



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 17th, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude	Prepare your heart for worship
The Call to Worship	Chris Kimbrell
Hymn	"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
The Prayer of Confession and Praise	Seth Lirette
Hymn	"Majesty"
Hymn	"Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"
The Reading of the Word — <i>Malachi 2:10-17</i>	Hal Pritchard
Hymn	"As the Deer Pants"
The Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Winn
The Sermon — <i>"Marriage, Pt. VII" (Ephesians 5:25-33)</i>	Pastor Winn
A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached	
Hymnal	"The Love of God"
The Benediction	Hal Pritchard
The Postlude	

EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude	Prepare your heart for worship
Hymn	"God in the Gospel of His Son"
Hymn	"We Worship You, Almighty God"
The Sermon — <i>"The Judgement of Egypt, Pt. IV" (Ezekiel 31)</i>	Hal Pritchard
A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached	
Hymn	"Victory in Jesus"
The Benediction	Pastor Winn
The Postlude	



COMMENTARY

In 1855 Charles Spurgeon wrote a letter to Susannah Thompson one month before they were to be married. In it Spurgeon says these words, How I love you! I long to see you; and yet it is but half-an-hour since I left you. Comfort yourself in my absence by the thought that my heart is with you. My own gracious God bless you in all things, - in heart, in feeling, in life, in death, in Heaven! May your virtues be perfected, your prospects realized, your zeal continued, your love to Him increased, and your knowledge of Him rendered deeper; higher, broader - in fact, may more than even my heart can wish, or my hope anticipate, be yours for ever! May we be mutual blessings; - wherein I shall err, you will pardon; and wherein you may mistake, I will more than overlook. What a beautiful letter from Charles to Susannah. (Is this a letter to Susannah or a prayer to God?) After being apart for only half an hour, Charles wrote to Susannah and penned this letter. In it,

- He desired that God's blessing would rest upon her.
- He desired that her faith in God would flourish.
- He prayed that her love for Christ would deepen.
- And he assured her that their union would be one of mutual blessing.

How would they be a blessing to each other?

- When Charles would sin, she would pardon.
- When Susannah would make a mistake, he will more than overlook it.

Great marriages are not produced by perfect people. Marriages are blessed when two imperfect people are lavish in pardoning sins, overlooking faults, where forgiveness is granted often and where new mercies are extended each day.

Charles and Susannah experienced many hardships during their marriage. Spurgeon was burdened in his ministry, he struggled with depression and he had physical ailments with gout. Susannah was an invalid for most of their marriage and for fifteen years she never left their home. One might wonder if Charles and Susannah's love and respect for each other would endure? We may wonder if their passion ever become cold? Or wonder if their faith and devotion to God and each other would ever weaken?

Fifteen years into their marriage, in 1871, Spurgeon wrote to Susannah these words, "No one knows how grateful to God I am for you. In all

I have ever done for the Lord, you have a large share. For in making me so happy you have fitted me for service. Not an ounce of power has ever been lost to the good cause through you. I have served the Lord far more, and never less, for your sweet companionship."

Even after Charles' death, Susannah testified to the beauty of their marriage. She compiled the letters that Charles had written to her and put them into an autobiography. In that book she wrote these words, "I have been trying in these pages to leave the 'love' out of these letters as much as possible, lest my precious things should appear but platitudes to my readers, but it is a difficult task; but little streams of tenderness run between all the sentences, like the singing, dancing waters among the boulders of a brook, and I cannot still the music altogether. To the end of his beautiful life it was the same, his letters were always those of a devoted lover, as well as a tender husband; not only did the brook never dry up; but the stream grew deeper and broader, and the rhythm of its song waxed sweeter and stronger."

Charles and Susannah's marriage is a profound testimony to this generation that husbands and wives will thrive when they decide to obey Ephesians 5:22-33. Because of our culture, you and I may struggle with some things that we see in this text. But I would like you to keep Charles and Susannah in mind. As you look at this text, hold on tight to the conviction that every rule, every testimony, each precept and every commandment of God is perfect and can revive the soul. (Psalm 19:7-11)

- The rules of the LORD are true and are to be desired above all other things.
- They are sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
- And in keeping God's word there is a great reward. We may struggle to obey Ephesians 5:22-33 if we look for our reward from our spouse; but our reward is in obedience to the Word of God.

When we come to a text like Ephesians 5:22-33 the devil would seek to distract, discourage, and dissuade our hearts from obeying and responding in faith. Spurgeon always believed that where there is much sweetness in a text there will be many flies and wasps there to turn us away from it. And perhaps that is what is happening with our text today.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

October 17th
<i>Morning</i> Ashley Lirette & Rhia McDonough
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Bunny Finch & Bridgette Kimbrell
<i>Wednesday - October 20th</i> Bethany Wallace (<i>Janet Mullins</i>)

Today's Sound Operator - Daniel Ranck



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will meet this afternoon.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible study will resume this month, studying Samuel Rutherford. Meetings will be October 7th and 21st at 11 am. Please bring a sack lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship afterwards.

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

We will have our annual Reformation Celebration on Wednesday, October 27th. Allow your child to dress up like one of the Reformers or a Biblical character and prepare a short speech about who they are. A time of fellowship will follow. Also, please bring a bag of individually wrapped candy to Mrs. Lawanda by October 24th. She is putting together bags to hand out to the children at celebration.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The collection date for Operation Christmas Child this year is November 14th. See Mrs. Lawanda with any questions.

