

“The American gods of Money and Comfort” (Part 2)
1 Peter 5:5-11

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (driven out), while evil people and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:12-13)

“Self-centered Christians who serve the Lord halfheartedly seldom have to pay a price for their faith. They are of little threat to Satan’s work because they are of little benefit to Christ’s.” (John MacArthur)

“If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Corinthians 15:19).

“Whoever does not bear his own cross (die to self) and come after Me cannot be My disciple....So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27,33).

“In countries to which Christian civilization has spread, large numbers of people have covered themselves with a decent, but thin, veneer of Christianity. They have allowed themselves to become somewhat involved; enough to be respectable but not enough to be uncomfortable. Their religion is a great, soft cushion. It protects them from the hard unpleasantness of life, while changing its place and shape to suit their convenience. No wonder the cynics speak of hypocrites in the church and dismiss religion as escapism.” (John Stott)

“For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:20-21).
“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Corinthians 4:16-17).

- The uncomfortable life of Christianity is a joy-filled discomfort because every suffering we experience can have the temporal result of Christlikeness, the ability to comfort others in their afflictions, and the eternal result of greater satisfaction in Him. (Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; 2 Peter 1:8-11)
 - We are called to love our enemies and do good to them (Luke 6:32-36).
 - We are told to forgive people no matter how many times they sin against us (Matthew 18:21-22).
 - We are told to submit to our spiritual leaders as long as they are not asking us to sin (Hebrews 13:17).
 - We are told to do nothing from selfishness and to in humility count others more significant than ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).
 - We are told to work hard for our employers as if we are working for Christ even if they are harsh (Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Peter 2:18-19).
 - We are to reprimand those who are idle in their faith, encourage those who are fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15).
 - We are to never be slothful in our zeal for Christ; we are to be fervent in our passion for Christ (Romans 12:11).

Worship: How Great Thou Art — Various Artists
Christ The Sure And Steady Anchor — Matt Boswell

So I Will Trust You — Sovereign Grace Music

Closing Song: Grace And Peace — Sovereign Grace Music

Service Times: Sundays: Biblical View of Prayer 4/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

Announcements:

★**PAINTING VOLUNTEERS:** On Friday, March 10th, and Saturday, March 11th, from 8am to 4pm we will be painting the church entryway! We are looking for people to volunteer for at least one of the two hour time slots on one or both of those days! There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to help us with this project. All of the supplies will be provided, we just need able bodied volunteers who are willing to give us a couple hours of their time to paint during that weekend. If you have any questions, please see Emily Decker.

★**CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER:** THIS Wednesday, February 22nd, will be our monthly day of prayer as a church body. We ask that everyone set aside a specific time of prayer on that day to pray for the leaders and ministries of our church body. There are specific prayer points below for this day of prayer.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, February 26th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

→Prayer Points for Day of Prayer (Wednesday, February 22nd):

- Pray for wisdom and steadfastness for our Elders and Deacons as they lead and serve the church body. (1 Corinthians 15:58; James 1:5)
- Pray that God would give us an inclination to His Word and not money or fame or power. Pray that God would open our eyes to see wonderful things when we read His Word and to have hearts united in the fear of God rather than fragmented over a dozen concerns. Pray that we would be satisfied in His steadfast love. (Psalm 86:11; 90:14; 119:18,36)
- Pray for our boldness in speaking God's Word to the people in our lives and that we will have eyes to see the opportunities God gives us to do so. Pray that our burden for evangelism would grow (Colossians 4:2-4).
- Pray that our love for one another would be genuine and not a selfish, self-seeking love like this world offers. Pray that we would love one another as brothers and sisters of the same Savior, as our family in Christ. Pray that we would use the gracious gifts the Lord has given us to joyfully serve one another to the glory of God. Pray that we would have a zeal and fervor to love and serve the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength as we forsake the things of this world and set our eyes on Christ. (Romans 12:9-11; Mark 12:30; 1 Peter 4:10-11)