



SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Guard the Truth

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Preparation

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Call to Worship

Song

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise – #30

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song

2 Corinthians 5:17

Praise God from Whom All Blessings – #556

Prayers of the People

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Old Testament

Proverbs 7:1-4 – Marta Beaner

Message

Rev. Keith Fink

To Whom Much is Given

1 Timothy 6:20-21

WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

Songs

The Gospel Song
Come Praise and Glorify

Benediction

Postlude

Guard the Gospel

The gospel is good news. It is good news because it addresses who we are and what we long for. We seek approval, love, belonging, acceptance, and hope. And the gospel addresses all these things in a final and full fashion. The gospel is centered in what God has done in Jesus (historical), changes who we are (personal), and makes new his people and all creation for eternity (cosmic). The gospel is hard for us to imagine for in it we find that God has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. Here are a handful of scriptures that speak to some aspects of the glorious gospel entrusted to us.

The Language of Salvation

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15a)

The Language of Justification (legal metaphor)

"Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified." (Galatians 2:16)

The Language of Redemption (slavery and sacrificial metaphor)

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us in all wisdom and insight" (Ephesians 1:7-8)

The Language of Adoption (family metaphor)

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12)

The Language of New Creation (life and death metaphors)

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5)

The Language of Substitution

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." (1 Peter 3:18a)

The Language of Exchange

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The Language of Love

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The Language of History

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Language of Cosmic Realities

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

If you and I are to effectively guard and proclaim the gospel in this complex world, we will need to develop a certain fluency with it. The scriptures listed above provide us with a variety of metaphors and words that might help us to communicate the truth that stands at the core of our faith. Below are two examples of people who have stated the gospel truth in their own words:

"The gospel is the good and true story that Jesus has defeated sin, death, and evil through his own death and resurrection and is making all things new, even us." (Jonathan Dodson)

"It is that you are so lost and flawed, so sinful, that Jesus had to die for you, but you are also so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for you." (Tim Keller)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal invisible God only wise
In light inaccessible
Hid from our eyes
Most blessed most glorious
The Ancient of Days
Almighty victorious
Thy great name we praise

Unresting, unhasting
And silent as light
Nor wanting nor wasting
Thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains
High soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
Of goodness and love

To all life thou givest
To both great and small
In all life thou livest
The true life of all
We blossom and flourish
As leaves on the tree
And wither and perish
But naught changeth thee

Great Father of glory
Pure Father of light
Thine angels adore thee
All veiling their sight
All praise we would render
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
Of light hideth thee

Words by Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867
Traditional Welsh hymn melody

Praise God from Whom All Blessings

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

Words: *Doxology* by Thomas Ken, 1709
Music: *Old Hundredth* from Genevan Psalter, 1551

The Gospel Song

Holy God in love became
Perfect man to bear my blame
On the cross He took my sin
By His death I live again

Words and Music by Bob Kauflin and Drew Jones
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Come Praise and Glorify

Come praise and glorify our God
The Father of our Lord
In Christ He has in heav'nly realms
His blessings on us poured
For pure and blameless in His sight
He destined us to be
And now we've been adopted through
His Son eternally

To the praise of Your glory
To the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory
You are the God who saves

Come praise and glorify our God
Who gives His grace in Christ
In Him our sins are washed away
Redeemed through sacrifice
In Him God has made known to us
The myst'ry of His will
That Christ should be the head of all
His purpose to fulfill

To the praise of Your glory
To the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory
You are the God who saves

Come praise and glorify our God
For we've believed the Word
And through our faith we have a seal
The Spirit of the Lord
The Spirit guarantees our hope
Until redemption's done
Until we join in endless praise
To God the Three in One

To the praise of Your glory
To the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory
You are the God who saves

To the praise of Your glory
To the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory
You are the God who saves

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