



*“growing a family
to reach a community”*

Loving God, loving one another, and embracing
our community and world with Jesus

Lord's Day Worship

September 20, 2020

Call to Worship

Psalm 86:8-10

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymn #295

Opening Prayer

Confessing Our Sins Together

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

“And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Lord, you always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and despised your commands. In the midst of all of your blessings, we have forgotten you.

In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your anger away from us and lay it upon Christ. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy. And we ask in the name of the One who made this mercy possible—the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rejoicing in Our Forgiveness

Ephesians 2:12-13

... remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Song

Because He Lives

Song

Praying for our Missionaries

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Speak, O Lord

Song

Hearing God's Word Together

The Gospel According to Acts

Acts 8. 4-25

The Gospel in Samaria

Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

Song

Benediction

Luke 2:29-32

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

Scripture Reading

Acts 8. 4-25 (English Standard Version)

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

⁹ But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. ¹⁰ They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." ¹¹ And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." ²⁴ And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

²⁵ Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

The Gospel According to Acts
Acts 8. 4-25
The Gospel in Samaria

I. A “Great” Man (vs. 9-11)

“... saying that he himself was somebody great.”

II. A Surprising “Conversion” (vs. 12-13)

“... Philip preached ... the name of Jesus Christ.”

III. A Vital Visit (vs. 14-17)

“... they sent to them Peter and John.”

IV. A Sobering Response (vs. 18-25)

“... your heart is not right before God ...”

V. Some Applications

- A. The church will always have “ _____ ” in its midst.
- B. We must reject any combination of faith and _____.
- C. The gospel always compels us to move _____.

Sermon Quotes and References

It is hard for us to conceive the boldness of the step Philip took in preaching the gospel to the Samaritans. For the hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans had lasted over a thousand years. It began with the break-up of the monarchy in the tenth century BC when ten tribes defected, making Samaria their capital, and only two tribes remained loyal to Jerusalem. It became steadily worse when Samaria was captured by Assyria in 722 BC, thousands of its inhabitants were deported, and the country was re-populated by foreigners. In the sixth century BC, when the Jews returned to their land, they refused the help of the Samaritans in the rebuilding of the temple. Not till the fourth century BC, however, did the Samaritan schism harden, with the building of their rival temple on Mount Gerizim and their repudiation of all Old Testament Scripture except the Pentateuch. The Samaritans were despised by the Jews as hybrids in both race and religion, as both heretics and disloyal dividers. John summed up the situation in his simple statement that ‘Jews do not associate with Samaritans’ (Jn.4.9).

John Stott, *The Message of Acts*

Acts records the transition in redemptive history when God, for our sake, had to make it clear that His gifts were no longer limited to Jews. In fact, Acts begins by telling us that the Apostles would witness to Christ first in Jerusalem, then in Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth (1:8). Notably, the Spirit baptisms Luke records in Acts conform to this geographic spread of the gospel: Jews in Jerusalem, God-fearers in Judea, Samaritans in Samaria, and Gentiles, who represent the ends of the earth. These baptisms confirm that none who are welcomed into God’s kingdom through faith in Christ alone are second-class citizens.

“The Baptism of the Holy Spirit”, Ligonier Ministries

This Week:

- Today 3D Youth Group, 6:00 p.m. at church
- Tuesday Ladies 2 *Kings* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. at church
- Ladies *Romans* Bible Study Intro, 6:30 p.m. at church
- Wednesday..... Nowicki's HFG, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- Thursday..... *Revelation* Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Men's *Genesis* Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. at church
- Friday..... B.& C. Lacock's HFG, 5:30 p.m. at the Pavilion