

INVOCATION:

Gracious Lord, we gather here today in Your house to worship You and give You praise. Free us from distractions, fears, and doubts. Forgive us where we have strayed in thought or in deed. Receive our worship as we come to You grateful for who You are. In the name of Your Son our Savior. Amen.

WELCOME:

Welcome to Sappony. We're glad that you're here. As a reminder, we will not be passing offering plates. If you have brought your gift to the Lord, you may place it in the plate on your way out the door. We do ask that you maintain appropriate distancing as we continue the worship service this morning. Guidelines for events where singing will take place suggest ten feet of distance between participants.

HYMN # 202 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

HYMN # 206 Blessed Be the Name

HYMN # 210 My Jesus, I Love Thee

PASTORAL PRAYER:

(IMB) Nigeria: "We would ask you to join with us in praying for the first-ever virtual Nigerian Baptist Convention, which will be held online on August 29-30," writes the Nigeria Team. "Across Nigeria and the world, brothers and sisters in Christ will be gathering during this time to pray, worship, and meet together about the year ahead for the Nigerian Baptist Convention. Please pray with us that this will be a time of encouragement and growth for the convention even though they cannot all be together in person."

NAMB Missionaries: Jorge & Belkis Rodriguez, Church Planters
(Grace Family Church Chicago).

Martha for the Homeless

Upcoming Elections

Katie: Being trained for SE Asia.

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we started on the book of Hebrews. We noted that Chapter 1 tells us that God has spoken through His Son in these last days and that His Son rules eternally. Today, in Chapter 2, we see reminders that we shouldn't drift, we shouldn't think anything is out of His control, and we should not forget that He

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 2:1-18

SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:

1. DON'T DRIFT (2:1-4)

a. (2:1) We must, therefore (refers back to 1:13)

i. In light of His eternal rule

ii. In light of His enemies being made His footstool

b. (2:1) We must therefore pay even more attention to what we have heard, so that we will not drift away.

i. This is to Christians. You remember the term "backsliding".

ii. We are in a season when it is very easy to drift away from Christ! We must get God Time.

c. (2:2-3) For if the message spoken through angels was legally binding and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

i. Remember in 1:4 we are told that He is above angels.

- ii. Deut 33 describes angels as being present at the giving of the law.
 - iii. If ignoring angels is punished, how much more is ignoring the One who rules over angels.
- d. (4:3b) It was first spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.
 - i. Jesus told exactly who He is and why He came.
- e. (4:4) At the same time, God also testified by signs and wonders, various miracles, and distributions of gifts from the Holy Spirit according to His will.
 - i. God provided miracles to His witnesses to validate their testimony.
- f. Everything Jesus said is proven to be true. Therefore, we must not drift from this truth, nor think that anything is out of His control.

2. DON'T THINK ANYTHING IS OUT OF HIS CONTROL

- a. (2:6-8) But one has somewhere testified, "What is man that You remember him, or the son of man that You care for him? You made him lower than the angels for a short time; You crowned him with glory and honor and subjected everything under his feet." (Psalm 8:5-7)
 - i. Everything is subject to Him even if we don't see that right now.
- b. (2:8b) For in subjecting everything to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. As it is, we do not yet see everything subjected to Him.
 - i. Many people are walking around thinking that they are not subject to Christ.
 - ii. But we act like our world systems are not subject to Him.
 - 1. Eric Schumacher: The amazing thing about America is that every four

ears we're faced with the most important decision in the history of the nation, a decision that will determine whether or not the nation will continue. Does that mean we've made the right choice every time?

- c. (2:9) But we do see Jesus—made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God's grace He might taste death for everyone—crowned with glory and honor because of His suffering in death.
 - i. The Son became human so that He could die. This death exalted Him back to His rightful position.

3. DON'T FORGET JESUS IS HUMAN

- a. (2:14-15) Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil—and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.
 - i. Again, He came so that He could die in order to destroy the fear of death.
 - ii. He was fully human, capable of dying.
- b. (2:17-18) Therefore, he had to be like His brothers in every way, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tested and has suffered, he is able to help those who are tested.
 - i. The priest takes the sacrifice from the people to God.
 - ii. In this case, the priest is the sacrifice.
 - iii. He understands our temptations, because he was also tempted.

- c. He did not lose His divine nature when He put on Humanity.
 - d. (Chalcedon 451) The Definition of Chalcedon says that in the one person of Christ are united a true human nature and a true divine nature without confusion, mixture, division, or separation. In other words, when the Son of God, who from all eternity possessed the divine nature, added to Himself a human nature, each nature retained its own attributes. The divine nature did not become human and the human nature did not become divine. Neither were the natures mixed together such that Christ was a strange human-divine hybrid, neither truly human nor truly divine. No, Christ was and remains the God-man. This is a mystery we cannot fully comprehend, but we must affirm it. If Christ is not truly human, He cannot atone for our sin, for only a human being can atone for the sin of other human beings. If Christ is not truly God, the atonement He offers does not have sufficient value to be applied to all the elect. If Christ is not the God-man, there is no salvation.
4. Which leads to the question: Have you trusted Christ for your salvation?

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (James Merritt)

- 1. The bad news: We are all sinners separated from God.
 - a. Everyone sins.
 - b. God is holy and sin is a barrier between us and Him.
- 2. The worst news: There is nothing we can do to take care of our sin problem.
 - a. Religion?
 - b. Trying harder?
 - c. Generosity?

3. The good news: Jesus did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - a. He lived a sinless life
 - b. He died for our sins.
 - c. His payment was proven at His resurrection.
4. The best news: God's forgiveness and eternal life is a free gift, and all we have to do is receive it.
 - a. Realize you are a sinner.
 - b. Repent of your sin.
 - c. Receive Christ as Lord and Savior.
5. Three questions
 - a. Do you understand what you have heard, and does it make sense to you?
 - b. Is there any reason you can give God that God would accept why you could not receive Christ into your life?
 - c. Are you willing to pray to Christ for your salvation?

I'm going to ask that everyone close your eyes and bow your head. If you have not yet prayed to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, I will give you a chance to do that now. If you are willing, repeat after me:

Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!

We will now sing a hymn of invitation, #217, "Oh, How I Love Jesus". If you prayed to accept Christ as Lord, you may come forward during this hymn, or if you're more comfortable, you can see me after the conclusion of the service.