



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 1st, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

The Prelude Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor Prepare your heart for worship

The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell

Hymn "A Mighty Fortress"

The Prayer of Confession and Praise Seth Lirette

Hymn "All Glory Be to Christ"

Hymn "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

The Reading of the Word — *Leviticus 12:1-8* Hal Pritchard

Hymn "Speak O Lord"

The Sermon — *"Adopted by God" (Luke 2:1-10)* Pastor Winn

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

The Benediction Hal Pritchard

The Postlude

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

Hymn "Man of Sorrows"

Hymn "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

The Pastoral Prayer Pastor Winn

The Observance of The Lord's Supper

Hymn "Victory in Jesus"

The Benediction

The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

Why Did Jesus Have to Be Circumcised?

“And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.” That one sentence tells us that eight days after the birth of Jesus, He was circumcised. People raise their eyebrows at that and say, “Why would the Lord Jesus Christ have to submit to this Old Testament ritual of circumcision that was given to Abraham and His seed as a sign of God’s covenant promise?” The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 4 that the sign of circumcision included, among other things, the sign of the righteousness that was by faith in this ritual, which was a cutting rite. It had a 2-fold significance. On the one hand, those who were circumcised were symbolically cut off from the rest of the world—the world of paganism and idolatry—and set apart or consecrated to be a part of the covenant people of God. Circumcision was also a sign that the person had his sin removed through the grace of the covenant, just as the foreskin of his flesh had been removed ceremonially, which raises the question: Why should Jesus be circumcised? He was not born with original sin. He was perfectly sinless from the moment of His conception to the moment of His death. However, the Scriptures tell us that the Lord Jesus was born under the law, and everything that the law required of Israel was required of Israel’s Redeemer and Champion. So, it was necessary that Joseph and Mary, as devout parents, would make sure that their firstborn was circumcised. In the old covenant, circumcision was a sign of salvation, which only came through faith. However, it did not automatically confer salvation. Paul labors this point in his letter to the Romans. Many Jews believed that they were automatically saved just because they were circumcised—with or without faith. However, Paul tells us that the doctrine of justification by faith was not an innovation in

the New Testament, because it was the same way Abraham was saved in the Old Testament—by faith. The covenant promise of salvation came to adults in the Old Testament only after they made a profession of faith. Yet, God mandated that the same sign be given to their children before they were even capable of professing faith because the sign was not a sign of their faith. Instead, it was a sign of God’s promise of salvation to all who believe. That is why the children of Old Testament believers were included in receiving the sign of the covenant for two thousand years. Our Lord Jesus received the sign of the covenant of circumcision as an infant. Circumcision was not the only thing that had to be followed in Old Testament law. There was also the presentation of the firstborn son in the temple, which was accompanied by the giving of sacrifices, usually the slaying of a lamb. Only in cases of extreme poverty could birds be substituted as a sacrifice. You might conclude that Joseph was living in abject poverty since birds are used here in the presentation of Jesus at the temple. While this was not necessarily the case, it was probably very expensive for him to bring his child and wife for this time of presentation in Jerusalem. So, he was allowed to use this principle of offering the birds instead of the lamb. The presentation of the firstborn son was a sign of the redeeming of the people. Before He redeemed His people from sin, the baby Jesus symbolically experienced the sign of that redemption Himself. The Redeemer, in following the law, had to be redeemed before He could ever save anyone. So, those were the legal circumstances, the requirements of the law that brought Joseph and Mary with the baby Jesus to the temple, and they arrived at the same moment as Simeon.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

January 1st
<i>Morning</i> Bunny Finch & Ashley Lirette
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Elise de Waal & Bethany Wallace
<i>Wednesday - January 4th</i> <i>Bridgette Kimbrell</i>

Today's Sound Operator - John Ingram



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we will observe the Lord's Supper during our morning service.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Today we will have our fellowship meal immediately following the morning service.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING MEALS

Wednesday night prayer meeting meals will resume Wednesday, January 4th at 5:45 pm.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study will meet this Thursday, January 5th at 11 am.

CHURCH WORK DAY

In preparation for the DSFC, we will have a church workday January 7th from 8 am-12 pm. A list of tasks will be sent out in advance.

DEEP SOUTH FOUNDERS CONFERENCE

We will once again be hosting the 16th annual Deep South Founders Conference January 26-28. Our topic this year is "The Assurance of Grace and Salvation". Our featured speakers this year are Geoff Thomas and Jeff Durbin. Make plans to attend and register at graceatcastlewoods.org or dsfc.ticketleap.com/dsfc-2023/.

