

Divine Worship

2 Corinthians 10.13-18 “Where the Kingdom Comes”

Preparation

Silent Meditation

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
Luke 17.20. 21

Call to Worship

John 1.35-37; 12.21; Matthew 11.28-30

Leader:

Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?”

People:

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Leader:

Jesus welcomes you, saying, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Hymn of Praise

“Jesus, I Come,” vv. 1-4, by William T. Sleeper

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of my sickness, into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of earth’s sorrows, into Thy balm,
Out of life’s storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress to jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair, into raptures above,
Upward for aye on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

We thank You, Lord Jesus, for bringing us into the joy of Your salvation, for delivering us from arrogance, pride, and unrest, for overcoming all our failures and losses, and for granting us freedom and forgiveness by Your life, death, and resurrection. We praise You, Lord, and we rejoice to be here assembled with you. As we come together, Lord Jesus, send Your Spirit to search us, that we may know and confess our sins, and repent and receive the grace of forgiveness. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord:**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Leader:

Thank You, Lord, that when we come to You, and as we seek You diligently, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Before you now, forgiven and cleansed, we ask you to **receive our praise, O Lord!**

All (singing together Psalm 51.15-19, to the tune of "[He Leadeth Me](#)"):

No sacrifice, no offering
Would You have us, Your people, bring;
But broken spirits, cleansed of lies,
And pure hearts You will not despise.

Refrain

Lord, open now our lips to raise
To You sweet songs of joyous praise!
Thus let Your favor on us fall,
And build and strengthen Zion's wall!

Now build Your Church, raise high the wall
Of those who on Your mercy call.
And take our lives and let them be

Sweet sacrifices, Lord, to Thee!
Refrain
Lord, open now our lips to raise
To You sweet songs of joyous praise!
Thus let Your favor on us fall,
And build and strengthen Zion's wall!

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

All

All:

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord's Prayer.**

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Psalm 9.7-16

(Tune: Diademata: "[Crown Him With Many Crowns](#)")

Lord, You forever reign in judgment on Your throne.
The world in bitter wrath and pain Your righteousness will own.
All those who know Your Name, though in this life oppressed,
You shelter from the storms of shame and keep them ever blessed.

Praise then the Lord of Zion; declare His deeds abroad!
Praise Judah's mighty saving Lion, the ever-blessèd God!
Whose blood has washed us clean, Who hears our plaintive cries,
Who good to us has ever been and lifts us to the skies!

Lift up your voice in praise before glad Zion's gate!
Rejoice in Jesus' saving ways; His glory celebrate!
The nations fail and fall, condemned by their own hands;
The Lord Who showed Himself to all, o'er them in judgment stands.

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the Leader shall pray:

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying the Apostles' Creed**);

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

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!

The Ministry of the Word

2 Corinthians 10.13-18

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it.

Leader:

We're going to focus on two main points in these verses – the idea of a *sphere* and the nature of the *boasting* we should bring into that sphere.

Paul said that God had appointed to him a *sphere* within which to do the work to which he had been called.

1. What did Paul mean by *sphere*? How would you describe Paul's *sphere*?

Paul was appointed to a particular *sphere* – a place of service in which to seek the Kingdom and glory of God. We have all been likewise called to seek the Kingdom and glory of God, as Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 2.12. And, if we are to be imitators of Paul, as Paul was of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11.1), we must assume that God has also appointed to us a *sphere* within which to pursue our Kingdom-and-glory calling.

2. How would you define the *sphere* God has appointed to you?

Paul summarized the work he did in that *sphere* as *boasting*. Look again at verses 14-16.

3. What was Paul *boasting* about in his *sphere*? How did he do that? How should we, who are called to imitate him, practice such *boasting* in our own *sphere*?

Verses 17 and 18 provide an important caveat to define the nature of our *boasting*. To boast as Paul did is to glory in the Lord, and *not* to commend ourselves. We must be ready, at every opportunity in our appointed *sphere*, to boast about Him, not beyond measure (v. 13) – that is, of things we have not truly known – but as God is glorified and reveals Himself to and through us in our *sphere*. Such boasting is meant to honor and glorify God; but other objectives should also be kept in mind. How would you define each of the following goals for the *boasting* we do in our *sphere*:

4. Verse 14: “we came with the Gospel of Christ”

5. Verse 15: “as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere”
6. Verse 16: “to preach the Gospel beyond you”

We can think of our appointed *sphere* as our Personal Mission Field – that place, and those people, to whom Jesus sends us, as He was sent, to bring near the Kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (John 20.21; Romans 14.17, 18).

Let us seek Jesus daily, so that He may give us much to *boast* about concerning Him!

Meditate in silence on the teaching of 2 Corinthians 10.13-18.

All (sharing):

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn of Commitment

Psalm 9.1, 2

(Tune: Diademata: “[Crown Him With Many Crowns](#)”)

I will give thanks, O Lord, with all my heart to You!
I'll tell the wonders of Your Word, so many and so true!
With joy to You I cry;
Your glory I will raise;
Your matchless Name, O Lord on High,
will I forever praise!

Benediction

Leader:

He who glories, let him glory in the Lord. For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

All:

As You have sent us, Jesus, so we will go, to boast about and serve You only!

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