

Walking in His Ways

The Lord established a link between walking and blessing, between faithfulness and prosperity. “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess” (Deut. 30:15, 16 NIV).

The blessing God promised the Israelites was a material blessing. Obedience meant prosperity; disobedience meant ruin. This material blessing in Canaan foreshadowed the new earth, in which righteousness and blessing would exist in unbroken union.

The New Testament puts the future into sharper focus with a fuller revelation of the new heavens and the new earth. Material blessings are no longer an absolute sign of God’s reward for faithfulness here and now. Paul boasted that he lost all things for the sake of Christ and considered them rubbish in comparison with knowing him (Phil. 3:7-9). What he gained in this life was infinitely better than flocks and herds. He had peace with God through Christ (Rom. 5:1). Because he had Christ and Christ possessed everything, he too had everything! (1 Cor. 3:21-23). And so do we, if we put our trust in Christ.

But sometimes we hear another message. Some Christians teach that it is God’s will for all who know him to be rich in this life. This health-wealth-prosperity gospel is powerful in some circles. But it is far from new. Jesus knew that many followed him not because of the miracles he did but because he gave them bread (John 6:26). John Bunyan depicted this type of person in *The Pilgrim’s Progress*: “For if it be unlawful to follow Christ for loaves, as it is, how much more abominable is it to make of him and religion a stalking-horse to get and enjoy the world.” Bunyan clearly saw that anyone who embraces Christ for the sake of worldly gain will renounce him for the same reason.

The New Testament perspective sees wealth as a gift from God—to be enjoyed but not mistaken for true riches. To be truly rich means being rich in good deeds and generous with our resources—an investment that serves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that we may take hold of the life that is truly life (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Are you seeking Christ, or merely the things Christ can give you?

The LORD Is My Portion.

Lamentations 3:24

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 # 2

“O Worship the King”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 5

“God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou has promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 28

“O God, the Rock of Ages”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

Sacrament of Baptism

*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 # 131

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 33:7-12

Sermon

DIVINE INTERVENTION

*Hymn of Response # 44

“How Great Thou Art”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

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

Today. We rejoice with Josh and Yoo Jin Chan as they present their covenant daughter, Catherine, for baptism.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. 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.