

Announcements

Sermons on youtube, other videos, Facebook, Instagram

Sunday Service Order

Welcome to the current, new normal for Community Bible Church. We are so glad you are here. We want to open today with a reminder that God is Sovereign over all, including our current concerns. The God who is over all is also the God who made us, knows us, loves us, and is currently, actively, presently caring for us. Our focus for today is dependance on our sovereign God for perseverance in affliction and difficulty...Let's pray...

Prayer - God Over All

In Matthew and Mark's accounts of Christ's passion we see the same phrase occurring in both accounts (Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26) immediately after Jesus and his disciples observe the Passover meal. Jesus has already washed feet, silenced the arguments of hierarchy, predicted his betrayal, and established the Lord's Supper as a new practice for his disciples when both Gospel authors inform us that the meal concluded "when they had sung a hymn".

In Jewish tradition, the Hillel "Passover Psalms" 113-118 were sung during and after the meal. Typically, Psalms 113-114 were sung during the meal and Psalms 115-118 were sung at the close of the meal. Today we will be reading Psalm 116. Can you imagine the heart of Jesus as he sings this prophetic song about himself to conclude the Passover? G. Campbell Morgan says of this song in Psalms : "Whatever the local circumstances which gave rise to this song, it is evident that all its rich meaning was fulfilled, when in the midst of that little company of perplexed souls, the shadows of the One Death already on Him, Jesus sang this song of prophetic triumph over the sharpness of the hour of passion to which He was passing. He has re-made it all His own as their triumph song over death."

Psalm 116

Today already we have recognized God's sovereignty over our world, the special love God has for us as the pinnacle of his creation, and the work of Jesus to save us from

eternal separation from God on the cross of Calvary. And as we rightfully revel in and celebrate our salvation purchased by Christ through God's grace and mercy, as Tyler preached last week, we still live in the tension of the brokenness of our world; we live in this "already, but not yet" where we know the presence and peace of God is not fully here as we will one day know it. What do we do with that? Well, we don't throw up our hands and say "whatever, God. Your will be done in our current situation." No. Rather, God is pleased when we intercede for our world and the pain, death, and brokenness around us. We want to do that now as we pray together...

Congregational Prayer for our families/church/neighbors/government/world

Testimony

Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians expresses some of this "already, but not yet" and why it exists for us here and now. II Corinthians 4:10 says, "Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies." Death might here mean the process of dying, the decay, suffering and brokenness in the world. The enemies of Christ wanted Paul dead just as they had killed Jesus. Paul endured threats, arrests, beatings, and eventually martyrdom. Paul felt a solidarity with Jesus in his suffering. Meanwhile "the life of Jesus was revealed in his body" as he was not crushed, did not despair, was not abandoned, and was not knocked out. The sufferings of Paul were not random, but part of God's sovereign plan to spread the Gospel just as the sufferings of Christ were part of God's sovereign plan to BRING the Gospel. God has determined to use "plain empty jars of clay" (us) to show the power and glory of God. In v.12, Paul included the church at Corinth in this process, "So death works in us, but life in you", which means that while Paul is threatened with death, the church benefits by being saved by the Gospel that Paul delivered to them.

2 Corinthians 4:8-18

Our affliction is light compared to what others suffer.

Our affliction is light compared to what we deserve.

Our affliction is light compared to what Jesus suffered for us.

Our affliction is light compared to the blessings we enjoy.

Our affliction is light as we experience the sustaining power of God's grace.

Our affliction is light when we see the glory that it leads to.

Prayer - Divine Promises

God is meeting me right now... - congregational sharing

Closing Prayer

Presenting the idea of communion next week - being prepared.

Prayer - God Over All

O God, All Sufficient, You have made and you uphold all things by the power of your word. Dark and light are yours. You walk on the wings of the wind.

All nations are nothing before you and as one generation succeeds another we hurry back to the dust of death. The heavens we see will vanish away like the clouds that cover them from sight. The earth we walk on will dissolve like a morning dream.

But you, unchangeable and incorruptible, are for ever and for ever, God over all, blessed eternally. You are infinitely great and infinitely glorious.

We are the offspring of your thought and the object of your affection.

Your hands made and fashioned us. You have watched over us with a love greater than a parent and more tender than a mother. You have held onto our souls in life and not allowed our feet to be moved. Your divine power has given us all things needed for life and godliness.

Allow us to praise you at all times, that we would never forget how you have forgiven our sins, healed our diseases, redeemed our lives from destruction, crowned us with lovingkindness and tender mercy, satisfied our mouths with good things, and renewed our youth like the eagle's.

May your Holy Scriptures govern every part of our lives, and order the fulfillment of our duties, so that we may lift up your truth in all things.

Psalm 116

I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.
Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!
Death wrapped its ropes around me; the terrors of the grave overtook me.

I saw only trouble and sorrow.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Please, Lord, save me!"
How kind the Lord is! How good he is! So merciful, this God of ours!
The Lord protects those of childlike faith; I was facing death, and he saved me.
Let my soul be at rest again, for the Lord has been good to me.

He has saved me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

And so I walk in the Lord's presence as I live here on earth!

I believed in you, so I said, "I am deeply troubled, Lord."

In my anxiety I cried out to you, "These people are all liars!"

What can I offer the Lord for all he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the Lord's name for saving me.

I will keep my promises to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

The Lord cares deeply when his loved ones die.

O Lord, I am your servant; yes, I am your servant, born into your household;
you have freed me from my chains.

I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people—

in the house of the Lord in the heart of Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

2 Corinthians 4:8-18

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.

Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies.

So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.

All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Divine Promises

Glorious Jehovah, my Covenant God, all your promises in Christ are yes and amen,
And all of them will be fulfilled. You have spoken them - and they will be done.
You have commanded - they will come to pass.

Still, I have often doubted you and have lived at times as if there was no God.
Lord, forgive me this death in life, when I have found something apart from you,
When I have been content with temporal and passing things.

But through your grace I have repented; You have blessed me to read my pardon in
the wounds of Jesus, and my soul does trust in him -
my God made flesh, the ground of my life and the spring of my hope.

Teach me to be joyfully resigned to your will, to delight in your law,
to have no direction that comes from me but from you,
to believe that everything you do is for my good.

Help me to leave my concerns in your hands, for you have power over evil, and bring
from it an infinite progression of good until all of your purposes are fulfilled.

Bless me with the faith of Abraham that does not stumble at promises through
unbelief. Help me not to instruct you in my troubles,
but glorify you in my trials.

Give me a clear push forward in the divine life. Allow that I would leave the mists of
doubt and fear in the valley, and climb to the hill tops of eternal security in Christ
by simply believing he cannot lie and will not turn from his purpose.

Give me the confidence I ought to have in him who is worthy to be praised,
and who is blessed for evermore.