



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
August 13th, 2023

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 "There is a Redeemer"

Hymn "Blessed Be the Name"

The Reading of the Word — *Psalm 1:1-6* Dirk de Waal

Hymn "Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

The Sermon — *"Putting Christ's Words into Practice" (Matthew 7:24-29)* Pastor Winn

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn "Victory in Jesus"

The Benediction Dirk de Waal

The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

Hymn "Arise My Soul, Arise"

Hymn "Take Time to be Holy"

Prayer

The Sermon — *"Our God Saves Sinners" (Exodus 33)* Dirk de Waal

Hymn "The Way of the Cross Leads Home"

The Benediction

The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

How We Bear Fruit

True disciples of Jesus bear spiritual fruit, as Jesus emphasizes in John 15:1–6. This fruit, of course, is not what saves us. Salvation precedes fruit—a branch must be attached to the vine to be fruitful, for a branch does not produce fruit on its own (vv. 3–4). Yet, as Dr. R.C. Sproul writes in his commentary John, “While we are justified by faith apart from works, we are justified by faith unto works.” Our works—which are part of the fruit we produce—cannot declare us righteous before God, but if we have no good works, we have no saving faith (James 2:14–26). We speak of good works as part of the fruit that true Christians bear because John’s gospel and the rest of the New Testament make that connection. For instance, John the Baptist announced the inbreaking of God’s kingdom by calling people to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance” (Luke 3:8). What could such fruit be but a life that is oriented to obeying God? Jesus says that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 15:15). We will do the deeds that He commands us to do. More specifically, the fruit we are called to bear is love for others, particularly love for Jesus’ other disciples, for we are to love one another in the Christian community as Christ has loved us (v. 12). Such love is costly, as it causes us to be willing to go so far as to lay down our lives for others as we imitate Jesus’ example (v. 13). In our fallenness, we cannot do any of that on our own. It requires a vital union

with Christ whereby He communicates to us the desire and power to love Him and to love others (v. 5). John 15:7 emphasizes that union yet again, as it records Jesus’ words that when we abide in Christ and He abides in us, our prayers will be effective. In other words, when we lean only on Christ and seek to have His teaching shape our lives, God will grant us fruitfulness when we pray for it. This is not a guarantee that obeying Christ means we will receive everything we could ever want; rather, as Christ’s words abide in us, we will come more and more to pray for what He wants, and therefore we will see results. John Calvin comments on today’s passage that Jesus “means that his people will or desire not riches, or honors, or any thing of that nature, which the flesh foolishly desires, but the vital sap of the Holy Spirit, which enables them to bear fruit.” The true branches of Christ abide in Him by faith and seek to do His will, and He nourishes them by the Spirit to pray that His will be done.

Coram Deo: As Christians, we are called to abide in Christ and to have His words abide in us. Yet, all too often we seek to live according to our own wisdom, neglecting His words and seeking our own way. When we find ourselves doing this, let us repent and lean on Him once more. As we do so, He will enable us to pray according to His will, and we will see the fruit of good works and love for Him and for others in our lives.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

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| August 13th |
| <i>Morning</i> Katherine Ranck & Laurie Price |
| <i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Courtney McDonald & Dumi Thakkar |
| <i>Wednesday - August 16th</i> Ashley Lirette & Lawanda Winn |

Today's Sound Operator - Seth Lirette



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Men's Book Study will meet this Saturday, August 19th. Breakfast and fellowship will begin at 7 am with the study to follow.

PARENT COMMITMENT SERVICE

Our Parent Commitment service will be next Sunday, immediately following our morning service. We use this special time to pray for those who have added a baby to their family within the past year and commit as parents and a church to helping raise them up in the way of the Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION

Mark your calendars for Sunday School promotion day. Our new children's classes and choir schedule for Sunday and Wednesday's will begin Sunday, September 3rd.

