

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

ORGANIZED 1786

VOL. 18, NO. 10
JULY, 1987

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

CHURCH OBSERVES PASTOR'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Bryan Station Baptist Church will be commemorating the 25th anniversary of their Pastor Alfred M. Gormley this month. Brother Gormley, a native of Lexington, was associate pastor at Bryan Station under Brother Jim Masterson before becoming full time pastor on July 8, 1962.

Our pastor has led the church into mission work covering a great amount of printing, monthly mission reports, leaflets, and books which number in the thousands and are sent to several countries of the world. Under his leadership, we have sent many missionaries out of our church into our own country and to a score of foreign countries. In addition, we assist fifty or more missionaries sent out from sister churches. All of this can be credited to Pastor Gormley's belief in following the Great Commission. He is involved in every ministry of the church's outreach yet stays close to his people.

In the pulpit he preaches the whole counsel of God, regardless of the popularity of the message, yet it is with compassion and a prayerful heart depending on the Holy Spirit to convict. Over the past 25 years, he has preached messages to sanctify and edify. He encourages the members to always evaluate their Christian walk, to be faithful to the Lord and His church, to serve others in order to be happy, to look to the Lord's coming so that we can keep our mind off the world, to study God's word daily, to pray without ceasing, to witness to our fellow man, to be selfless, and to think ahead and plan to grow in the Lord.

Our pastor, although tall and intimidating in his body, is inwardly a humble man, burdened about lost sinners, concerned about the members of the church the Lord has placed him overseer. During a crisis or a time of need, our pastor never knows the limits of time or circumstance.

Most importantly, during his 25-year ministry, Pastor Gormley has been strong in the Lord and has led our church to stand for righteousness in a time when true Christian living is being challenged. For this, we have been blessed beyond measure.



A PLEA FOR APPRECIATION

C. D. Cole

INTRODUCTION:

What is our deepest need as Christians? Is it not a deeper appreciation of the Saviour? Is it not more love for the Master? The love that led Paul to say "for to me, to live is Christ." How can this need be supplied? How can we have more love for the Saviour? How can we have deeper appreciation for our Redeemer?

Are you satisfied with the love you have for Christ? Are you as appreciative of Him as you ought to be? If you are, then this message will not mean much to you.

How can we appreciate any benefactor? Is it not by a realization of what he has done for us? How can a husband appreciate his wife? Is it not by realizing her worth as a wife: her faithfulness to him, her sacrifices for him, her willingness to toil and labor with him, her confidence in him, her subjection to him? Here is a wife who needs to appreciate her husband more. How can she do it? Is it not by a realization of his worth as a husband: his faithfulness, his willingness to toil and labor, his confidence in her, his protection of her, his love for her?

Now it is in the same way we learn to appreciate Christ more; it is by a deeper realization of His worth to us as Saviour. Is there a man here who thinks he can get along without Christ? As long as you think that way, of course, there is no hope you will appreciate Him. If we are to appreciate Christ more we must have a deeper realization of what He is to us. We must see more clearly how much He has done for us.

Our Lord tells of a certain creditor who had two debtors: the one owed him 500 pence, the other owed 50. When they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. He then turned to Simon, to whom He told the story, and asked which of the two would love him most? Simon answered, "I suppose the one to whom he forgave most." And he was right. To appreciate and love a person, that person must have been a blessing to us. "We love Him because He first loved us." Nobody can love God who has not first been loved by God. The heathen have their Gods, but they do not love them, because their gods do not love them. They fear their gods, but do not love them.

Now back to our question, How can we love and appreciate Christ more? It is by thinking and realizing how much He has done for us--how much our salvation cost Him--what sacrifices He made for us.

As we study this question we learn that every blessing we have was an expense to Him. Spiritual and eternal blessings are free to us but they cost Him dearly. Whatever we have, it cost Him the opposite.

I. We are rich, even heirs of God, but our riches meant poverty to Him. II Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." We are rich in eternal things. I Peter 1:4, "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in

heaven for you." It is a rare thing--about as rare as hen's teeth--to hear of a rich man making himself poor that some poor man might become rich. The rich young ruler went away sorrowful when Christ told him to sell all he had and give to the poor and then come follow him in a life of poverty. That's what Christ did. He was rich and gave it all away that poor sinners might be rich before God.

II. We have everlasting life. This does not mean everlasting existence, but it means existence forever in the favor and under the blessings of God. John 10:10, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Now this life cost Christ an awful death. Not merely physical death, but it meant the wrath of God upon Him. He was punished by God that we might go unpunished.

III. We have a perfect righteousness before God. Romans 3:21, "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets." See also Romans 10:4, and I Corinthians 1:30. Now the righteousness we have cost Christ the experiences of a sinner. II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." We could not be counted righteous if He had not been counted and treated as

sin.

IV. We have redemption. Redemption means the rescue and deliverance from the curse of the law. Israel was redeemed from the dangers of life under the oppressive Pharaoh of Egypt. But the redemption we have is from the dangers of a just law that we had broken. Now our rescue or deliverance cost Christ the fearful experience of getting in the toils of the law and receiving the curse from that law. Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

V. We have forgiveness. Ephesians 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." To forgive means that we do not hold a person to account for the wrong he does us. To act towards a person who has wronged us as though he had not wronged us. Now forgiveness with God means that God does not hold us to account for the sin we have committed against Him. Suppose He does hold us to account for our sins before Him as a lawgiver. No hope for any of us. Now our forgiveness cost Christ His life. Ephesians 1:7. God forgave us but He did not forgive His Son. God did not hold us to account for our sins but He held His Son to account Romans 8:33.

"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." "Jesus paid it all."

VI. We have soul-satisfaction. The opposite is spoken under the figure of thirsting. We usually limit thirst to a desire for water. One of the most terrible

experiences we can have in the body is to thirst for water. The most terrible death is to perish for lack of water. What is the most terrible pain I ever had? It was my thirst for water when the doctors said I had appendicitis. Now, soul thirst is to crave salvation. Now Christ used this figure of thirst in speaking of salvation. John 7:37 and 38, "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." See also John 6:35. Now this soul-satisfaction we have cost Christ awful thirst on Calvary. He cried on the cross, "I thirst," and what was the human response? Just vinegar mingled with gall. What was the divine response? None at all. God's hand did not reach down from heaven and give Him to drink. And that thirst of body was not as awful as His thirst of soul. What was His soul craving? His Father's presence. Who satisfies the longing soul? Psalm 107:9, "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." And on the cross Christ did not have the presence of God. He did not have Him who alone can satisfy the soul. Christ thirsted in body and soul that you and I might not thirst forever.

VII. We have peace with God. Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." This means that God's government is not waging war with us. Nations of Europe were trying to keep the peace with Germany. They felt helpless under the iron heel of Hitler. They made concessions to keep

him from declaring war against them. But if peace with Germany was desired, how much more should peace with God be desired?

Now our peace with God cost Christ His life's blood. Colossians 1:20, "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." He made the supreme sacrifice on the bloody battlefield of Calvary. He allowed God to make war against Himself that you and I might have peace. You and I were on the battlefield in a war of rebellion against God. God's tanks and dive bombers and all the arsenal of justice were being sent against us. Then Christ stepped in, pushed us out of the path of danger, and received in Himself the weapons of divine vengeance. And we have peace through faith in Him.

CONCLUSION: Now, brethren, what do you think about Him? How do you feel towards Him? How are you going to treat His commandments? He says, "If ye love me keep my commandments." And every commandment in this new testament and every moral commandment in the whole Bible is His commandment. Here is one of His commandments I want you to ponder as we end this message. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you," Ephesians 4:32.

Jesus Christ
is Lord