

# Preparing for Worship



First Baptist Church of Durham, NC

The Lord's Day January 3, 2010

## Ways to Use This Worship Preparation Page

1. Print it out on Thursday or Friday and take it home. Put it in your Bible for reference over the weekend.
2. Use it as a family devotion on Saturday.
3. Use it as a personal devotion on Sunday morning.

## Pray for our leaders.

In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 the apostle Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." So let us pray in like manner for all our spiritual leaders, in

this case, especially those leading us during the worship service on Sunday:

### Preaching

Andrew Davis

### Leading Music

Eric Campbell, Worship Choir and Orchestra, Christin Danchi (offertory)

### Leading Prayer

Andrew Davis, Flynn Cratty, Dean Scharnhorst, Joshua Rivera

### Reading Scripture

David Pearson

### Translating into Spanish

Herbert Rivera



## This Week's Recommended Memory Verse

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

*Matthew 22:21b*

## Study the sermon Scripture for Sunday.

Prepare for this Sunday's sermon, "**A Christian's Duty to God and Government**" by studying Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV).

### Paying Taxes to Caesar

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words.

<sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men,

because you pay no attention to who they are.

<sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

<sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"

<sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius,

<sup>20</sup>and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

<sup>21</sup>"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

<sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

# Read the story behind "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" by Isaac Watts.

**Note the songs we will be singing:**

**"Come, People of the Risen King"** (by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend)

**"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"** (Hymn 74)

**"King of Kings, Majesty"** (by Jarrod Cooper)

**"I'd Rather Have Jesus"** (Hymn 550)

**"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"** (by Isaac Watts, arr. by Benjamin Harlan)



**Isaac Watts (1674-1748)**

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy  
blast,  
And our eternal home!*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends  
the night,  
Before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.*

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come;  
Be Thou our guide while life  
shall last,  
And our eternal home.*

In 1714, the people of England were anxious. Queen Anne lay dying, and she had no son or daughter to succeed her. Who would be the new monarch, and what changes would that make? Isaac Watts had reason to worry. His father had been imprisoned under the previous regime because his views did not please the ruling family. As a young child, Isaac had been carried by his mother to visit his father in jail. But Queen Anne had brought a new tolerance, and freedom for the elder Watts. Now that she was dying, what would happen?

Isaac Watts turned to Psalm 90 on this occasion and penned what may be the greatest of his more than six hundred hymns. In essence, it is a poem about time. God stands above human time, and in Him all our anxieties can be laid to rest. The greatness of our eternal God was a favorite theme for Watts. When the events of the day bring worry, the God of the ages remains our eternal home.

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*The One Year Book of Hymns,  
Tyndale, 1995*

**Lord,**

***Thou has been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. Thou turnest man back to the dust, and sayest, "Turn back, O children of men!" For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.***

**Psalm 90:1-4, RSV**

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