

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

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We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



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 # 457

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

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 art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou hast 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 # 230 *“Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 498

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 50:4-9, pew Bible p. 611

Sermon

THE WORK OF THE SERVANT

*Hymn of Response # 299

“Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Prayer Meeting. Church doors will open at 10:00am for gathering and sharing prayer requests. Prayer will begin at 10:15am. Children are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like to be added to the prayer request email list, please see Jessica Verby.

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

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