



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 24th, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell

Hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

The Prayer of Confession and Praise Prashant Thakkar

Hymn "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

Hymn "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

The Reading of the Word — *Psalm 94:1-23* Dirk de Waal

Hymn "We Worship You, Almighty God"

The Sermon — "Questions and Answers About Hell" (Luke 16:24-31) Pastor Winn

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go"

The Benediction Dirk de Waal

The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

Hymn "The Solid Rock"

Hymn "The Church's One Foundation"

Prayer

The Sermon — "I Am the Bread of Life" (John 6:22-58) Seth Lirette

Hymn "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

The Benediction

The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

You have trouble with hell? I do. I cannot enjoy contemplating for one minute any human being in hell. Oftentimes people say to me, “Do you believe that hell is a lake of fire, literally?” And I say, “No.” And they say, “Well, what do you think it is?” I say, “Well, I think it’s separation from God.” And do you know what their usual response is? “Man, am I glad to hear that. Glad to know that hell is just separation from God.”

Huh? I have to tell you how our thinking gets mixed up here. A couple of things: one, it’s commonplace in our life to say, “Oh, that guy went through hell” or “War is hell” or “This disease is hell,” “Ghettos are hell,” and all that. Hey, that’s hyperbole, and don’t forget it. Because hell is a place where not one ounce of the benefits of God’s grace penetrate. And I don’t care how miserable the worst human condition is in this world; there is nowhere where you can go in this world where the benefits of God’s grace are absolutely absent, where the sun doesn’t shine and the rain doesn’t fall and the air isn’t there to be breathed. That’s part of God’s grace.

Now the second point is, Jesus is the One who talks about the lake of fire and all those ghastly images that the New Testament uses. And people say to me, “Do you think that we should take those literally?” I say, “No, I take them symbolically.” And again they go, “Whew, oh boy.”

And I say: “Wait a minute. Did you ever stop to ask yourself why it is that Jesus of Nazareth used the most ghastly images He could conjure up to symbolize the reality of hell?” Does the reality normally exceed in intensity the symbol? A symbol only approximates. I think the person in hell would give anything that he had to be in a lake of fire.

I don’t want to go there and I don’t want anybody to go there and I can’t conceive of anybody being there without being dreadfully upset about it. Yet God says people will be there. That just causes me anguish. I can’t stand that thought. Now I ask myself, “Why do I struggle so much with the biblical concept of hell?” Maybe it’s because I don’t like to see my comrades suffer. Do you realize that I have more in common with Adolf Hitler than I have with Jesus Christ? The gap of righteousness and holiness that exists between Hitler and me is infinitesimal compared to the gap that there is between me and Jesus, and that’s true for you. If we were totally, totally sanctified, on God’s side, we would be horrified not only by our own desecration of His nature and holiness that we perpetrate every day, but by all the rest of it that goes on in the world and we would rejoice to see, finally, the vindication of the purity of God, of the holiness of God, of the righteousness of God, in the death of the wicked.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

September 24th
<i>Morning</i> Katie Crocker & Wendy Winn
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Mary Price & Katherine Ranck
<i>Wednesday - September 27th</i> Mary Price & Bethany Wallace

Today's Sound Operator - Cody Wallace



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will *not* meet this afternoon.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

The new members class begins today. This class gives visitors information about GBC so they can make a prayerful decision to see if this is where God would have them worship and serve. The class meets at 9:30 during Sunday School and is taught by Prashant Thakkar. If you desire to participate, please speak with Pastor Thomas or Prashant.

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER & NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

Next Sunday we will be observing the Lord's Supper. Please begin to prepare your hearts for this special ordinance of the Lord. We will also have our monthly fellowship meal and going out into the neighborhood after the afternoon service. Be sure to sign the meal sign up list and if you'd like to participate in the afternoon outreach, see Prashant Thakkar.

GO TELL CRUSADE

There will be a counselor training session for the "Go Tell Crusade" at GBC, today at 4:30. We need as many counselors as possible to attend this Crusade, this is of great spiritual importance. Please pray about being a counselor, if so, you must attend a training session. If you have any questions, please see Dirk De Waal or Pastor Thomas Winn.

ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP

We will have a homemade ice cream social tonight, immediately following our evening service. Make plans now to join and fellowship!

CATECHISM RECITAL

There will be a catechism presentation from our children and youth tonight at 5:30 pm. Please make plans to join and encourage these young ones.

REFORMATION WEDNESDAY

Mark calendars for Reformation Wednesday on Nov 1st. All children and youth need to see Mrs. Lawanda in order to sign up for the presentation. Preschool-3rd grade can choose from OT or NT Bible heroes of the faith while 4th grade and up can choose from christian reformation heroes.

