



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 17th, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell

Hymn "Hallelujah Praise Jehovah"

The Prayer of Confession and Praise Cody Wallace

Hymn "Glory to God on High"

Hymn "All that Thrills My Soul is Jesus"

The Reading of the Word — *Psalm 55:1-23* Dirk de Waal

Hymn "Complete in Thee"

The Sermon — *"The Rich Man and Lazarus" (Luke 16:19-31)* Pastor Winn

A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached

Hymn "I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

The Benediction Dirk de Waal

The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship

Hymn "The Sands of Time are Sinking"

Hymn "Seek Ye First"

Prayer

The Sermon Seth Lirette

Hymn "Love Lifted Me"

The Benediction

The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

I saw the results of an extensive survey of a cross-section of people in America. Religious people, nonreligious people, Catholics, Protestants, self-proclaimed evangelicals, old people, young people, men, women—people from all kinds of diverse backgrounds were questioned about a multitude of theological affirmations. One result of that survey stood out in bold relief. Most of these people, both in the church and outside of the church, asserted their belief in the existence and reality of heaven. Yet, at the same time, most of those polled both in and out of the church denied the existence and reality of hell. That is a strange phenomenon, as for the most part we have the same source affirming both heaven and hell. When Jesus speaks of heaven, people say, “Yes, Lord.” When He speaks of hell, we say, “No way, Lord.” Jesus spoke more about hell than He did about heaven. Obviously, it was a matter of great importance and concern for Him. Also, we hear much more about hell from Jesus than we do from the prophets or the New Testament Apostles. I have often speculated on why that may be, and I have concluded that we hardly believe it when we hear it from the prophets or Apostles, and only scarcely believe it if we hear it from Jesus Himself. There is no greater authority on these questions that has ever appeared in the flesh than Jesus of Nazareth. If Jesus was wrong about this, there is no intelligent reason to believe Him about anything. If you are a Christian, the affirmation of the reality of hell is simply not optional. Why is it that

we struggle so deeply with the doctrine of hell? I think there are many reasons, including our care, concern, and compassion for our fellow human beings who may end up in that awful place. I frankly cannot be happy in this life of thinking about anyone going into such a miserable place. Of course, I am not yet finished with my sanctification, and I still tend to have more compassion with my fellow human sinners than I have desire for the glory of God. There are two significant reasons for our hesitancy and, at times, revulsion to the doctrine of hell. The first is that we do not really understand who God is. We have hardly a clue about the depth, breadth, and height of His perfection and holiness. Consequently, we do not have a clue about the sinfulness of sin. We are quick to say, “To err is human, to forgive divine,” and equally swift to affirm that no one is perfect with a shrug and the unspoken sentiment of, “It’s not really a big deal.” So, the awfulness of sin has never captured our understanding. What repentance we have before God is shallow at best, as we sugarcoat our offenses, not only against our neighbors, but especially and ultimately against God Himself. If I were to die this afternoon and wake up in hell, I would be surprised, yes. I would also understand that it is proper for me to be there. It would be proper not just for an afternoon, or a week, or as if it were purgatory, a year, a thousand years, or a million years. If it were to endure for an eternity, I could never find a just reason to complain about my being there.



STUDY AID



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

September 17th
<i>Morning</i> Terri & Rayah Pogue
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Elise de Waal & Bethany Wallace
<i>Wednesday - September 20th</i> Dacia Long & Katherine Ranck

Today's Sound Operator - Cody Wallace



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES' BOOK STUDY

The Ladies' Book Study will resume this month on September 7th and 21st at 11 am. Bring a sack lunch for fellowship following the study.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

We plan to have a new members class beginning this month if there is enough interest. 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 will meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. If you desire to participate, please speak with Pastor Thomas or one of our interns, Dirk or Prashant.

HOSPITALITY MEAL

Excluding the first Sunday of the month, we offer a visitor hospitality meal following our morning worship. If you are visiting with us today, you are invited to stay and have lunch. We would enjoy getting to fellowship together.

GO TELL CRUSADE

There will be a counselor training session for the "Go Tell Crusade" at GBC, on September 24th 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, September 24th 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, Sunday evening, September 24th, before the evening service. Please make plans to join and encourage these young ones.

