



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
May 7th, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn "Glory to God on High"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Cody Wallace
- Hymn "Alas and Did My Savior Bleed"
- Hymn "God in the Gospel of His Son"
- The Reading of the Word — *Psalm 25:1-22* Hal Pritchard
- Hymn "Seek Ye First"
- The Sermon — *"Ask, Seek, Knock" (Matthew 7:7-12)* Pastor Winn
- The Observance of The Lord's Supper
- Hymn "The Light of the World is Jesus"
- The Benediction Hal Pritchard
- The Postlude

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Business Meeting



COMMENTARY

C.H. Spurgeon

I have no doubt that, taken very strictly, the three exhortations of this verse, which, indeed, are but one; were first of all intended for God's believing people. It was to His disciples that the Lord said, "Cast not your pearls before swine," and perhaps certain of them who were poor in spirit might turn around and say, "Lord, we have few pearls, we are too poor to have the treasures of Your grace so plentifully. You have bidden us not to give that which is holy unto dogs, but holiness is rather a thing we seek after than possess." "Well," says the Lord, "you have only to ask and have, you have not because you ask not, you have only to seek and you will be sure to find, for holy things, like rare pearls, are to be discovered if you look for them. You have only to knock and spiritual secrets shall open to you, even the innermost truth of God." In each exhortation our Lord bids us pray. Beloved, let us abound in supplication. Depend upon it, that failure in prayer will undermine the foundation of our peace and sap the strength of our confidence, but if we abound in pleading with God we shall grow strong in the Lord, and we shall be happy in His love, we shall become a blessing to those around us. Need I commend the mercy seat to you who wait before it? Surely prayer must have become such a joy to you, such a necessity of your being, such an element of your life, that I hardly need press it upon you as a duty, or invite you to it as a privilege. Yet still I do so, because the Master does it by a triple exhortation. A threefold cord is not easily broken: let not my text be neglected by you. Let me urge you to repeated, varied, ever intensifying prayer: ask! seek! knock! Cease not to ask till you receive, cease not to seek till you find, cease not to knock till the door is opened unto you. In

these three exhortations there would appear to be a gradation. It is the same thought put into another shape, and made more forcible. Ask: that is, in the quiet of your spirit, speak with God concerning your need, and humbly beg Him to grant your desires, this is a good and acceptable form of prayer. If, however, asking should not appear to succeed, the Lord would arouse you to a more concentrated and active longing. Therefore let your desires call in the aid of knowledge, thought, consideration, meditation, and practical action, and learn to seek for the blessings you desire as men seek for hidden treasures. These good things are laid up in store, and they are accessible to fervent minds. See how you can reach them. Add to asking, the study of the promises of God, a diligent hearing of His word, a devout meditation upon the way of salvation, and all such means of grace as may bring you the blessing. Advance from asking to seeking. And if after all it should still seem that you have not obtained your desire, then knock, and so come to closer and more agonizing work, use not alone the voice, but the whole soul, exercise yourself unto godliness to obtain the boon, use every effort to win that which you seek after, for remember that doing is praying, living to God is a high form of seeking, and the bent of the entire mind is knocking. God often gives to His people when they keep His commandments that which He denies to them if they walk carelessly. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you." Holiness is essential to power in prayer, the life must knock while the lips ask and the heart seeks.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

May 7th
<i>Morning</i> Bridgette Kimbrell & Mary Hunter Sharp
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Business Meeting - No Nursery
<i>Wednesday - May 10th</i> Katie Crocker & Laurie Price

Today's Sound Operator - Seth Lirette



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we will observe the Lord's Supper during our morning service.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Today we will have our fellowship meal immediately following the morning service.

BUSINESS MEETING

Today we will have our 1st quarter business meeting immediately following the fellowship meal.

EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH

We will continue our neighborhood canvassing this afternoon following our business meeting. Please pray for those going out as they share about Grace Baptist and the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will also be handing out VBS announcements separately. If you are interested in helping, please see Prashant Thakkar or Pastor Thomas.

CRAWFISH BOIL

Save the date for our annual crawfish boil, May 13th. More details to come.

VBS

There will be a VBS volunteers meeting May 21st at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our VBS this year will be *May 30th-June 2nd*. If you are interested in volunteering, see Bridgette Kimbrell.

