



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
March 20th, 2022

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Cody Wallace
- Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God"
- Hymn "God in the Gospel of His Son"
- The Reading of the Word — *Psalm 136:1-26* Hal Pritchard
- Hymn "How Sweet and Awful is the Place"
- The Pastoral Prayer Pastor Winn
- The Sermon — *"Blessed are the Merciful" (Matthew 5:7)* Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn "Wonderful Words of Life"
- The Benediction Hal Pritchard
- The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- Hymn "A Wonderful Savior"
- Hymn "Rescue the Perishing"
- The Pastoral Prayer Pastor Winn
- The Sermon — *"Serving in God's House" (Ezekiel 44:4-31)* Hal Pritchard
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn "The Light of the World is Jesus"
- The Benediction
- The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

God's Word greatly comforts those of us who believe in Christ. Simultaneously, we must admit that certain passages are frightening when we ponder their implications. Consider the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35, for example. In verse 35, Jesus says we will be condemned if we do not forgive those who sin against us and ask for mercy. This passage is scary because we recognize how inconsistently we show mercy to others. We expect mercy from other people, but we hold grudges against those who wrong us. We forget that willingness to forgive others their trespasses is a sure sign of a forgiven heart that rests in Jesus alone for salvation (6:14-15). Thanks be to God, for He shows mercy to us when we are not merciful to others. When we turn to Him in faith and repentance, He showers us with mercy. And when we are merciful to others in Jesus' name, He tells us in today's passage, we receive mercy from the Lord (5:7). But what does it mean to show mercy? We turn to John 7:53-8:11 for the answer. In this passage, the scribes and the Pharisees test Jesus by using the woman caught in adultery. At first glance, our Lord appears to be in a no-win situation. If Christ explicitly agrees that the woman deserves death, the Pharisees can complain to the Roman authorities who prohibit first-century Judea from imposing the death penalty for such crimes.

Essentially, they can accuse Jesus of sedition. But if He denies that death by stoning is the maximum penalty for adultery under the Mosaic law (Lev. 20:10), the Pharisees can charge Him with heresy for denying the Law. Jesus' response is fascinating. He agrees that execution is a proper sentence on the woman, for He never says, "You are wrong to think she deserves death." Agreeing with the would-be executioners that the woman deserves death, He appoints the executioners — those who are without sin (John 8:7-8). None of the other men meet this bar, and so they turn away one by one (v. 9). There is one man there without sin, however — the God-man Christ Jesus. Yet He shows mercy. Though it would be right for Him to execute her, Jesus does not do so. Instead of giving her justice on the spot, He gives her mercy (vv. 10-11).

Coram Deo: Mercy does not deny that wrong has been done or make light of sin. Instead, mercy is forgiveness and patience extended to someone despite the fact that the person deserves only justice. This is an important principle in a day when many confuse mercy with winking at justice and righteousness. Let us never ignore justice, but may we also be quick to show mercy to those who have sinned against us and ask for our forgiveness.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

March 20th
<i>Morning</i> Elise de Waal & Mary Hunter Sharp
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Bridgette Kimbrell & Lawanda Winn
<i>Wednesday - March 23rd</i> Bethany Wallace (<i>Laurie Price</i>)

Today's Sound Operator - Cody Wallace



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE DRILL

Children's Bible Drill will meeting at 5:00 pm this afternoon before choir.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will meet at 5:30 pm this afternoon. Please make note of the time change. The normal schedule will resume after church bible drill.

CHURCH BIBLE DRILL

Our church bible drill will be March 30th. Continue to pray for our children as they prepare and that the Lord would hide His word in their heart and use it to bring them to Himself.

40 DAYS OF LIFE

Those desiring to partipate in 40 days of Life can sign up. The list will be on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. We ask you to sign up to pray on March 25th. There are 30 minute time segments, of course if you choose to pray longer that is fine. If you are able to go to the abortion mill on State Street and pray, we encourage you to do so. Our visibility is a witness to others that we stand against this wicked action of the murder of the unborn taking place in that building. May God be pleased to stir His people to pray that abortion will end soon.

RALLY FOR LIFE

There will be a "Rally for Life - Exposing the Darkness" on Saturday, March 26th from 9 to 10 AM at 2903 N. State Street, Mississippi's last (only) abortion mill.

