

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

June 30, 2013

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

Christ is Eternal

John 8:56-58: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.' The Jews therefore said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Ps. 145:1-3

+We Adore Him

Hymn #19, "Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord!"

We Confess Our Sin

Eternal Father! You are good beyond all thoughts; but we are vile, wretched, miserable, and blind. Our lips are ready to confess, but our hearts are slow to feel, and our ways reluctant to amend. We bring our souls to You; break them, wound them, bend them, and mold them. Unmask to us sin's deformity, that we may hate it, abhor it, and flee from it. Our faculties have been a weapon of revolt against You; as rebels we have misused our strength, and served the foul adversary of Your kingdom. Give us grace to bewail our insensate folly, grant us to know that the way of transgressors is hard, that evil paths are wretched paths, that to depart from You is to lose all good.

We have seen the purity and beauty of Your perfect law, the happiness of those in whose heart it reigns, and the calm dignity of the walk to which it calls. Yet we daily violate and condemn its precepts. Your loving Spirit strives within us, brings us Scripture warnings, speaks in startling providences, and allures by secret whispers. Yet we choose devices and desires to our own hurt, impiously resent, grieve, and provoke Him to abandon us.

All these sins we mourn, lament, and for them cry pardon.

Work in us more profound and abiding repentance; give us the fullness of a godly grief that trembles and fears, yet ever trusts and loves, which is ever powerful, and ever confident; grant that through the tears of repentance we may see more clearly the brightness and glories of the saving cross. In Christ's name we pray. Amen!

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #81, "O Love Of God"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

1 Jn. 5:13-14

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #58, "O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Ps. 119:121-128

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #648, "My Jesus I Love Thee"

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.

REGARDING THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Apostasy on Trial, Pt. 2
Jeremiah 2:1-19
Study Notes for June 30, 2013

I. Introduction

A Couple of Passages from Last Week: Jer. 29:17-19; Hab. 1:10-11; 2 Chron. 7:13-14.

From these passages the question naturally arises: Why has God deigned to respond to His people's rebellion with national devastation? Does He enjoy watching us suffer? The answer to this question is in the passage before us this morning...

II. Apostasy on Trial, Jeremiah 2:1-19.

A. The Declaration of Intent, v. 9.

B. The Reason for the Trial, vv. 1-8.

1. On account of the Love-Relationship God has Enjoyed with His People, vv. 1-4.

a. Israel's Prior Love and Devotion, vv. 1-2.

This in essence was the mindset of God's people when the Lord brought them out of the bonds of slavery! They willingly, blindly followed Him into a desert- much like Abraham years before (cf. Gen. 15:6). The sentiment here in essence is, "*At one time, you would have done anything for Me! Do you remember?*"

b. Their Status before the Lord, v. 3.

Holy to the Lord

The first of His harvest

All who ate of it became guilty

What an incredible standing God's people had before the Lord. They truly were "the apple of His eye" (Zech. 2:8)! In fact, it just wasn't then... it was now, at the writing of Jeremiah...

c. Their Current Standing before God, v. 4.

House of Jacob

Families of the house of Israel

The use of these names here tells us that the Lord hadn't disowned His people even though as a nation they were about to be taken into exile. In fact, far from disowning them, He was utilizing the "pet name" by which His people were called when their walk with God was healthy, rich, and deep,

Point: And that brings us to the first strand which makes up The Basis for the Lawsuit which God here was filing against His people: at one time they enjoyed a deep, abiding relationship, AND from God's perspective such a relationship was still in existence!

2. On account of the "Innocence" of God, vv. 5-6.

Verse 5: What injustice did your fathers find in me?

The place of the "Wilderness" in the Sanctifying Work of God (Ex. 13:17-18)

Reflecting upon the time in the history of God's people when the Lord met them in the wilderness, led

them, fed them, and encouraged them, what is it that God did that gave cause for His people to rebel? The answer is, “God did NOT wrong them in any way! They rebelled for other reasons!”

Verse 6: Where had the Lord gone?

Throughout the time that Israel dwelt in the wilderness, God fed them, nurtured them, protected, guided, defended, sustained, fellowshiped, and walked with them. Again, for which of these graces did Israel rebel?

***Point:** Because of God’s integrity- He remains faithful in all things- God couldn’t leave His people alone in their sin.

3. On account of their Present Rebellion, vv. 7-8.

The People’s Rebellion, v. 7

Israel’s Lust for Baal!

Idolatry truly was Israel’s chief and besetting sin! And sadly, it all began with their leaders- the very ones God gave to protect His people from sin...

The Leader’s Failure, v. 8

Priests

Levites

Rulers/Shepherds

Prophets

...together, the picture is that of the loosing of the bonds of submission to the Lord, a flight toward anonymous and sensual living, the indulging in a religion which gave that and more, and so the wholesale abandonment of God. Could God allow His people to give themselves to this?

***Point:** So why does God bring trouble to a land when His people are ill? Because He loves His people that much!!!

****Something to Think About:*** From this passage we also gain insight into the soil from which Apostasy rises...

1. What was the soil from which Israel rebelled against the Lord? The Loving care, compassion, and grace of God (Jer. 2:1-6)!
2. What can we do to avoid Apostasy in our Lives?
 - a. Don’t ever allow yourself to receive the word or the teachings of grace lightly; always “remember from where you have fallen” and so the broken vessel you really are!
 - b. Cultivate a heart of repentance in which you daily turn from (1) all autonomy- and so self-sufficiency and independency- and (2) any and all sinful practices, activities, or companions.
 - c. Do the deeds you did at first: the key here is never allow yourself to stop the Christian disciplines you cultivated when your walk with Christ was at its best.
 - d. Read/study the word of God with the intent on helping/encouraging another person!