

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Son's Mission, Ephesians
1:7-10 - Jeremy Shelton

February 23, 2020

Ephesians: Into the Fullness of
Christ

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery (1 Verse, Chorus)

Call to Worship - Trey Moss

Good morning, church. Our call to worship comes from the prophet, Micah. Read the underlined portion with me:

"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

Congregation: You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:18-19

We're reminded this morning that God's steadfast love and compassion meet us in our sin. This good news this morning is that in Christ God has provided forgiveness for us through the shedding of his Son's blood. Let's sing joyfully this morning as God's blood-bought people.

There Is A Fountain

Confession - Worship Team

As a part of our Ephesians series we will be using questions from the New City Catechism. I will read our question and we will respond together before we begin our time of corporate confession:

Leader: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Congregation: Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.

In light of this glorious truth that all our sins can be forgiven, let us enter into a time of silent confession for our sin, and then I will read a corporate confession.

[Time for Silence]

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the Glory of your Name. Amen.

The Power Of The Cross

Giving - Worship Team

Church, now is our time for giving. If you're a visitor for the first time this morning please take a visitor's card. If you're either a visitor or not a Christian, we're not asking for anything this morning. We hope this service is a gift to you.

Church, our giving is not a burden or a command without any concern for the heart. It is in our giving that we imitate Christ. As Paul said in 2 Cor 8:9,

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich

Let's give gratefully and generously as Christ gave himself for us.

You Have Redeemed My Soul

Posturing Prayer - Worship Team

Evidence of Grace - Patrick Roosa

Good morning church, you may be seated. If you don't know me, my name is Patrick, one of the pastors here, Antioch kids you will hang with us for a few minutes please. Some Sunday's we have the privilege of hearing a pastor pray before the preaching, but we also from time to time celebrate an evidence of grace. This morning we have the privilege to celebrate a grace among us, parent-child dedication.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with what dedication is, it is a symbolic commitment of the parents to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, which is an extension of the Great Commission and a continuation of what Moses spoke to Israel in the desert. Hear what Moses has to say in Deuteronomy 6:4-9,

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our god, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

This charge from Moses was to encourage the people of Israel to keep the Lord their God before them always and to raise up the next generation to understand what it had been like to be enslaved in Egypt and to see the mighty power of God bring them out by a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, lest they forget. Likewise parents, you have been endowed with a task that is not unlike that of the ancient Israelites. You are to help your children to understand what it was like to live as an unbeliever, and how the strong arm of the Lord saved you and made you his own and is continuing to do a good work in you.

So to bring some clarity to an often questionable practice in the church, dedication is a symbolic act between the church and its members that have children. That we, the church, are committing to pray for, disciple, and encourage parents and their children in the covenant community and that parents are making a commitment before the church to receive the prayer, discipleship, and encouragement while raising their children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord. Dedication does not save your children., only grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Dedication does not guarantee their salvation when they get older either, it only points to what the proverbs say that we should raise our children in the way that they should go and that when they are older they might not depart from it.

So at this time each family will come forward as I introduce them.

- 1) James and Amanda Belmonte dedicate Aaron Elliot
- 2) Jason and Kristen Cox dedicate Faith Eliana
- 3) Aeri and Kära Donathan dedicate Kärsten Linnéa Ennora & Elëkta Ioné Anastasia
- 4) Hayley and Trey Moss dedicate Emma Joe and Ruby Sue
- 5) Jeremy and Wendi Sarson dedicate Kairi Faye

Mom's and Dad's, what beautiful children the Lord has entrusted to your care! At this time, please face the stage as you are charged with your commitment to these children.

Mom's and Dad's, before the Lord and this church we charge you today with the following: to demonstrate in your parenting intentional gospel relationships. To protect your marriage by continually striving to display Christ's relationship with the Church in your love for one another. To take on the primary responsibility for discipling your children. To make Jesus's glory among the nations the goal of your family in the various ways God gifts your family.

If you receive the charge of our church body and by God's grace seek to be faithful to it, say, "We do." [We do.] You may turn and face the church.

Church, look upon the lovely families we have been gifted to serve and be in community with. Stand with me at this time as we are charged with our commitment to these families.

Church, before the Lord and these families we charge you today with the following: To encourage these parents to always be dependent upon and reflective of God's grace in their parenting. To help train their children in the knowledge and instruction of the Bible through formal and informal opportunities. To pray for these families on a regular basis for the health of their marriages and for their children to know Christ at an early age.

If you receive this charge and by God's grace seek to be faithful to it, say, "We do." [We do.] You may be seated.

As a gift to each of you as parents the church has bought you a book to read. Our encouragement to you is to continue to grow through reading, discussion, and encouraging one another. Healthy parenting is a partnership as we work together to raise our children. I will now pray to our Father. Join me in prayer.

Antioch Kids, you may be released to your classes.

The Son's Mission, Ephesians 1:7-10 - Jeremy Shelton

Communion - Jeremy Shelton

Jesus Paid It All

Assurance - Worship Team

Church, as we heard this morning in various ways, Christ's death for our sins not only forgives us in the present, but represents God's will from eternity past and looks forward to Christ's rule and restoration of all things in the future. Let's sing joyfully for the wondrous mystery of what God has done for us in Jesus.

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Announcements & Benediction - Bradley Bell

[prayer]

My name is Brad and I'm one of the pastors here. Thank you for gathering with us today! Know that this was only a glimpse of the life of Antioch. Join us this week at one of our Family Groups where we truly seek to live out the Christian life together. You can find Family Group info cards on the wall to the left outside of the auditorium, or you can see me for help finding a group.

If you are a visitor today I hope you feel welcome! We are glad you're here. If you filled out a visitor card please give it to anyone with a lanyard or simply leave it in your chair if that's more comfortable for you. Just a few announcements before we go:

- 1) Men's Formation Training - Men's Formation Training will continue this Tuesday, at 7pm in the training room. Even if you have missed the first two evenings, you can still come and benefit. This week we'll be focusing on the significance of our stories, and sharing them with one another. Antioch women, your training will then begin on March 10th. For more info, see Jason Crigler.
- 2) Linked - Right after today's gathering there is a mentoring interest meeting in the training room for anyone who is interested in mentoring or being mentored. Parents, students, and volunteers are welcome!
- 3) Antioch Servant Needs List - Many of you have probably already noticed that we have posted a Servant Needs list outside the auditorium beside the Family Group board. We are updating these each week and we will be posting on our Facebook page, as well as sending them out in an email so that you can be informed. The point person is listed for each area of ministry if you have questions or want to find out more. Our desire is to be a church where everyone is serving and using their gifts, and where members can make their desire to serve known instead of waiting or a leader to appoint them.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Church, as sure as Jesus has completed his mission to save you, he will also complete his mission to save people from every tribe, language, people, and nation. This week, with your children to love, neighbors to invite, co-workers to encourage, internationals to befriend, and distributed members to pray for, may you be a testimony of grace that Jesus uses to complete his mission.

[Brad] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(Congregation) We are sent.
