



ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 21st, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude	Prepare your heart for worship
The Call to Worship	Chris Kimbrell
Trinity Hymnal No. 683	"Praise Him, Praise Him"
The Prayer of Confession and Praise	Seth Lirette
Trinity Hymnal No. 644	"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
Trinity Hymnal No. 139	"Jesus, I am Resting, Resting"
The Reading of the Word — <i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i>	Hal Pritchard
Trinity Hymnal No. 415	"God Be Merciful to Me"
The Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Winn
The Sermon — "The Road to Emmaus" (<i>Mark 16:12-13</i>)	Pastor Winn
A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached	
Trinity Hymnal No. 712	"I Know Whom I Have Believed"
The Benediction	Hal Pritchard
The Postlude	

EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude	Prepare your heart for worship
Baptist Hymnal No. 638	"Now Thank We All Our God"
Baptist Hymnal No. 412	"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"
The Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Winn
The Sermon — "The Bad News is True News" (<i>Ezekiel 12:1-20</i>)	Hal Pritchard
A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached	
Baptist Hymnal No. 458	"Nearer My God to Thee"
The Benediction	Pastor Winn
The Postlude	



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

God shows grace to His people in many ways, one of those being His refusal to give up when those whom He wants to save do not believe. In the Reformed tradition, we frequently speak of irresistible grace as that by which the Lord sovereignly persuades His elect of His truth. It would be more accurate, however, to call it finally irresistible grace, for even the elect can and do resist God's call. But the elect cannot ultimately resist the Lord. He will not fail to save those whom He wants to save. The elect may put up a fight against the Holy Spirit for a time, but He will finally overcome their resistance, for all whom the Father has given to the Son will come to the Son (John 6:37). As an example, consider Saul, who kicked "against the goads" as he fought the Lord before finally being converted by Christ (Acts 26:12–18). Regarding our Lord's resurrection, we see that although the disciples initially rejected the news of Christ's being raised from the dead, their resistance finally yielded to the work of God. Why? Certainly, we must note the work of the Holy Spirit. But another factor was Christ's continuing to appear to them until they got the message. Mark 16:9–11 tells us, for example, that Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, who then went to tell the disciples. She was convinced of His resurrection, though the disciples did not receive her testimony at first. Note again that placing Mary Magdalene as a witness to the resurrection testifies to the historicity of the event.

If the author invented the miracle, he never would have made a woman a witness to the resurrection because the testimony of women was not generally seen as trustworthy in the first century. Introducing it would only make the story seem more unlikely. But if you are writing history, you include all the facts even if they are not culturally acceptable. Verses 12–13 describe Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to two men walking into the country. Doubtless, this is another record of the event described in Luke 24:13–35, where Jesus appears to travelers on the way to the village of Emmaus. When this happened, the men had to receive spiritual insight in order to identify Jesus. Every time someone receives the truth of God in faith, it is because the Lord has opened the eyes of their hearts and minds to see Him. John Calvin comments, "The proper discrimination between truth and falsehood, therefore, does not arise from the sagacity of our own mind, but comes to us from the Spirit of wisdom."

Coram Deo: When God determines to save someone, nothing can stop Him, not even the person's "free will." The Lord effectively persuades all those whom He has chosen, regenerating them by His Spirit, giving them the gift of faith, and working in them so that they will persevere. Our salvation is not ultimately in our hands, which enables us to be confident as we serve Him, knowing that our failures cannot inhibit the advance of His kingdom.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Buddies and Bible Drill will meet this afternoon at 4:45 pm and Children's Choir and 1st-6th Grade Choir will meet at 5:30pm.

The annual Men's Retreat at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Laurel will be March 5th-6th. All men and their sons are encourage to attend. Please mark your calendars.



Canned soup, broth, and crackers

