



The Lord's Day Worship

March 29, 2020

Opening Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Read or have someone in your home read aloud Psalm 104:31-34 and then have an open time of prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy. After closing in prayer, you may begin to play the service audio or video from the church website.

Riverwood Family Welcome

The Mussers

Elder Greeting & Pastoral Prayer

Ron Scarbrough

Songs of Praise

Dave & Jolie Herndon, Mark Reed

"Palm 34 (O Taste and See)"

"How Deep the Father's Love"

"Near the Cross"

The Teaching of the Word

Thomas Gardner

"Responding Properly to the Truth"

Song of Response

"Man of Sorrows"

Benediction

Read or have someone in your home read aloud Romans 8:38-39

CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 9

"Responding Properly to the Truth"

29 March 2020

Introduction: History & Truth

- Although we didn't ask for it, we are living through a major historical event. We're still early on in things, but perhaps we're feeling a bit frustration with it all. Around the internet, many have taken some comfort in the following quote from Lord of the Rings:

FRODO: "I wish the Ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened."

GANDALF: "So do all who live to see such times, but that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

- As Christians, we should recognize the sovereign hand of God behind all the events of history. At the same time, we must also recognize that there are especially important moments in history generally, and in our own lives in particular, where we are faced with an opportunity to respond to God and all that He is doing.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;
AND IN JESUS CHRIST
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN
FROM THE DEAD
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE
FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.
AMEN.

Key Point: The incarnation of the Son of God was a _____ event that was intended to fulfill the purposes of God and was necessary because of the sinful tendency of mankind to _____ the Truth.

The Work of the Son

His Suffering Under Pontius Pilate

"We are meant to take our bearings not just from doctrine but from history: from a sequence of events that occurred in a particular time and place. That's how one of history's most dubious characters, Pontius Pilate, finds his way into the creed. He enters the creed "like a dong into a nice room," as the 20th century theologian Karl Barth put it. The name of Pontius Pilate is a historical anchor. It prevents us from turning the Christian faith into a set of general truths about the world. It reminds us that the gospel is not an idea, but a fact."

- Ben Meyers, *The Apostle's Creed*

- We believe that Lord Jesus became incarnate at a particular *time* in human history and lived and died in a particular *place*.

⇒ *Jesus' lived His earthly life during the age (dispensation) of the Law.*

Gal. 4:4-5— ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- * God had chosen Israel from among the nations and given them His Law to live by as a kingdom of priests (Exod. 19:5-6)
 - (1) They were personally to keep His commands (Deut. 11:1)
 - (2) They were to receive His leadership through the work of His appointed representatives (Priests, Kings, Prophets).
 3. They were to make proper use of the established ritual institutions (Tabernacle, Temple).
- * Israel's failure to keep the covenant led God to execute His promised judgment upon them.
- * By the time Jesus was born, Israel had returned to the land and reestablished her institutions, but was religiously divided (Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes).

Key Point: As individuals and as a collective nation, the people of Israel had failed to live _____ as God's people.

⇒ *Jesus lived His earthly life in the Roman province of Judea.*

Luke 2:4-5— ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

- * Although Israel had experienced a period of independence under the Maccabees, the nation came under the influence of Roman power in 63 BC when Pompey besieged and captured the city of Jerusalem.
- * Local rulers such as Herod the Great and his sons were permitted to rule, but the true power in the Judea was held by the Roman Prefect (governor) who controlled the military garrison.

Key Point: The political situation in Israel during Jesus' life demonstrated the desperate need for God's people to be _____ from the hand of their enemies by their promised Messiah.

- We believe that Jesus was rejected by both _____ and _____ (all mankind) as the One sent by God to testify to the Truth.

Jesus' Trial Before Pilate — John 18:28-19:16

Important Observations:

1. The events of the trial were ultimately for the purpose of _____ the Word of the Lord. (18:28-32)
2. The overall theme of this section of Scripture is Jesus' true _____. (18:33-36)
3. Jesus declares that the _____ of His incarnation was that He might bear witness to the truth. (18:37-38a)
4. Pilate sought to both _____ the Jews and _____ their subjugation. (18:38b-19:5)
5. The Jews rejected Jesus because He had so clearly identified Himself as _____. (19:6-7)
6. Jesus recognized both that God was _____ over these events and those involved were _____ and would be held accountable for their part in them. (19:8-11)
7. Both Pilate and the Jews were _____ of sin before the Lord. (19:12-16)

Pilate:

The Jews:

"By vehemently insisting that they have no king but Caesar, they are not only rejecting Jesus' Messianic claims, they are abandoning Israel's messianic hope as a matter of principle, rejecting *any* claimant, ('We have *no king* by Caesar'), and finally disowning the kingship of the LORD himself. 'Their repudiation of Jesus in the name of a pretended loyalty to the emperor entailed their repudiation of the promise of the kingdom of God, with which the gift of the Messiah is inseparably bound in Jewish faith, and [their] vocation to be its heir, its instrument and its proclaimer to the nations.'" —D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*

Key Point: Both Pilate and the Jews failed to recognize the significance of the historical moment in which they found themselves. In contrast, Jesus _____ Himself to God and bore witness to the Truth in spite of the difficulty of His circumstances.

Concluding Thoughts

1. The historical events surrounding the life and death of Jesus Christ confront us with a _____.
2. Our historical moment presents to us an _____.