

Morning Worship

March 13, 2016

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Marcia Hart

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Chorus # 243	<i>"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"</i>	Tim/People
Offering/Worship Prayer		John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Marcia Hart
Missions Moment	<i>Tony Silveira — She Was . . .</i>	
Anthem	<i>"Victory Shall Be Mine"</i>	Worship Choir
Hymn # 413	<i>"Faith Is the Victory"</i>	Tim/People
Hymn # 426	<i>"Victory In Jesus"</i>	Tim/People
Chorus # 427	<i>"For He Alone is Worthy"</i>	Tim/People
Children's Worship	(Children are dismissed)	
Scripture Reading		Allan/People
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 312	<i>"Softly and Tenderly"</i>	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus # 457	<i>"Lord, Be Glorified"</i>	Tim/People

Is There Life After Death?

Hebrews 9:27-28

Can reasonable people believe in existence beyond the grave? The late, Beatles' singer, John Lennon raised this question in a song he wrote in 1971. He says it's easy to imagine this if we try. But the real answer is found in the quest for truth. Why would we want to imagine something if it isn't true.

The answers to life after death are not found in our imagination. The real answers are found in what we believe to be the truth. Why would we want to imagine

something as serious as eternity if it isn't true? If we think that heaven is just another fairy tale, then what else is there?

1) What are the possibilities ?

In reality there are not that many possibilities. During the course of history, only three answers have been proposed to these questions.

a) Death is the end .

Whatever kills physical life also snuffs out the human spirit and personality. In other words, nothing survives the funeral. When you are dead like Rover, you are dead all over.

b) Life does not begin until death.

One version of this is the theory of reincarnation, which proposes a wheel of existence whereby one is born again and again. The ancient Greeks held a slightly different view. They held that the soul is trapped in the physical body, and death releases the soul into real existence.

c) Life continues after death.

The Christian view affirms that life is worth living now and that it will continue after death. For the Christian, heaven is a place of boundless joy, rediscovered relationship, and blissful worship of God. Death is merely a transition from an earthly life to an eternal life.

2) The Bible tells us so.

Get back to our original question, we Christians answer it: "Because the Bible tells us so." See, once we establish that there is a God and that the Bible is the Word of God, we accept as truth what the Bible tells us.

Our Scripture reading from Hebrews 9:27 tells us that there is something after death: "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment..." We could turn to hundreds of Bible verses that talk about the afterlife. Here are just a few:

John 11:25-26

John 14:2-3

2 Corinthians 5:1

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

2 Peter 3:11-13

3) Other convincing evidence .

Is there other convincing evidence for an afterlife? Yes, there is.

a) Persecution of the church .

Christianity is the only religion based on the fact that its leader arose from the dead. Buddha, Confucius, Mohammad, Mary Baker Eddy, Gandhi, nor any other great religious leaders can make this claim. What the apostles went forth to proclaim was that Christ rose from the dead. Christ's resurrection was the cornerstone of their preaching. It was for this that they were tortured and so horribly martyred.

b) The character of Christ.

Even Jesus' fiercest enemies testify to His integrity and the impact He has had on the world. Jesus' character was incomparable, and it was this same Christ who said He would be taken and judged by His own people, that He would be condemned and crucified, and that on the third day He would rise from the dead. And it was this same Jesus whose words we read earlier in this lesson that said that He was going to prepare a place for us in heaven. Jesus' character makes us trust His promises.

c) The resurrection of Christ.

The apostles testify to seeing Him alive after the resurrection. On one occasion, Jesus appeared to over 500 people at once. Jesus' one time enemy, Saul of Tarsus was transformed into the Apostle Paul after Jesus made a personal post-resurrection appearance to him. No one has ever been able to prove that the empty tomb was

false, since no one has been able to produce the body of Jesus. All of those who witnessed the resurrected Jesus stood by their testimony, even in the face of death.

d) The experiences of people.

Many people have had near-death experiences and have returned with very similar details, telling either about heaven or hell.

Voltaire, the great unbeliever and skeptic, wrote prolifically against the Christian faith and against Christ, but in his last hours, he said, "O Christ, O Lord Jesus. I must die abandoned by God and man." Don't you wonder why he had such a change of heart? His condition became so terrible that his associates were afraid to approach his bedside. As Voltaire died, his nurse said that for all of the wealth of Europe, she would never watch another infidel die.

Perhaps you read one of the most popular books of 2010, *Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back*. The book hit #1 on the New York Times best seller list, and sold 1 million e-books. It's the story of Colton, the four-year old son of a small town Nebraska minister who during emergency surgery slipped from consciousness and described entering heaven. His family didn't know whether to believe what he was telling them or not. Colton shared impossible-to-know details about deceased family members. He also described a lot about Jesus and God and the Holy Spirit.

Now, keep in mind that as helpful as a near-death experience might be to provide evidence that the grave does not end life, such experiences never dictate theology, and they should never be put on the same level as divine revelation.

4) Is the Christian View realistic ?

For people growing up in a culture obsessed with here and now, and immediate sensual pleasure, the idea of heaven is indeed foreign. The Christian View appears to be unrealistic. Can you really believe in heaven and all that stuff about streets of gold, angels and choirs?

a) Misconceptions of Biblical images.

People often do not find the Christian perception of heaven to be very appealing. Some see it as a foggy place where everyone has huge wings attached to flowing white garments. For others, heaven is like an uninviting medieval castle sitting on a huge cloud. The golden streets and gates of pearl seem hard and cold to a culture used to wall-to-wall carpeting. These are understandable misconceptions of the Bible's treatment of heaven.

The last two chapters of the Bible list about 25 characteristics of heaven. They are written in a book full of fantastic and fanciful images obviously intended for people living 2000 years ago. A place where there is "no night" had great appeal to people who depended on oil lamps. Thick walls were a great idea for those whose enemy was hiding in the ravines or woods nearby. Streets of gold and foundations of precious stones spoke of unimaginable luxury to a poor and needy populace.

b) Ambiguity about heaven .

Many people feel **ambiguous** about heaven. They want life to go on, but only a certain kind of life. More of what they have now is not what they want in the afterlife. The biblical images of heaven really speak to this need. The Bible says that heaven is a place of no pain, and no tears. The Bible says that heaven is a place of justice, where wrongs are made right.

c) Biblical poetic descriptions.

The **Biblical poetic descriptions** of heaven are intended to communicate that heaven is a place where human needs are fulfilled. In heaven everyone will feel a

sense of belonging and acceptance. In heaven there will be beauty, order and harmony.

A chaplain told of visiting a 9 year-old girl in the hospital. The little girl asked her, "What's heaven like?" The chaplain replied, "Why do you ask?" The little girl explained, "Because I have leukemia." The chaplain asked, "What do you think heaven is like?" The girl replied, "No pain. To have my hair long again. To be able to run again. To be pretty again." The chaplain agreed and added, "That's what heaven is like. That and seeing God."

The chaplain captured the central concept of heaven – Heaven is seeing God and being with God. The thing that separates heaven from fairy tales with happy endings is God (**Revelation 22:3-5**). The most important thing about heaven is not its' reward, but its' relationship. It is being with God. It is talking with God. It is intimacy with a God who you love and who loves you.

Conclusion

The ultimate question for each one of us is: "What will happen to you after you die?" Death is something we all will eventually experience (unless Jesus returns while we are alive). The statistics on death are staggering – the death rate is 100 percent. We might be able to post-pone death, but it cannot be eliminated. What happens to us after we die is determined by what we have done to prepare for death while we were alive.

Jesus tells us that there are two roads and two destinies (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

The broad road with the wide gate leads to judgment, destruction and hell. On that road, people seem to be having a wonderful time doing whatever they want. But behind the fun and games on that road are emptiness, loneliness and insecurity. Ultimately, it is a tragic road because it leads to hell. Perhaps next week we should address the question: How can a loving God send good people to hell?

The other road, the narrow one with the small gate leads to heaven. Traveling on that road is difficult because it goes against the grain of society. On this road, there is also fun and laughter, but there is also a sense of destiny, hope and assurance. For the person on this road that leads to heaven, death is not the end – it is just the beginning, and a very good beginning at that!

Therefore we conclude, there is life after death. Heaven is for real - it is no fairy tale. The journey to heaven begins here and now. So let me ask you: Which road are you on? The only road to heaven is Jesus – He is the way and the truth and the life – no one can go to God the Father, except through Him.

Are you on the right road? Are you prepared for life after death? If you don't know or aren't sure, why don't you talk with someone about that. God wants you to be sure; to have assurance about the afterlife.

On Which Road Are You?

Stones Squashed in the Mud

As a young boy Patrick lived a comfortable life near an English coastal city where his father was a deacon in their church. But at the age of 16, all that came to an end. Irish pirates attacked his village, abducting Patrick and many of the household servants. After arriving in Ireland, Patrick was sold as a slave to a Druid tribal chieftain who forced Patrick to work with a herd of pigs.

In the midst of all that pig filth, God began to transform Patrick's heart. In his *Confessions* he wrote, "I was sixteen and knew not the true God, but in a strange land the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes, and I was converted." Patrick became convinced that the kidnapping and

homesickness were actually opportunities to know Christ better. "Anything that happens to me," he wrote, "whether pleasant or distasteful, I ought to accept with [serenity] giving thanks to God ... who never disappoints."

After serving as a slave for six years, Patrick escaped, boarded a boat, and found his way back home. Finally, he was back on British soil, warmly embraced by his family and his community. In his own mind, Patrick was finished with Ireland for good. Patrick was adamant: "It is not in my nature to show divine mercy toward the very ones who once enslaved me."

But once again, God changed Patrick's heart. Partially through a dramatic dream, he knew God was calling him to return to Ireland, not as a slave, but as a preacher of the gospel. His family and friends tried to stop him, saying, "Why does this fellow waste himself among dangerous enemies who don't even know God?"

Despite their objections, Patrick used his own money to purchase a boat and sail back to Ireland in A.D. 432. Patrick then spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel in Ireland, seeing many people come to Christ. He also passionately defended the human rights of slaves, writing a letter of scathing protest to King Coroticus after his soldiers had raided a village, slaughtered the men and sold the women into slavery.

Patrick never got over what God had done for Him. In his Confessions he wrote, "I was a dumb stone lying squashed in the mud; the Mighty and Merciful God came, dug me out and set me on top of the wall. Therefore, I praise him and ought to render him something for his wonderful benefits to me both now and in eternity." (from John W. Cowart, People Whose Faith Got Them into Trouble. InterVarsity Press, 1990, pp. 31-42)

Like *Saint Patrick*, we too were dumb stones lying squashed in the mud, but our Mighty and Merciful God came, dug us out, and put us into His magnificent, holy temple so that together we could bring Him glory the rest of our lives.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, March 13, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough,
Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 16

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 17

O Team.....6:30 pm

New Addresses:

Elvera Crow

3420 Messanie Street Apt. 2B

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Nikki Garber
1303 Northwood Drive, Apt. 1
St. Joseph, Missouri 64505

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters,
Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel
Alternate: Ken Nice
Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon
No Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 23

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study 6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 24

Food Pantry Day
W Team.....6:30 pm

Friday, March 25

Good Friday Service
.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

March 19 — Baby Shower for Kelsey and Baby Lane 2:30 pm
March 20 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting
— Food Pantry Collection Day
March 25 — Good Friday Service—6:30 pm
March 27— Breakfast
— Easter
— Diversicare 2:30 pm
April 8-9 — WMU Annual Meeting @ Midwestern
April 16 — Keyboard Festival 9:00 am

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight at 6:30.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

**It's A Baby Shower
Kelsey and Baby Lane
Calvary Baptist Church
March 19, at 2:30 pm**

Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting March 20 at Noon

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we conduct the business of the church.

Easter Schedule

Please remember that we will have breakfast at the church on Easter Morning, Sunday, March 27. It will be followed by the regular Sunday morning schedule. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the hallway.

THANK YOU

- ♦ Thank you for your recent donation to our food pantry. We appreciate your faithful support to our mission to feed the less fortunate.
God Bless you,
Maggie Wall
Patee Park Baptist
Food Pantry
- ♦ A special thank you to Brother Jack Conard, from the Prayer Warriors for sharing with us your pictures of your mission trips to Africa.

In Sympathy

We offer Christian Sympathy to:

The family and friends of Nell Morris who passed away Thursday, March 3, 2016.

The family of Kathryn Seedorf, (Sharon Waters mother) who passed away Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

For the Record

Attendance: March 6, 2016

Sunday School.....	44
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	47
Contacts Made.....	1
Morning Worship.....	58
Children's Worship.....	
Feb. 28	15
Mar. 6.....	16
Mission Study	17
Sunday Night	N/A
Wednesday Night	15

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 3,918.32

Offering Received by Mail:

March Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

March Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

March Member Birthdays:

01...Ken Nice
05...Sharon Yarbrough
13...Tim Ford
16... Don Sharp
16... Aleana Lane
20... Betty Campbell
20... Lester Buck
27... Jim Winans

March Anniversaries

Fred and Linda Kerns
March 14, 1969

Prayer Requests ...

Sharon Waters and Family
David Schottel—recovery
Ken Nice—surgery recovery
Joyce and Tim Izer—pray for healing
Alicia McKinnon—healing
LoLeta Middleton—eye infection

Bill Schottel—healing
Maxine and George Ferbert
Betty Anslinger—surgery recovery
Sue Higgins—regain strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp’s nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
Elvera’s daughter & daughter-in-law
Bill Haskins—strength
Stacy Gray—cancer treatment
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris’ Richardson’s sisters
Grant Schottel—advanced training
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida’s Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby’s nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Bob Barquist—cancer
Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers
Louanne Laurence Dorothy Post
Allen Jennings Ann Riddle
Jim Winans Jozy Winans
Nellie Reynolds Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Susan Patten Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Keon McKahan Dorothy Post
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today’s Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
