

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

November 13, 2016

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God Does Not Weary

Isaiah 40:28-31: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to *him who* lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up *with* wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Rom. 11:33-36

+We Adore Him

Hymn #292, "Who Shall Ascend"

Based on Psalm 24

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty and glorious Lord! Iniquity clings to us such that we walk in sin. It not only is our greatest lament, but at times our greatest love. It is strange that pride should ever find anything in our experience to feed upon, but this completes our character, for folly, vileness, and inconsistency. We not only are vile, but proud! And though we are convinced we are wretched and nothing before You, yet we are prone to go forth among our fellow-worms, as though we were wise and good!

Yet our confidence is in Christ. Though we are guilty, yet we are pardoned! Though we are lost in ourselves, yet we are fully saved in You! Enable us to cling firmly to Your cross, even as we now seek safety and repose beneath its sin-atoning shelter! Let floods of sustaining grace from Your inexhaustible treasury, enrich our poor and weary souls. If the enemy approaches, quicken our steps to flee into the wounds of Jesus as our sure refuge! Sheltered in the ark of safety, may we cease to tremble at all alarms. May the good

Shepherd lead us this day into the green pastures of His refreshing Word, and cause us to lie down beside the rivers of His divine comforts. This we humbly offer in the name of Jesus Christ, trusting only in His saving merits. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #182, "My Song Is Love Unknown"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

2 Thes. 3:13

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #574, "Christian, Dost Thou See Them"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Mt. 11:28-31

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #297, "All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name!"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

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Welcome to Bethel Presbyterian Church! To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whomsoever will come-- this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We invite you to **sign** the attendance card in your bulletin and drop it in the offering. You are invited to stay for **Sunday School** which begins at 11:30. The **adult classes** are: Sermon Discussion (auditorium), Galatians (on the stage), and Worship (class 242, carpeted foyer). The **children's section** today will be studying in light of WSC #???; next week: #???

REGARDING THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is for baptized believers who are in good standing in a Christian church (that is, not harboring unrepentant sin, not under any discipline of the church, and attending worship services faithfully). As fellow believers, we welcome you to participate in this New Covenant sacrament with us. The bread served during the meal is gluten free.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

In preparation for next week's worship (Theme:), utilize the following hymns in your personal and/or family devotions this coming week: #s .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because worship is our greatest privilege and highest duty in this life, the Elders of Bethel Presbyterian Church urge all parents to keep their **children** in the service with us that they might learn early how to worship God. Please know that we are not bothered by an occasional squeal, laugh, or tear. However, if you should desire it, a nursery is provided for newborns up through 3 years.

We rejoice with ??? as they praise God this week for another year of life! **Happy Birthday!**

HEARING IMPAIRED

If you desire a headphone with which to aid you in hearing the service, inquire at the audio room at the back of the auditorium.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

	This Week	Next Week
Nursery Worship	B. Ross/L. Ross	M. Martin/C. Martin
Nursery Study Hour	K. Young/M. Spriggs	TBA/P. Soundron
Steward of the Day	House/Aden	Jones/N. Berry
Financial Stewards	L. Burns/J. Martin	R. Burns/J. Todd
Open Table	Soundron	Kullmans
Opening/Closing	R. Young	R. Young

Trailer

Hall

Hall

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

If you have a prayer need, the prayer chain may be activated by contacting the church office at gregthurston@q.com.

OUR MISSIONARIES

Ray and Michele Call	Uruguay
Craig and Ree Coulbourne	Japan
Cal and Edie Cummings	Japan
Tony and Kathleen Curto	Ethiopia
Octavius and Marie Delfils	Haiti
Ben and Heather Hopp	Haiti
Jerry and Mariland Farnik	Czech Republic
Sam and Eun-soo Folta	Asia
Heero and Anya Hacquebord	Ukraine
Eric and Donna Hausler	Haiti
Charles and Connie Jackson	Uganda
Woody and Laurie Lauer	Japan
Mike and Lili McCabe	Asia
Dave and Sunshine Okken	Uganda
Mark and Jeni Richline	Uruguay
David and Rashel Robbins	Uganda
Eric and Dianna Tuininga	Uganda
Murray and Tsuruko Uomoto	Japan
Ben and Melanie Westerveld	Quebec
Brian and Dorothy Wingard	Uganda
Bob and Martha Wright	Uganda
Kaz and Katie Yaegashi	Japan

The Attributes of a Faithful Minister, Pt. 1

1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

Study notes for November 13, 2016

I. **Introduction:** Imitating Paul, Heb. 13:7; 2 Cor. 11:23-29; 1 Cor. 11:1

II. **The Attributes of a Faithful Minister, 1 Thes. 5:25-28.**

A. **The Faithful Minister is Concerned with His Own Holiness, v. 25.**

Pray: προσεύχομαι (*proseuchomai*)

Recall, this term is the most comprehensive term for prayer in the Bible and the most frequent word used to describe prayer. It can be used for all or none of the different forms of prayer found in Scripture. As we have seen, it primarily references devotion and so speaks of a God-ward look of dependence. Here the focus clearly is on supplication which means it is used here as a synonym of δέησις (*deēsis*)...

In fact, Paul employed a present tense in this passage which indicates that Paul was requesting “*continual*” prayer on his behalf. In other words, every time the Thessalonians prayed, Paul asked them to “pray for US”- specifically Silas, Timothy, and himself!

An Important Observation: Every other place in Scripture where Paul asks for prayer, he specifies what he wanted the church or the individual to pray. For example (cf. Rom. 15:30-31; Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:3-4; 2 Thes. 3:1-2)...

Yet in our text, Paul doesn't specify the content of the prayer... or does he? Recall, on account of the rarity of parchment, a common Biblical practice to preserve space when writing was to omit a word or idea if it was obvious. For example (cf. Eph. 5:21-22; 1 Cor. 2:13)...

Since Paul always gives the content of the prayer he is eliciting, we conclude that he must have done that here AND because it was so obvious, he didn't need to spell it out. In this regard, notice the flow of the text before us...

...well, what ought they to pray for? The obvious answer is, “*That for which I am praying for you!*”- which in this case was their Devotion to God (v. 23a) and their Personal Purity (v. 23b)!

***Point:** From this we behold the first attribute which characterized Paul as A Faithful Minister- A Concern for his own Holiness (cf. 1 Thes. 2:3-4). With Paul as our example, we learn that the Faithful Minister is vitally concerned with his own holiness, purity, and devotion- that he might ever and always please the Lord!

***Where We Live**

1. Notice what happens when a servant of God neglects their own holiness (2 Tim. 2:21; 1 Thes. 4:7)...
2. We see this in the life of...
 - a. Moses, Ex. 4:24-26.
 - b. Paul, 1 Cor. 9:26-27.
3. What ought to be of major importance to us?

Robert Murray McCheyne wrote, “How diligently the cavalry officer keeps his sabre clean and sharp; every stain he rubs off with the greatest care. Remember you are God's sword, His instrument- I trust, a chosen vessel unto Him to bear His name. In great measure, according to the purity and perfection of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great talents God blesses so much as likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God.” (Quoted in *Lectures to My Students* by Spurgeon, pg. 8)

B. **The Faithful Minister Unconditionally Loves the Brethren, v. 26.**

Kiss: φίλημα (*philēma*)

This refers to an act of special respect and affection. In the early church, the “holy kiss” (typically given on the cheek) was a

widely used practice (cf. Rom. 16:16a; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12)...

In the ancient world "a kiss" had three uses in the culture of the day. First there was...

1. The Kiss of Respect (cf. Lk. 7:37b-38, 45)
2. The Kiss of Veneration (cf. Hos. 13:2; Job 31:26-28a)
3. The Kiss of Love (Gen. 27:26; 50:1)

The practice of the Apostolic Church was derived from the latter, The Kiss of Love (cf. 1 Pet. 5:14a; Acts 20:37-38a)...

...when it is understood that (1) a person coming to Christ has entered into the family of God, which is to be characterized by even closer ties than those of any human family (cf. Mt. 12:46-50), (2) the relationships that exist in this "family of God" are eternal- in contrast to the temporal relationships enjoyed by earthly families (cf. Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 12:9-10), and (3) our hearts have been bound together into one body in Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 12:17-20), it is no surprise to see that the Apostolic church adopted this love-act with a modification...

Holy

Based on our understanding of the word "holy," in the Bible a "holy kiss" would be different from any other kiss a person might give or receive in life; it was a kiss associated with God by which a Christian expressed to another Christian, "I am in it for the long haul! You are more important to me than any other human relationship or convention. You are a brother or sister in Christ!"

All the Brethren

This is in the emphatic position which means it is what Paul wanted the leadership in Thessalonica to walk away with as it related to Paul's personal instruction here! Paul wanted them to make sure that each and every individual member of the body of Christ in Thessalonica knew Paul was committed to them- Jew, Gentile, Rich, Poor, Male, and Female!

Why the emphasis on "ALL the brethren"? Recall the context and the various exhortations Paul gave to this church in this epistle (1 Thes. 5:14-15; 4:11-12; 4:8)...

...in this context it would only be natural for hard feelings, anger, resentment, embarrassment, and grief to arise on the part of some toward Paul. Accordingly, Paul wanted the entire body to know that he loved them and cared for them!

***Point:** From this we learn that another Attribute of the Faithful Minister of God is that he Unconditionally Loves All the Brethren. To the Faithful Minister, they don't allow any circumstance or context to alienate their love for their people. The Faithful Minister loves unconditionally!

*Where We Live

1. Why is this such an important attribute for a minister?
2. Our day is not equipped to handle conflict... do you see it in your own family? How about the church?
3. What, a members of Christ's holy church, ought to be our response to conflict?
4. Finally, what is at stake if we do not address conflict Biblically (cf. Eph. 4:3; 1 Cor. 6:7b; 1 Pet. 4:8)?