

In the midst of the world's bad news,

THE GOOD NEWS!

Beautiful Savior's Weekly Worship & News

5/20/2020

PASTORS' PEN:

This would be WEEK TEN of "ALL activity at Beautiful Savior - paused and postponed," BUT, as we heard this past Monday, May 18th, our local government has eased restrictions allowing many businesses AS WELL AS CHURCHES TO REOPEN! WAHOO! PRAISE THE LORD! SO, your Pastor, Head Elder, President, and Vice President have OPENED BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR FOR WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, MAY 24th AT THE USUAL 9:00 AM! (Bible classes remain CLOSED for now; Sunday School will continue online). OBVIOUSLY, there will be social distancing:

- wear masks
- keep 6' feet apart
- use and bring hand sanitizer
- no hand shaking or peace
- every other pew closed
- no passed offering plates/attendance books
- each individual household will commune separately with individual cups only
- no coffee or treats afterwards

BASICALLY, WHATEVER YOU HAVE DONE TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS IN THE LAST 10 WEEKS WHEN GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE, DO AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR. AGAIN, ALL ARE ADVISED TO DO WHAT YOU THINK BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY! THOSE WHO ARE AT A HIGHER RISK OR ARE JUST NOT READY TO LEAVE HOME, PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAY IN AND STAY SAFE! Sunday worship will be recorded live and will continue to be available on our facebook page with the bulletin and sermon posted on our website or mailed. PLEASE NOTE: THE LORD'S SUPPER WILL BE CELEBRATED THE FIRST THREE SUNDAYS OF RESUMED WORSHIP! After that Pastor will reach out to those remaining at home to offer it to them either privately at church or at their house. As of now ONLY Sunday morning worship is OPEN; ALL other weekly activities remain CLOSED. What happens in the future with the virus will determine what happens in the future here at church - either opening more or shutting down again. Any questions, please call the church. We pray thanking the good LORD for His guidance and protection through this virus, for continued healing of all people affected around the world, and that He would use even this to bring ALL fallen sinful creation back to Him!

SERMON/DEVOTION: Psalm 118:8-9 - "What have We Learned?"

(As we will again have a REAL SERMON - whatever that means! - preached on Sunday, May 24th, this will be a short devotion and meditation for those who remain home.)

The very middle verse of the entire Bible is Psalm 118:8, which appropriately reads, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man." Verse nine continues, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes." Besides being the center verse, this is also the heart and soul of the entire Bible for this is the very heart and soul of all that GOD proclaims in His Word! It is the fundamental message the Creator has been speaking to His fallen creation since the very beginning! It is the news every generation of man has heard; it is the core of what all Christians hear all their lives - it is the word all people of the world, including all Christians, like you and me, need to hear this day and every single day!

It is not wise to trust in man! Humanity is not only creation while God is the Creator, but man is also rebellious, fallen, and sinful creation! Not only is man a clay pot while God is the potter, but humanity is a cracked, shattered, and thoroughly destroyed clay pot! Only shards and scattered pieces remain! Who would you rather trust - the One who knows all and is totally trustworthy and true in all things or the ones who knows little beyond themselves and continuously selfishly lie, deceive, and arrogantly boast?

During this virus we have again been forced to see and acknowledge the truth of these verses. Since the very initial news reports of the coronavirus, humanity has not known - we still do not know! Everyone has a different truth - close, open; restrict, allow; months, weeks; high numbers, low numbers; fatal to all, fatal to some; science, opinion; fact, theory; wisdom, foolishness! This is not just what man says or does, it is who man is! Man is not the Creator nor is he any longer the Creator's perfect creation! THEREFORE, everything that comes out of his mouth or whatever he does is going to be quite limited in knowledge and wisdom! Man may do what he thinks best, but without adequate knowledge and wisdom, that often just causes things to get worse rather than better! Who of us would go under the knife of a surgeon who brags of his degrees and credentials but has little experience or wisdom? Not you! Not me! Add selfishness, pride, arrogance, greed, deceit, lies, falsehoods, and the foolishness he speaks and does, and man is not the one any wise person would trust in anything yet alone everything! The old saying is true, "I only trust you as far as I can throw you!"

But there is one you can trust - the LORD; the ONE who created all good; the ONE who was there and has always been; the ONE who knows ALL things; the only ONE who is eternally trustworthy and true! His Word is exactly as He is - trustworthy and true - just like man's words are just like him - the exact opposite! God tells us where everything came from - good from Him, evil from man "wisdom" in going his own way to sin. Life, now and forever, comes from God; death, now and forever, comes from sinful man. Which would YOU believe and trust? Yet, the heart and soul of God's Word is about His love, expressed and revealed in Jesus Christ the LORD! Only God could and did love enough to save sinful man from his chosen fate of eternal death! God sent Himself, His Son, to be born, live, suffer, and die in the place of every sinner! Jesus endured the death and hell that you and I deserve because of our sin! What man would do that for you? What man or woman would love you that much? Yet, even if someone did, they could not do what followed. Only Jesus could and did rise to defeat sin, death, and hell forever! Only in Jesus Christ are your sins and my sins forgiven and washed away; only in Jesus are we restored to a perfect union with our Creator, including His gift of LIFE forever! NO fallen man has done this for you; NO fallen man could do this for you! Each and every day, God sends His Holy Spirit to bring and increase our faith AND trust, and empower us to live as He created us - as His perfect creation!

Would a God who loves you this much lie and deceive you in His Word? Would Jesus who died for you and rose for you and has given you eternal life tell you falsehoods and myths in His Word? Would God allow untruth to exist and remain in the Bible to mislead and confuse and bring worry and doubt? That's what selfish liars and deceivers do but not our God and Creator! Would God totally love us in Jesus but then not love us in the Bible? As God, is He able to preserve the truth of His Word penned through the hand and language of His people throughout the ages? Is God God? Is God and His Word trustworthy and true in ALL things now and forever? YES, YES, YES! As we say, "AMEN, AMEN, which means, "Yes, yes, it shall be so!" "I tell you the truth!" God's Word is truth!

During this pandemic - and every other day in this life! - the highs and lows, good and evil, joys and sorrows, gains and losses, and all things in between - the Spirit gives us faith and trust in God, Jesus, and His Word the Bible. For true love can never lie! His Word - like Him - is truth! Man's word might be the best he knows right now, but that's certainly not good enough to trust in anything yet alone everything! No, God's people trust God and His Word! For His Word always leads to love, forgiveness, and life while man's word - even if he believes and desires otherwise - always leads to sin and death. When that day comes and we close our eyes in physical death, who will we trust? Sinful man or Creator God? Whoever we trust at the moment of death is the ONLY One to trust in all the moments of this life! We trust the LORD, the Creator, God, Jesus Christ, and His Word now and always in ALL things! For there is love; there is truth: there is LIFE! Yes, indeed, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes." AMEN!

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD." --Jeremiah 17:7

AMEN!