



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
May 21st, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell

Hymn "All Ye that Fear Jehovah's Name"

The Prayer of Confession and Praise Seth Lirette

Hymn "Glorify Thy Name"

Hymn "All the Way My Savior Leads Me"

The Reading of the Word — *Genesis 7:1-24* Hal Pritchard

Hymn "Nearer My God to Thee"

The Sermon — "*Narrow is the Way*" (*Matthew 7:13-14*) Pastor Winn

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn "A Wonderful Savior"

The Benediction Hal Pritchard

The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

Hymn "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Hymn "Higher Ground"

Prayer

The Sermon — "*All Sufficiency in All Things at All Times*" (*Exodus 17:8-18:27*) Dirk de Waal

Hymn "Be Strong in the Lord"

The Benediction

The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

How Many Are Saved?

On one occasion, we are told, someone came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” Have you ever asked that question? Did you ever wonder what proportion of fallen humanity, in the final analysis, would make it to heaven? Is it the majority of humankind that God saves, or is it but a remnant? What percentage of your friends and neighbors will go to heaven and what percentage will spend eternity in hell? Have you ever asked that question seriously? Few people think about that question to any degree because we live in a pluralistic culture where the assumption is that almost everyone, if not all people who die, will go to heaven. God is so kind, so tenderhearted, and so merciful, that surely His eternal plan is to save most of mankind. I certainly hope that is the case, but at the same time, I have precious little reason to believe it is true. It seems to me that the Scripture is overwhelming in its teaching to the contrary, namely that most people who have ever lived are either now, or soon will be, in hell forever. Can you even begin to bear such a thought? Paul makes it clear in Romans 1 that the entire world, every man, woman, and child on the planet, is exposed to the wrath of God. Everyone in the world is in a natural state of rebellion and hostility to almighty God. Why would a righteous Judge and a holy God be concerned to save any of us? We know that God destroyed the world with a flood because everybody was doing what was right in their own sight, only a handful were saved, Noah and his family. Why should we think for a minute that God would save a majority of us? For me, the most vexing theological question that I have difficulty answering is why God would save anybody. Why would He save me when I have been involved in cosmic treason against Him since the day I took my first breath? What Jesus teaches matters profoundly, look at how He

answers the question, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” “He said to them, ‘Strive to enter the narrow gate.’” The word translated “strive” is the Greek word from which we get the English word agony. Jesus was not saying to have a casual interest of entering in through the narrow gate, but if necessary, pummel yourself until you are bleeding. Exert yourself with the full measure of whatever strength you have to make sure you get through the narrow gate. Whatever agony it takes, be willing to go through it, because many will seek to enter and will not be able. The parallel text to what Jesus taught is in the Sermon on the Mount. He said: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13-14). Jesus contrasted two things: the size of the gate and the number of those who enter. Two gates, a narrow one and a broad one. He said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads” where? Where does the broad gate go? Jesus said: “Broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” This culture states that the most important virtue is to be broad minded and the most politically incorrect thing is to be narrow minded and have narrow views. According to our culture, we are to embrace pluralism and relativism. No one has an exclusive claim to truth—that is way too narrow minded. If you are evangelical, if you really believe the gospel, then you have chosen the narrow path, and you have said: “This way and none other. One Christ, no more. Jesus is the monogenēs, the only begotten of the Father. All the rest are thieves and robbers.”



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

May 21 st
<i>Morning</i> Kelly Jackson & Jessica Mullins
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Dumi Thakkar & Katherine Ranck
<i>Wednesday - May 24th</i> Dacia Long & Mary Margaret Pritchard

Today's Sound Operator - Richard Jackson



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS VOLUNTEERS MEETING

There will be a VBS volunteers meeting today at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in volunteering, see Bridgette Kimbrell.

VBS WORK DAY

VBS Work Day on May 28th from 8am-12pm.

VBS

Our VBS this year will be *May 30th-June 2nd*! We are engaged in an epic battle for the hearts and minds of our children. They will be bombarded with lies about who they are, who their Creator is, and where their salvation comes from. Thankfully, God has given His children armor to wear in this battle between truth and lies, light and darkness, good and evil.

We will learn how to become part of God's kingdom through salvation in his Son and will be study how to be equipped with the armor of so we can be Keepers of the Kingdom and stand strong in today's battle for truth.

