

God Be Merciful To Me, The Sinner

There is a voice of **Sovereign Grace**, the Sacred Word has roared!
"Ho! ye despairing sinners come, And trust upon the LORD."
My soul obeys the Almighty call, -And runs to this Relief:
I would believe Thy promise, Lord, -*Oh help my unbelief.*

To that dear Fountain of Thy Blood, Incarnate God, -I fly!
Here let me wash my spotted soul, From crimes of deepest dye.
Stretch out Thine arm Victorious King, My reigning sins subdue!
Drive the Old Dragon from his seat, With his apostate crew.

A guilty, weak, and helpless worm, On Thy kind arms I fall;
Be Thou my Strength and Righteousness, My Savior, and my all!

-Isaac Watts

The Kingdom of God: The Church

The revelation of "the Christ" embraces in it the revelation of the Church in Him,
as His Temple, His Body, His Bride, His present witness on earth, and the watcher for His Return in Glory.
This **Church**, even on earth, is no mere association of men holding certain opinions,
-no mere corporation favored with certain privileges, -but a Body chosen and called out of a world of darkness.
Its legislation is Divine, not human. Its laws are not its own ideas of expediency and order,
but the commandments of its Head.
The essence of its constitution is not socialism, nor republicanism, nor despotism, nor anarchy,
but an **un-earthly organization**,
founded on **entire subjection** to its heavenly Head; an organization working itself out in order,
unity, growth, fruitfulness, **love**, and zeal.

Its ministers are not philosophers, nor lecturers, nor theorists, nor humorists, nor orators, nor priests,
but **messengers** of God's free love, **expositors** of the Word, **shepherds** of the Flock,
and **executors** of government and discipline.

Its members are not politicians, nor lovers of (worldly) pleasure, nor worshippers of gold,
nor men who are trying to make the best of both worlds,
but men alive from the dead, through the power of the Holy Ghost,
possessors of a heavenly Peace, bearers of a Cross, yet heirs of a Kingdom; strangers upon the earth,
yet citizens of the New Jerusalem, which comes down from God out of Heaven.

-Horatius Bonar

Covenant Membership: James Hubert Carter

Do you acknowledge yourself to be a **sinner** as one who has violated the pure and holy moral law of God
as revealed in the Ten Commandments?"
Do you acknowledge your need of salvation by the **substitutionary atoning work of Christ's** suffering
and death on the Cross?"
Do you **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, receiving and **resting upon Him alone** as He is offered in the Gospel,
as Prophet, Priest, and King?"
Have you been **baptized** in accordance with His Word?"
Do you **covenant in the name of God**, and in humble reliance upon the Grace of the Holy Spirit,
to live in a way that becomes followers of Christ?"
Do you **covenant in the name of God** to support the ministry of this church in its worship and work,
submitting to its government and discipline, while pursuing its purity and peace?"

To The Congregation:

As a congregation of Christ, do you receive Jim into the covenant fellowship of **River City Reformed Church**
together with you, renewing your membership vows as you do so? (If so, respond by saying "**Amen**".)

A Celebration of Worship

For the Children of God in Covenant at

River City Reformed Church

April 15, 2018

The Titanic, 1912

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the LORD Himself is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; **We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**
Enter His gates with thanksgiving *And* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness is to all generations.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

HYMN

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His Grace!

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free!
His Blood can make the foulest clean, His Blood availed for me.

On this Glad Day the glorious Sun of Righteousness arose;
On my benighted soul He shone, And filled it with repose.

Harlots and publicans and thieves, In Holy Triumph chime!
Saved is the sinner that believes, From crimes as great as mine.

I felt my Lord's atoning Blood close to my soul applied;
Me! Me He loved, the Son of God! For me, for me He died!

Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, **Who like me** His praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise the Everlasting King.

Praise Him for His Grace and favor, To our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same forever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him! Glorious in His faithfulness.

Angels, help us to adore Him; Ye behold Him face to Face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise with us the God of Grace.

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

SONGS OF PRAISE

How Can I Say Thanks for the things You have done for me-
Things so undeserved, yet You gave to prove Your love for me?
The voices of a million angels, could not express my gratitude-
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the Glory! To God be the Glory!
To God be the Glory for the things He has done.
With His blood He has saved me; With His power He has raised me;
To God be the Glory for the things He has done.

Just let me live my life: Let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee.
And should I gain, any praise, Let it go to Calvary.
With His blood He has saved me; With His power He has raised me;
To God be the Glory for the things He has done!



Our Elders are eager to be of service,
to pray with you,
or answer any questions:

Bob Carter 910.520.0272
Fitz Caudle 910.520.2732
Steve Coggins 910.520.0718



*Behold I am coming quickly,
And My reward is with Me.*

If you would like more information, or would like to contact Pastor Bob, he may be reached at 910.520.0272

TEMPLE BAPTIST ACTIVITY CENTER, GEORGE ANDERSON DRIVE, WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

On A Hill Far Away stood an old rugged Cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged Cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.*

In that old rugged Cross, stained with blood so Divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old Cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon *and sanctify me.* *Refrain*

To the old rugged Cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my Home far away,
Where His Glory forever I'll share. *Refrain*

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of His willingness.” -ML

Brothers, let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy,
and find Grace to help in time of need.

Let us pray believing,
not in our prayers, but in the Cross of Christ,
not in our sound doctrine, but in the Blood of Christ,
not in our desperation, but in the Person of Christ
in the fullness of Redemption accomplished,
in our exalted position in Christ,
in His sovereignty,
in His perfect sympathy,
in His personal goodness to His family members, and
in His steadfast love that endures forever.

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

PREACHING

The Intentional Goodness of God

2 Samuel 9

That *unclean donkey* is yourself

"You must *redeem* the firstborn *donkey* with a *lamb*.
But if you do not redeem it — you must kill the donkey by breaking its neck!" Exodus 34:20

Every firstborn creature must be the Lord's — but since the *donkey* was unclean, it could not be presented in sacrifice to Him. What then? Should it be allowed to go free from the universal law? By no means! God admits of no *exceptions*. The donkey is His due — but He will not accept it; He will not abate the claim — **but yet He cannot be pleased with the unclean victim**. No way of escape remained, but *redemption* — the *donkey* must be saved **by the substitution of a lamb** in its place; or if not redeemed, it must die!

My soul, here is a lesson for you! **That unclean donkey is yourself!**

You are justly the property of the Lord who *made* you and *preserves* you — but you are so sinful that God will not, cannot, accept you! It has come to this: the Lamb of God must stand in your stead — or you must die eternally! Let all the world know of your gratitude to that spotless Lamb who has *died* for you, and so *redeemed* you from the fatal curse of the law!

Must it not sometimes have been a question with the Israelite, as to *which should die* — *the donkey or the lamb*? Would not the man pause to estimate and compare the values of these animals? Assuredly there was *no comparison* between the value of a sinful man — and the spotless Lord Jesus! **Yet the Lamb dies — and man the donkey is spared!**

My soul, admire the boundless love of God to you!
Vile worms are bought — with the blood of the holy Lamb of God!
Dust and ashes are redeemed — with a price far above silver and gold!
What a doom would have been mine — had not plenteous redemption been found!

The *breaking of the neck of the donkey* was but a *momentary* penalty.
But who shall measure the *eternal wrath to come* — to which no limit can be imagined!
Inestimably dear is the glorious Lamb — who has redeemed me from such a doom!

-C.H.S.

BENEDICTION

A Prayer for Holy Affections

O God of the highest Heaven,
occupy the throne of my heart, **own it all and reign supreme,**
conquer every rebel desire, let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war;
manifest Your mighty power, and make me Yours forevermore.

You are worthy to be praised with my every breath,
loved with my every faculty of soul, served with my every act of life.
King Jesus, You have loved me, adopted me, received me,
purchased, washed, favored, clothed, adorned me,
when I was worthless, vile, soiled, polluted.

I was dead in sin, having **no eyes** to see You, **no ears** to hear You,
no taste to relish Your joys, no intelligence to know You;
But Your Spirit has quickened me, has brought me into a **new world** as a **new creature,**
has given me spiritual perception, has opened to me Your Word as light, guide, solace, joy.

Your presence is to me a **treasure of unending peace.**
Nothing can separate me from Your kindness, for You have drawn me with cords of love,
and forgive me daily, hourly.

O help me then to live a life worthy of Your love, and worthy of my calling.
Keep me, for I cannot keep myself; protect me that no evil befall me;
Let me lay aside every sin, every time-consuming distraction and folly;
Help me to walk in Your power, by Your side, lean on Your arm, talk with You,
That I may be salt of the earth and a blessing to all. *Amen*

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: TONITE AT 5:00 PM, 4903 Oleander Drive
INESCAPABLE TRUTH (A STUDY OF APOLOGETICS IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE)

LADIES STUDY, TUESDAY, 10:00 AM