

May 5, 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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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

BDays: Eric C—9th; Will C—14th; Chloe D—26th;
Anniversaries: Ravi and Debbie Doodnath—4th; Eric and Michelle Lutter—21st, Mike and Jamie Lutz—23rd

“Because thou sayest, I am rich”

(Revelation 3:17)

What makes mistaken men afraid of sovereign grace to preach!

The reason is, if truth be said, because they are so rich.

Why so offensive in their eyes does God’s election seem?

Because they think themselves so wise that they have chosen Him.

Of perseverance why so loath are some to speak or hear?

Because, as masters over sloth, they vow to persevere.

Whence is imputed righteousness a point so little known?

Because men think they all possess some righteousness their own.

Not so the needy, helpless soul, prefers his humble prayer;

He looks to Him that works the whole, and seeks his treasure there.

His language is, “Let me, my God, on sovereign grace rely;

And own ’tis free, because bestowed on one so vile as I.

“Election! ’tis a word divine; for, Lord, I plainly see,

Had not Thy choice [preceded] mine, I ne’er had chosen Thee.

“For perseverance strength I’ve none, but would on this depend –

That Jesus, having loved His own, will love them to the end.

“Empty and bare, I come to Thee for righteousness divine;

O may Thy matchless merits be, by imputation, mine.”

Thus differ these; yet hoping each to make salvation sure.

Now most men will approve the rich, but Christ has blessed the poor.

– Joseph Hart (1712-68)

BUT IF IT DIE

John 12: 20-30

Certain Greeks came to Jerusalem the week Christ was to go to the cross. They came to Philip and said, "Sir, we would see Jesus." Instead of coming to Christ, Philip first told Andrew. Why? At that time, it was not safe to be a disciple of Christ. The chief priests wanted to kill Christ and all associated with him. (Jn 11: 53-54, 57; 12: 10-11) Philipp and Andrew did not want Christ to be killed or themselves to be killed for identifying with Christ. We are like Philipp and Andrew. So let us learn from this most important word of Christ Jesus.

The Hour is Come

Andrew and Philip decided it was best to go tell the Lord Jesus. (v22) At all times, it is best to go to the Lord Jesus. He will answer. The hour had come when the Son of man should be glorified in the redemption of his people by the sacrifice of himself. (v23; Jn 17: 1-5) Also, the hour had come when Christ would be glorified in Andrew and Philipp's heart in a better light. Maybe, you have been pouring out your heart to Christ but have not gotten an answer. Maybe the hour is come that Christ is about to answer you. Listen carefully.

Christ Had to Die to Bring Forth Fruit

The Master answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (v24) In a single corn of wheat there is much fruit. But it must die to bring forth that fruit. Christ is the promised Seed. (Gen 22: 18; Gal 3: 16) In Christ the Seed there was much fruit because God put all his elect in Christ before the world began. (Eph 1: 3-6) But for us to live, it was necessary that Christ lay down his life on the cross: to put away our sin and eternally justify us, to provide all righteousness and eternally redeem us from the curse of the law. (Heb 10: 4-14; Eph 1: 7) Christ laid down his life and brings forth much fruit: the righteousness of God is manifested, God is just and the Justifier of the believer, and now all his children shall be born of Christ and given eternal life. (Jam 1: 18; Is 53: 10-11) But none of this would have happened had Christ not willingly laid down his life and died that we might live.

We Must Die to Have Eternal Life

We are like Philipp and Andrew. We think holding on to this life is life when it is death and think losing this life for Christ is death when it is life. Philip and Andrew did not say that but Christ was answering their heart. Here is the Master's lesson to them and to us, "He that loveth his life shall lose it." (v25) We can save our life: from humility, from confessing our sin,

from submitting to Christ in faith, from family and friends rejecting us. Doing so, we can abide alone in a moment of pleasure called life for maybe ninety years. Then lose it. Christ said "And he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." (v25) Or we can lay down our life for Christ: die to this world, renounce our works, repent from our sin, believe on Christ and have eternal life. But we cannot have both! (Mt 6: 24) Christ was going to the cross to suffer rejection at the hands of men, laying down his life for his Father and for his brethren. So he said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me and where I am, there shall also my servant be" (v26). He is not hanging on a cross now, not in a tomb now, but is seated eternally glorified at the right hand of the Father. That is where those are and shall be forever who lay down their life, take up Christ's cross and follow him. (Col 3: 1-4)

God the Father Honors Those Who Honor his Son

Christ said, "If any man serve me, him will *my* Father honor. (v26) The Lord Jesus was serving his Father in that hour and the Father honored him, "Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." (v27-29) Every sinner who gives up this life for Christ, who bears the reproach of family and friends to serve Christ, who desires for our Savior to receive all the glory, the Father has and will honor together with Christ. He honored us when he glorified Christ raising Christ from the dead and us in him; he honored us and glorified Christ when the Father raised us from spiritual death in the new birth; he honors us and glorifies Christ by providing all our needs in this earth; he will honor us and glorify Christ when he raises our spirit to be with him after death; he will honor us and glorify Christ when he raises our bodies in the resurrection; he will honor us and glorify Christ when he returns to be glorified in his saints and admired in all them that believe. Let a man hold on to his bowl of beans for this life of dry dust then lose it all. But let us lay down our life for Christ and live forever.

Build your nest upon no tree in this world, for God has already given this forest to death; and every tree whereon we would rest our hope and confidence is ready to be cut down. We must flee from the uneasy and frail objects in order to build on the rock, Christ Jesus. Set not your hearts on the flowers of this world. They shall fade and die. Prize the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley – He changes not! Live nearer to Christ than to any person on this earth; so that when they are taken, you may have Him to love and lean upon. Robert M'Cheyne