

The Perseverance of the Saints

Is God one who gives and then takes back what he gives? The very thought is reprehensible. “God's gifts and his call are irrevocable,” writes Paul in Romans. And in the Old Testament we read, “God is not a man, that he should lie, neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not make it good?”

What has God said about our redemption? Is it a permanent possession, or merely a loan?

Let the words of our Savior take hold of us: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.” We should also heed Paul's words, written to believers in Jesus Christ: “In him, when you believed, you were marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession.” And note the irrefutable logic here: “...For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”

There are, of course, warnings in the Bible, such as, “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!” Why? Because salvation is a precious gift. Solemn words such as “See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God,” remind us that presumption is not saving faith. We are to make our calling and election sure by engaging in periods of self-examination and by making diligent use of the means of grace.

But none of the warnings annuls the fact that our redemption is an eternal redemption. “When God has once begun to love, it is his nature to continue to do so,” said Spurgeon. “Love made the saints ‘his own’—what a choice title! He purchased them with his blood, and they became his treasure. He will not lose them.” Indeed, he will not.

*And I am sure of this,
that he who began a
good work in you will
bring it to completion
at the day of Jesus
Christ.*

Philippians 1:6

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 166

“Wondrous King, All-Glorious”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 235

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all 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.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 248 *“Ab, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 331 *“Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit”*

Sermon Text

Luke 20:19-26

Sermon

DISTINGUISHING AUTHORITY AND KINGDOMS

*Hymn of Response # 305

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Sunday School.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.