

Notes on the Sermon

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

“The World Isn’t Getting Any Wiser”

Our core convictions:

SOLA SCRIPTURA: **Scripture alone** is the written word of God. The Bible is the sole and final authority for faith and practice.

SOLA GRATIA: God’s grace alone saves us from God’s just wrath through the death of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not in any sense a human work or accomplishment but is totally and completely the gift of God.

SOLUS CHRISTUS: Christ alone is the eternal Son of God whose sinless life and atoning death redeem us for God. Christ *alone* has accomplished all that is necessary for our salvation and eternal life is found in no one else but Christ.

SOLA FIDE: Faith alone—apart from all human work or merit—is the instrument of our salvation. Faith is a gift bestowed upon us in Christ for our salvation. God justifies sinners (declares them right with Himself) by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone.

SOLI DEO GLORIA: God’s glory alone is to be the purpose for which we live and the aim of our worship. We believe worship should affect daily life. For this reason, we seek to focus on God in our worship rather than entertainment values or personal needs. The Church gathers on the Lord’s Day to rejoice in the mighty acts of God and to worship Him in ways He has commanded and that are consistent with the principles of His word.

Welcome to Redeemer!

Coffee and other refreshments are available after the service. A time of learning with classes for all ages begins at **10:45AM** and a nursery is provided.

Also today . . .

Christian Education Committee Meeting (10:30AM).
This is a brief organizational meeting.

Next Lord’s Day . . .

Church Fellowship (immediately following Sunday School). Weather permitting, we will gather at the home of **Bobby & Ann Galya** for a cookout. The swimming pool will be open for those who enjoy the water. A sign up sheet for this event is on the information table. *Plan to be there!*

Did you know . . . ?

Recent sermons are available online for listening or download at www.rpcdickson.org. *Tell a friend!*

For Redeemer Members . . .

Average Weekly Offerings to Date \$1,919
Weekly Budget Needs \$1,955
Offering for July 17, 2011..... \$1,779

Worship Ministry

Pam Spence, *Music Director* • Patti Robertson, *Pianist* • Ann Galya, *Vocalist*

Serving You

Katlynn Karnes, Clay McKinney, & John Stevens, *Sound & Recording*
Mary Karnes, *Treasurer* • Anita Berkey & Bonnie Madden, *Finance Clerks*
Vickie Stevens, *Prayer Letter Editor* (vns2js@gmail.com)
Fred & Emma Primm, *July Facility Volunteers*

Childcare Attendants

Dot Barnhill & Linda Greene (9:00AM) • Emma Primm (10:45AM)
Donna Taylor, *Children’s Ministry Director*

Leadership Team

R. Neil Spence, D. Min., *Pastor* (nspence@rpcdickson.org)
Ken Brown, *Assistant Pastor* (kbrown@rpcdickson.org)
Jim Berkey • Phil Chadwick • Ron Robertson, *Ruling Elders*
Blake Chadwick • Clay McKinney • Boyd Taylor, *Deacons*

SERVICE FOR The Lord’s Day

July 24, 2011

Words of Greeting & Opening Prayer

Season of Praise

Stand Up and Bless the Lord
There Is a Fountain

The Morning Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory Sentences

The Offertory

Act of Praise *The Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Psalter Psalm 54

Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

Sermon *The World Isn’t Getting Any Wiser*
Pastor Neil Spence, *Preaching*

The Lord’s Supper

Response *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

The Blessing

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Meeting at 7 Valley West Drive, Dickson, Tennessee 37055

(615) 740-7898 • email@rpcdickson.org • www.rpcdickson.org

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

Stand up and bless the Lord,
You people of His choice;
Stand up and bless the Lord your God
With heart and soul and voice.

Though high above all praise,
Above all blessing high,
Who would not fear His holy name,
And laud and magnify?

O for the living flame
From His own altar brought,
To touch our lips, our minds inspire,
And wing to heav'n our thought!

God is our strength and song,
And His salvation ours;
Then be His love in Christ proclaimed
With all our ransomed pow'rs.

Stand up and bless the Lord,
The Lord your God adore;
Stand up and bless His glorious name
Henceforth forevermore.

Words by James Montgomery. Tune: CARLISLE S.M. by Charles Lockhart.

There Is a Fountain

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains;
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away;
Washed all my sins away;
Washed all my sins away,
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Your precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more;
Be saved to sin no more,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

Words by William Cowper, 1771.
Tune: FOUNTAIN 8.6.8.6.6.6.8.6. by Lowell Mason, 1830.

Psalm 54

- 1 By Your name, O God, now save me;
Grant me justice by Your strength.
- 2 To these words of mine give answer;
O my God, now hear my prayer.
- 3 Strangers have come up against me,
Even men of violence.
And they seek my life's destruction;
God is not within their thoughts.
- 4 See how God has been my helper,
How my Lord sustains my soul:
- 5 To my foes He pays back evil—
In Your truth destroy them all!
- 6 I will sacrifice with gladness;
Your good name I'll praise, O LORD.
- 7 He has saved me from all trouble;
I have looked on all my foes.

Words from *The Book of Psalm for Worship*.
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Tune: EBENEZER 87.87.D. Traditional Welsh melody;
arr. by Thomas J. Williams, 1890. Used by permission.

Psalm Notes

Psalm 54 is a psalm of David. It comes from a period of severe trial and commemorates a particular incident in David's life. It reflects a wild and dangerous time in which the Israelites were under continual attack from their enemies and yet, king Saul was continually occupied with seeking the life of David. It was also during this time that Saul murdered eighty-five of the Lord's priests simply because they had shown kindness to David (1Samuel 22). Saul's atrocities broke David's heart.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's passing dream,
When death's cold, threatening stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O lift me safe above, a ransomed soul!

Words by Ray Palmer. Tune: OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4. BY Lower mason.

David was a hunted man, hated without a cause, and constantly betrayed as he was in the circumstances that gave birth to **Psalm 54** (1Samuel 23:19; 26:1).

It is important always to keep in mind that David was the Lord's anointed and the things that happened to him happened to him—not for his own sake alone—but for the sake of Christ and for all who are in Christ.

Christ has defeated all His and our enemies, triumphing over them in His cross and resurrection. When He comes again in glory, the victory will be complete (1Corinthians 15:24-26). Until that day, He leads us in singing and praying this psalm. We are not good enough to call for God's righteous judgment upon our enemies, but Christ is and has already prayed for us. He takes note of the oppression of His people. In this we can take refuge.

There are two parts to our psalm, divided in Hebrew by the word *Selah* at the end of **54:3**. The first part is a prayer for deliverance. The second part expresses gratitude of deliverance received. We sing both parts because of our confidence in our King.