

Worship Preparation

The Lord's Day

January 31, 2010

Ways to use this resource:

- Read it with your family on Saturday night.
- Use it as a personal devotion on Sunday morning.
- Print it out during the week, and put it in your Bible for reference over the weekend.

Sunday's Songs and Hymns

And Can It Be	147
O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus	
Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart	245
Before the Throne of God Above	
Behold the Lamb	

Sunday's Sermon Scripture

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

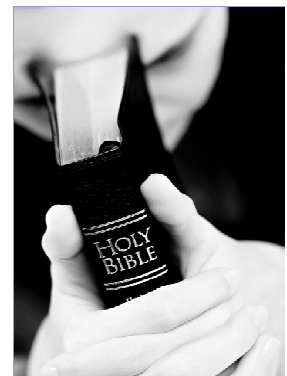
Prepare for the sermon, "Diagnosing Your Heart Condition" by studying Matthew 22:34-40.

Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."



Recommended Memory Verse
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
—Matthew 22:37

Leaders in Worship

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

Leading Prayer
Andrew Davis, Andy Winn, David Pike, Mac Woody

Reading Scripture
Tom Knight

Translating into Spanish
Herbert Rivera

The Lord's Supper, and Psalm 116



"I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord."

Psalm 116:13

"The only way we can repay God from whom everything comes is by taking even more from him."

Consecrate yourselves for the Lord's Supper as we will celebrate it on Sunday. Read this commentary about Psalm 116, one of the Hallel Psalms (113-118) Jesus may have sung with His disciples after the Last Supper.

Psalm 116: 12-19

- 12 How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?
 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.
 14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.
 15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
 16 O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maid-servant; you have freed me from my chains.
 17 I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.
 18 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,
 19 In the courts of the house of the LORD—in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD. (Hallelujah)

What the Writer Will Do

The last half of Psalm 116 (vv. 12-19) asks, "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness? He needs nothing. In Romans 11 Paul asks this very question rhetorically. "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" (Rom. 11:35). No one can give God anything, "for from him and through him and to him are all things" (v. 36). Every good gift comes from God.

Without suggesting that there is any intrinsically valuable thing we have to give God, the psalmist speaks of thanking God and calling on him "in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD" (vv. 18-19). He means that we should give public testimony to God's redeeming grace.

Second, we need to "lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD" (v. 13). This metaphor is based on the libation or drink offering prescribed in Numbers 28:7. In the postbiblical period the rabbis said there were to be no sacrificial gifts without libations, noting that the two are joined in Joel 1:9. They also said that the words of

Judges 9:13 ("wine, which cheers both gods and men") were to be pronounced as a blessing over the cup. But there is a big difference between the drink offering of Numbers 28 and what the psalmist says here. In Psalm 116 the writer is not talking about *giving God anything, though that might be expected from his question ("How can I repay the LORD?")*. Instead he talks about *taking something, that is, the cup of salvation*. It is a profound insight: the only way we can repay God from whom everything comes is by taking even more from him. Spurgeon noted that this is the wisest of all possible replies. He then quoted this verse:

The best return for one like me,
 So wretched and so poor;
 Is from his gifts to draw a plea

"I will lift up the cup of salvation" is immediately joined to "and call on the name of the LORD" because we received God's gift and then go on in the same relationship, forever asking and receiving from him.

Jesus and the Twelve must have sung Psalm 116 at the Last Supper after Jesus had instituted the communion service with its "cup of salvation." That cup represented the blood of Jesus, which was poured out as an atonement for our sins. It speaks of giving all the way, 100 percent. "Salvation comes from the LORD" (Jonah 2:9), but it is also a cup that needs to be taken by us, which is what we symbolize by taking it at the Lord's Supper. It is a spiritual cup, and the way it is taken is by faith, by believing that Jesus is truly the Son of God and our Savior.

Psalms, Vol. 3, James Montgomery Boice (Baker Books)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Also note that we will be singing the hymn "Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart" on Sunday. Not many songs address the Holy Spirit, but that's what makes this prayerful hymn so unique and wonderful. Since our goal on Sunday is to grow and cultivate our love and affection for the Lord, let us make this our prayer to the Spirit, **"Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art, and make me love Thee as I ought to love."**

