

CALL TO WORSHIP

#

HYMN

#

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cleaning for January – Kevin & Kimberly

CLOSING HYMN

#

Water baptism is commanded by Christ for all who God has given faith to rest in Christ. If we were baptized under the preaching of a message that we now believe was false, a message we could not now sit under, then we were really not baptized. We made a false profession.

Baptism is the outward public confession of inward faith in Christ. By baptism we justify God that we are sinners (Lu 7: 27-30). Baptism is the public confession that we were born-again by the Holy Spirit to faith in Christ (Jn 6: 63; 1 Pet 3: 21). By believer's baptism we are publicly confessing that we are dead, buried and risen with Christ to now walk in newness of life with Christ (Rom 6: 1-22). Baptism is the public confession that we are united with Christ and with Christ's people (Acts 2: 42-47). The Lord Jesus commands every believer be baptized. Ananias said to Paul, "*Why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized.*"

- Clay Curtis (Ewing, NJ)

"You can know a verse of scripture by heart, and not know it in your heart."

- David Eddmenson (Madisonville, KY)

THE REASON FOR YOUR THORN

The strength of Christ is only learned and understood when we are weak. There is a great comfort that attends this truth. Anytime, dear child of God that you experience trials, difficulties and afflictions. You may take comfort in knowing that God gave them to you to weaken your flesh with purpose. Each one is specifically designed for the purpose of making you know more deeply, the sufficient grace and power of your Savior. Paul stopped asking for the thorn in his flesh to be removed once he understood this. "*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me*" (2 Corinthians 12:9). God patiently teaches his children that every thorn is given with gracious purposes. Our infirmities weaken our confidences in this flesh. Weakness is where we learn that Christ's grace is sufficient for all my needs. Weakness is where we learn that Christ's strength is made perfect in my weakness. Only through grace-given thorns are we taught to say by faith: "*Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong*" (2 Corinthians 12:10). Without God's gracious operation, such words would never come from our lips with heaven-born faith. Thank God for teaching you this wonderful lesson of grace and salvation.

- Eric Lutter (Nixa, MO)

It used to be if anything was arranged in the worship service other than preaching, singing, and reading the Word of God that people were appalled. But now people are appalled if that is all that is in the worship service.

- Drew Dietz (Jackson, MO)

