

February 17, 2013



WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class
11:00 AM Morning Service
Thursday: 7:30 PM Mid-week Service

WEB ADDRESS

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:
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WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2nd floor
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Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

10: 15 a.m. Bible Class followed by short break

11:00 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message

Closing Hymn

Nursery Today: Cheryl D. Nursery **Thursday:** Melinda C ;

February Bdays: Kris D--2nd; Barbara S--7th;

Leviticus 19: 28: Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Believe God No Matter What

God blesses with his presence, power, and goodness where God wills, when God wills, and none can stop his hand. But if Christ does not work in our midst it will be our own fault due to our unbelief: *“And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”* (Mt. 13: 58) God uses his saints to save his elect bringing glory to himself because all is due to his sovereign grace. But if God does not use us, it will be our own fault due to our unbelief: *“Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”* (Mt. 17: 19-20) It is to the praise of the glory of God’s grace that God reveals his glory in us, giving us a knowledge of Christ Jesus so that we see his glory. But if we do not see his glory, it will be our own fault due to our unbelief: *“Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”* (Jn 11: 40) Do you see how important it is to believe the Lord? Salvation is of the Lord. Believe the word of God no matter what for God gives us peace in him through faith: *“Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea...”* (Is 48:17-18)

A MESSAGE FOR LOTS

2 Peter 2: 6-9

As Peter warns believers of false teachers and their damnable heresies, he tells us their destruction is certain, their judgment and damnation is sure. He gives three examples comparing false teachers and their damnation in the rebellious angels, the old world, and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. But the Lord knows how to deliver his children and shall.

False Teachers Compared with Sodom and Gomorrah

The wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah was great. But the Lord declared the wickedness of false teachers who exalt man's worth, will and works as even greater sin than those two wicked cities. The LORD addressed Judah in the days of Isaiah as "ye rulers of Sodom, ye people of Gomorrah." (Is 1: 10-11, 13, 15) In Ezekiel 16, the Lord makes a comparison of false teachers in Jerusalem with the vile sinners of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Ez 16: 1-2)

The false teachers were full of pride. (Ez 16: 48-49.) Pride makes men forget their own wretched, helpless condition. Works religion promotes pride. The gospel declares men nothing. Christ saves us entirely himself.

They were full of bread. (Ez 16: 49) They misused the things God gave to live for themselves in luxury, eating and drinking to excess. Christ is our Bread. God keeps his regenerated child humbled under his mighty hand. Believers live in dependence upon his fullness. But the natural religious man misuses the word of God and material things in the name of building churches for Christ and to indulge his fleshly lusts in the world.

The false teachers in Jerusalem were idle. (Ez 16: 49) If we find contentment in what God has given us rather than in Christ himself we will wax fat and become idle. (Rev 3: 17-19) The riches of God's grace, the fullness of Bread in Christ, makes a believer active in promoting the name of Christ our Redeemer, not idle.

They did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. (Ez 16: 49) The poor and needy are sinners bankrupt of all righteousness in need of Christ. Christ is all the Strength of poor and needy sinner. The gospel is the message whereby the poor and needy are enriched, clothed, provided for by the righteousness of God revealed in the person and work of Christ Jesus. (Rom 1: 16-17; 3: 21-26) Where a man is not told clearly he is absolutely ruined in sin, where man is exalted and the righteousness of God in Christ not preached then there is nothing for the poor and needy sinner. (Rom 10: 2-4) Our gospel is free to the poor destitute sinner who comes to Christ empty. (Is 55: 1; 45: 13) Peter said they will not provide for your soul but through covetousness they will make merchandise of you. The Lord Jesus is a refuge for the oppressed not more oppression for him.

They were haughty. (Ez 16: 50) They lifted themselves above God and men. Swelled with plenty and prosperity, they looked down upon their fellow citizens and strangers. That was so of Sodom, but God says it was worse in the idolatrous works-religion of Jerusalem. Peter warns us of it

today. The Lord Jesus said to those who rejected John the Baptist and himself that they were wise and prudent. Haughty men will not listen to a hick like John the Baptist or even the Master. They are too haughty, too educated for the simple, too wise and prudent for the nothings God uses to preach his word. But the Lord Jesus promises they shall be brought down to hell. (Mt 11: 23-26)

The false teachers committed abomination before the Lord. (Ez 16: 50) This refers to the sin of sodomy. God says the religion of false preachers in Jerusalem was worse. God often compares the sin of works religion to sodomy because both are committed openly and publicly, both are committed with no fear of God, both change the order God ordained to glorify Christ the Husband of his bride who produces children by the Incorruptible Seed of his Gospel and because neither sodomy nor works religion produces children. (1 Thess 4: 3, 6)

False teachers justified the physical acts of Sodomy. (Ez 15: 52) Though the false teachers in their preaching condemned the physical acts of sodomy, the Lord says that by preaching man's works instead of Christ's works, the false teachers were committing the same sin spiritually and thus they were justifying the physical sodomy of Sodom. False preachers can preach down physical sins all they want, but committing spiritual adultery by not preaching the sovereign election of God the Father, limited atonement accomplished by God the Son, and the necessity of regeneration by God the Spirit, they justify those they condemn for physical sins and are guilty of a far worse form of the same sins.

Do we hear Peter's warning to us? Religion which makes the blood of Christ an unholy thing by their works, by the doctrine of universal atonement, by constraining poor sinners with the law of Moses, making merchandise of men's souls is a far worse sin than the sins of Sodom. The Lord told his disciples, "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city." (Mk 6: 11)

The Lord Knows How to Deliver his Children

Lot was righteous in Christ his Surety. The Lord told Abraham he would bring Lot out before he destroyed that evil place. We see repeatedly that the Lord knows how to deliver his children out of falsehood: he brought Noah out, Abraham out, Lot out, and Paul out and continues to call his children out from falsehood today. The Lord has a remnant left. (Is 1: 9) This world will not be destroyed until Christ calls them out. I warn you, along with Peter, we do well to take heed to the sure word of Christ and his gospel. If you do this you will grow in grace and shall never fall. But if your eyes are on Sodom and her false teachers then before you go, come hear the gospel consistently. The Lord will either settle your heart on Christ or your heart will grow more angry and hardened against him. But the Lord knows how to deliver his people out of Sodom. Heed his warning today before the fires of Sodom consume you. If you do not heed the warning they will consume you!