lose your life (in love) for my sake, you will save it" (Mark 8:36). So, in the end, for those who obey, there is no self-sacrifice. Who wouldn't count everything as rubbish in order to gain Christ?

Why does it make such an eternal difference whom you invite to Thanksgiving dinner? It is not so much that this one afternoon is all-determining. The reason it makes an eternal difference is that it, along with many other occasions, reveals where our treasure is. Is Jesus, with his commands and promises, more valuable to us than tradition and convenience and earthly comfort? Is he our treasure or is the world? That question is not decided during an invitation at church. It is decided at Thanksgiving dinner, and hour by hour every day, by whether we are willing to inconvenience ourselves for those who can't repay, or whether we avoid them and so preserve our placid routine. It matters whom you invite to Thanksgiving dinner because it matters where your treasure is.

**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.**

### **Church Contact Information:**

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**Office/Parsonage:** (864) 861-2196

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 124, Ware Shoals, SC 29692  
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**Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4  
**Email:** [balentine@poplarspringsws.org](mailto: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](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)

# **Poplar Springs Baptist Church**



***“And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’” Luke 14:12–14***

**THE LORD'S DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

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

**Interim Pastor Lucas Mann**

**Sunday School: 10:00 am**

**Worship: 11:00 am**