

## OPENING HYMN #258

He Hideth My Soul

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Brother Michael Smith from Rescue Baptist Church will be preaching for us next weekend. We plan to meet Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at our regular time. We will be having a fellowship dinner after Saturday evening service, all are welcome.
  - Brother Eric Floyd is scheduled to preach here on Sunday, March 4.
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## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 3:1-4:8

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## WORSHIP HYMN #291

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

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## OFFERING

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” *2 Cor 9:7*

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## WORSHIP HYMN #53

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

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## MESSAGE

TAKE THE SWORD

EPHESIANS 6:17

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## CLOSING HYMN #449

To God Be the Glory

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## THINGS TO PONDER

### The Blood

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed blood atonement. He said the blood has been shed. It was God's blood . . . holy blood, precious blood . . . it was divinely sent blood . . . saving blood . . . redeeming blood. The blood atonement means the life laid down, it means the offering up of the Lord of glory! And He said this was the only basis on which a Holy God could deal with sinful men. Not upon your goodness, but upon the basis of His life laid down . . . that's how God deals with sinners.

*Rolfe Barnard, 1904-1969*

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Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*-Philippians 1:2*

## “Be Strong in the Lord”

*Ephesians 6:10*

It is true that the saints of God are to be humble, self-denying, submissive, and patient. But we are not to be effeminate, timid, or cowardly. Believers are to show firmness of mind, resolution, courage, strength, and fortitude in all things. — “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*” (2 Timothy 1:7). Believers, above all men, must be men. — “*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong*” (1 Corinthians 16:13). The fortitude Paul here calls us to practice is confident faith in God our Savior. It is a strength that enables a person to stand collected and undisturbed in the time of difficulty and danger, keeping him from both rashness and cowardliness. Those who live by faith must be strong and courageous concerning those things which are obviously the will of God. Let the child of God be convinced of the will of God, and he will be strong in submitting to it, strong in obeying it, and strong in performing it.

If you and I would obey our God, we must be strong, courageous, resolute, determined, and unshaken. I am not talking about strength we can muster. I’m talking about strength that only God can give. It is his strength. And it is to be had only by faith in Christ, faith that he alone gives and sustains. Yet, it is our responsibility to “*be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.*” We must never rely upon the resources of nature, but upon the power of his might, the vigor of life derived from his omnipotence and grace.

When our duty is set before us, we must undertake it in the strength of his grace with courage and determination for the honor of God, depending upon him who is our Strength. If God has called us to a work, he will carry us through it. But we must be strong, courageous, lest we be turned aside from God’s revealed will. We must face opposition, even danger, with confident courage and strength. We must meet every difficulty “*strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.*” William Gurnall rightly observed, “It requires more prowess and greatness of spirit to obey God faithfully, than to command an army of men, to be a Christian than a captain.”

Above all men and, if need be, against all men, you and I who are God’s must be strong, courageous, resolute, determined, and unshaken in the face of adversity. When Satan and the forces of hell come against the very weakest of God’s saints, they can do no harm. We are protected with the walls of salvation. All the fury of hell cannot break through the Bulwark of Zion (Isaiah 11:9; 65:25; Acts 28:6).

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Satan is always in a rage wherever the gospel is preached, for the preaching of the gospel is the battering ram of heaven that destroys the gates of hell. When a man preaches the gospel, Satan will raise up opposition to him. But the gospel shall prevail. One angel goes out to preach and another angel flies back with the report of victory. — *“Babylon is fallen, is fallen!”* It was by the gospel that the apostles turned the world upside-down. And by the gospel, the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of God’s dear Son.

**-Pastor Don Fortner**

### **Look to Christ**

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up” John 3:14

There can be no hope of salvation apart from the Lord Jesus Christ bearing the sins of His people in His body on the tree of Calvary. There was no other way to put away sin. The son of man **MUST** be lifted up. He bore all the sins of all God’s elect of all ages, fully satisfying Divine justice once for all.

The serpent is obviously a picture of God making Him sin for us who knew no sin.... Those stung by the fiery serpents of sin **MUST** look to the serpent on the pole to live. Num. 21:8-9. Yet, in spite of God’s promise many Israelites died from the serpents. I can only think of one reason why anyone in the camp of Israel would not look to the serpent on the pole. They were too busy looking at the serpents on the ground and the wounds they had caused in their flesh. Grant it, poisonous snakes around your feet would be an alarming sight. But, God did not say; 'try to avoid the snakes', or 'tend to your wounds'. No, He said look to the One on the pole and you shall live.

Do we not do the same thing today. We wallow in the guilt and shame of our sin, rather than looking to Christ. We try to mend the wounds of our sin, rather than looking to Christ. We set but rules and regulations to avoid the serpents on the ground, instead of looking to Christ.

So how do we view our sin? All we need to know about the evil of our sin is seen in what it took God to redeem us from it. There is no greater evidence of how God sees our sin than when He sheathed the sword of His Divine justice into the heart of His beloved Son. Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins. Oh, that we could simply look to Christ and believe that in Him we are, **'INDEED** dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord'.  
**-Pastor Greg Elmquist**

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Sunday 9:30 AM Bible Class lesson

10:30 AM Morning Worship Service

Wednesday 6:30 PM Mid-week Worship Service

Listen to the gospel at: [www.freegraceradio.com](http://www.freegraceradio.com)

**Sunday February 18, 2018**

**“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”**

*Rev 22:17*



**“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” 1Cor 8:6**