



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
October 15th, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn "Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Cody Wallace
- Hymn "Christ of All My Hopes"
- Hymn "I Know Whom I Have Believed"
- The Reading of the Word — *Hosca 8:1-14* Dirk de Waal
- Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
- The Interlude — *"Be Thou My Vision"* Fonzo Finch, Kay Thompson
- The Sermon — *"Sowing and Reaping, Pt. II" (Galatians 6:7-10)* Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn "We Have Heard the Joyful Sound"
- The Benediction Dirk de Waal
- The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

Go Tell Crusade

7 pm, Brandon Amphitheater



COMMENTARY

Terry L. Johnson

This universal law applies to the more subtle sinner as well as the blatant. Our neighbors, by and large, tend to live for the present. Even if they are not grossly immoral they are consumed with the temporal. They too are sowing the flesh. They give no thought to eternity. They pay no attention to their souls. They surround themselves with all the creature comforts and forms of entertainment that they can afford. They go from meal to ball game to a weekend away to new car to new clothes. This is what popular culture encourages as well. The characters on TV and in the movies don't go to church. They don't read the Bible. They don't contemplate or discuss the eternal destiny of their souls. They are all, almost without exception, happy atheists. They live like there is no God. And there are no consequences. The message is, who needs God? One can be happy, fulfilled, satisfied from this world alone. One does not need the Bread of Life. One does not need Living Water. This world alone fulfills us. There is no empty space in the heart. There is no troubling sense of meaninglessness. But what will they really reap from a lifetime of sowing this world? In this life, a deep, profound angst, an unrelieved sense of purposelessness, a trouble sense that surely there is something more to life. In the next world they will reap corruption and the opposite of eternal life, destruction. Wake up to what is going on all around us. We are "amusing ourselves to death," as Neil Postman would say. This world is merely a preparation for the next. Sow the spirit, not the flesh. Concentrate on believing and obeying God, in cultivating the fruit of the Spirit. Remember that there is no profit in gaining the whole world, with all its prestige, power, pleasure, if you lose your own soul in the process (Mt 16:26). "Paul is reminding the Galatians that they should get their priorities right and give time and energy to that which concerns ultimate issues," says Morris, "and not merely the passing things of here and now." Similarly we might ask, why do some Christians grow in holiness while others do not? Because holiness is a

harvest. It depends on what one sows. Do you want to grow in spiritual maturity? Do you look around and see strong, knowledgeable, zealous Christians and wish you were more like they? Well, what are you doing about it? What you sow you will reap. What are you sowing? You are sowing something. What is it? You will harvest exactly what you are sowing. If you do not sow spiritual commitments how can you expect a spiritual harvest? If you are not regular in public worship; if you do not spend time daily in the word and prayer; if you do not practice tithing and sacrificial giving; if you do not practice the other disciplines of the Christian life such as Sabbath observance; if you do not practice sacrificial service, how can you expect to harvest the fruit of the Spirit? How can you become Christ-like if you don't feed on the Bread of Life? You will reap what you sow. It is that simple. Yet for all that we've said so far a real Christian is tremendously encouraged by this passage. Why? Because it guarantees that his sacrifices pay off in the end. Real Christians have a hard time fitting in these days. They are absolutists in a day of relativism. They are particularists in a day of pluralism. They believe in right and wrong. They believe in truth and error. For much of the world this makes us Neanderthals. Worldlings are shocked at our closed-mindedness. They are horrified at our judgmentalism. They are disgusted by our narrowness. This means that many "nice" and "fun" people will not like us. This means that we may be socially ostracized and rejected. There are organizations which we may never be asked to join. There are parties that we may never be asked to attend. We may feel isolated. We may have our feelings hurt. We may hurt for our children, who don't understand and suffer the consequences of our convictions. Is it worth it? Yes it is. How do we know? Because God promises that we will reap what we sow. Our obedience, our faithfulness, will pay huge dividends that those who sow the flesh will never see.

Terry L. Johnson is pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah, GA.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

October 15th
<i>Morning</i> Claire Shores & Terri Pouge
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> TBD
<i>Wednesday - October 18th</i> Bethany Wallace

Today's Sound Operator - Cody Wallace



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GO TELL CRUSADE

Tonight the “Go Tell” Crusade begins at 7:00 in the Amphitheater in Brandon. Counselors need to be present at 5:30 each evening. There will be no evening service at Grace. Please pray for this event. Pray for those from Grace who will be counselors, that they might rightly speak the truth to those that they cancel. Pray that people will not be manipulated into making a decision but that the Holy Spirit will change hearts so that they might truly have saving faith and believe on Christ. Also if you would like to be a counselor and have not yet gone through the training session, please speak with Dirk or Pastor Thomas, there is still time to do the training and be prepared.

REFORMATION WEDNESDAY

November 1st we are excited to our children study and present a Bible hero of the faith or reformation leader. We ask all kids kindergarten-3rd grade to sign up for either a Bible hero or reformation leader and all 4th grade and up to sign up for a reformation leader. They can dress the part and present to us about who they pick. We are in need of bagged candy donations. Each child/youth participating will receive a bag of candy afterwards. Please see Lawanda for more information.

FALL COOKOUT

Mark your calendars for October 28th! Our fall fellowship will be held at the Mullins place in the country beginning at noon and going until everyone tires out! A sign up list will be posted soon. Everyone coming is asked to bring a dessert or chips/dip.

REFORMATION CONFERENCE

Audubon Bible Church in Laurel will be hosting their 30th annual Reformation Conference on October 27-29, 2023 from 7:00-9:30 pm. Stephen Wellum & Donald Whitney professors from Southern Seminary will be preaching this year. For more information visit: www.audubonchurch.org/reformation-conference

