



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude ..... Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship ..... Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn ..... "Give to Our God Immortal Praise"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise ..... Hal Pritchard
- Hymn ..... "Rock of Ages"
- Hymn ..... "Trust and Obey"
- The Reading of the Word — *Psalm 9:1-20* ..... Hal Pritchard
- Hymn ..... "Fairest Lord Jesus"
- The Pastoral Prayer ..... Pastor Winn
- The Sermon — *"Blessed are the Poor in Spirit" (Matthew 5:3)* ..... Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn ..... "I Know Whom I Have Believed"
- The Benediction ..... Hal Pritchard
- The Postlude

---

# EVENING WORSHIP

- The Prelude ..... Prepare your heart for worship
- Hymn ..... "Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It"
- Hymn ..... "Rise Up O Men of God"
- The Sermon — *"Ezekiel's End Times" (Ezekiel 38-39)* ..... Hal Pritchard
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn ..... "Higher Ground"
- The Benediction ..... Pastor Winn
- The Postlude



# COMMENTARY

C. H Spurgeon

Bearing in mind the object of our Savior's discourse, which was to describe the saved, and not to declare the plan of salvation, we now come to consider the first of the Beatitudes. "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." A ladder, if it is to be of any use, must have its first step near the ground, or feeble climbers will never be able to mount. It would have been a grievous discouragement to struggling faith if the first blessing had been given to the pure in heart—to that excellence the young beginner makes no claim— while to poverty of spirit he can reach without going beyond his line. Had the Savior said, "Blessed are the rich in grace," he would have spoken a great truth, but very few of us could have derived consolation therefrom. Our divine Instructor begins at the beginning—with the very A B C of experience—and so enables the babes in grace to learn of Him. Had He commenced with higher attainments, He must have left the little ones behind. A gigantic step at the bottom of these sacred stairs would have effectually prevented many from beginning to ascend—but tempted by the lowly step, which bears the inscription, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," thousands are encouraged to attempt the heavenly way. It is worthy of grateful note that this Gospel blessing reaches down to the exact spot where the law leaves us when it has done for us the very best within its power or design. The utmost the law can accomplish for our fallen humanity is to lay bare our spiritual poverty and convince us of it. It cannot by any possibility enrich a man—its greatest service is to tear him away from his fancied wealth of self-righteousness, show him his overwhelming indebtedness to God, and bow him to the earth in self-despair: Like Moses, it leads away from Goshen, conducts into the wilderness, and brings to the verge of an impassable stream—but it can do no more. Joshua Jesus is needed to divide the Jordan and conduct

into the promised land. The law rends the goodly Babylonian garment of our imaginary merits into ten pieces and proves our wedge of gold to be mere dross, and thus it leaves us, "naked, and poor, and miserable." To this point Jesus descends—His full line of blessing comes up to the verge of destruction, rescues the lost, and enriches the poor. The Gospel is as full as it is free. This first Beatitude, though thus placed at a suitably low point, where it may be reached by those who are in the earliest stages of grace. Is however none the less rich in blessing. The same word is used in the same sense at the beginning as at the end of the chain of Beatitudes—the poor in spirit are as truly and emphatically blessed as the meek or the peacemakers. No hint is given as to lower degree or inferior measure, but on the contrary, the very highest benison, which is used in the tenth verse as the gathering up of all the seven Beatitudes, is ascribed to the first and lowest order of the blessed, "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." What more is said even of the co-heirs with prophets and martyrs? What more indeed could be said than this? The poor in spirit are lifted from the dunghill and set, not among hired servants in the field, but among princes in the kingdom. Blessed is that soul-poverty of which the Lord Himself utters such good things. He sets much store by that which the world holds in small esteem, for His judgment is the reverse of the foolish verdict of the proud. As Watson well observes, "How poor are they that think themselves rich! How rich are they that see themselves to be poor! I call it the jewel of poverty. There are some paradoxes in religion which the world cannot understand—for a man to become a fool that he may be wise, to save his life by losing it, and to be made rich by being poor. Yet this poverty is to be strived for more than riches—under these rags is hid cloth of gold and out of this carcass comes honey."



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Today's Nursery Volunteers

<b>January 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Morning</i> Mary Hunter Sharp & Claire Shores
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Bridgette Kimbrell & Mary Margaret Pritchard
<i>Wednesday - February 2<sup>nd</sup></i> Bethany Wallace ( <i>Janet Mullins</i> )

Today's Sound Operator - Seth Lirette



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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

## YEAR END BUSINESS MEETING

We will have our 2021 end of year business meeting where we will be voting on the proposed 2022 budget Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our fellowship meal.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study will meet this month on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. Please bring a sack lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship afterwards.

## VALENTINE'S BANQUET

There will be a poll sent out to all interested in attending the Valentine's Banquet this year. Please fill it out promptly so proper arrangements can be made.

## MEN'S RETREAT

This year's retreat will be March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurel, MS. Be sure to join us for this time of edification and fellowship. Boys are encouraged to attend with their fathers. See Chris or Pastor Thomas if you plan to attend so we can give Bethlehem an accurate head count.

