

# THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

November 12, 2017  
Six O'clock

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

Yet once more, let me remind you that the ensign of this [new] covenant is faith. Under the old covenant, it was, and always would have been, works; but, under the new covenant, it is faith. Do you believe? Then you are in Christ, and all the blessings of the covenant of grace are yours. Do you accept Christ to stand as your Substitute? Do you lay hold on this covenant, and claim an interest in it for your own soul? Do you cast yourself wholly upon Him who kept that covenant for you? Then, it is yours; and God speaks to you, my believing hearer, as though there were no other person in the whole universe, and He says to you, "I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean; I will put My law in your mind, and write it on your heart; and I will give you a new heart and a right spirit. From all your uncleanness will I cleanse you, and you shall be My child, and I will be your Father and your God." What a covenant of grace this is...the next question I want to answer. HOW CAN WE LAY HOLD OF IT? ...Well, the first thing that I must do is, I must loosen my hold of the old covenant. Oh, what dolts, what fools, men are to cling to the old covenant, which can never do anything but curse them! You say that you hope to be saved by keeping God's law; but, man, you have already broken that law! If you had a beautiful vase in your home, and it had the slightest crack or flaw in it anywhere, it would not be a perfect work of art. Now, the law of God is so tender and delicate, and enters so into the spirituality of man's nature, that even a sinful thought spoils the perfection of obedience to it; and you have had a great many more than one sinful thought, I know, whoever you may be. And many an idle word have you uttered; and, I fear, many a wrong act have you done. You have broken the law to shivers; it is clear that you cannot keep it. It is absurd and wicked for you to talk of doing so. But you will try to do your best, you say. Well, then, if it is your deliberate choice to come under the law, let me tell you what the law requires of you. It says, "Cursed is everyone that continues not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."

That is all you will ever get out of the law—a curse. You may try to keep it till you wear the skin from your bones; but that is all it will ever give you, for you have not continued in all

things that are written in the book of the law to do them, so your deficiencies and your transgressions must inevitably bring a curse upon your head. I pray you, if you are in your right senses, to have done with that old covenant of works... The law brings sin to our knowledge as we see what its demands are, but it never kills sin. It never thinks of pardoning sin, it makes no provision for anything of the kind; so, dear friends, let all your good works go; let all confidence in your prayers—all confidence in your own repentance—all confidence in anything that you can do or be—let it all go; do not retain a rag of it. If you do, it will be like keeping something that is full of the seeds of disease and death... "Well," you say, "when this is done how am I to take hold of the covenant?" Well, the main plan is by believing in Christ Jesus unto the salvation of your soul. Say, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; I am a sinner, Lord, and I lay hold on You, and trust You to save me. I know that You bid burdened souls to come to You, and I am a burdened soul; so, Lord, I come, and I hang upon that gracious invitation of Yours, 'Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'" (*from a sermon by Charles Spurgeon*)

### Call to Worship ..... Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—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. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### Invocation ..... Rev. Ben Griffith

**Songbook 64**..... O, Day of Rest and Gladness  
*(Children dismissed on last verse to pack OCC boxes)*

**Grace Moments** ..... Deacon Candidates: Brad Bailey and Rob King

**Hymn 355**..... We are God's People

**Scripture Reading** ..... Isaiah 56:1-8

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon**..... Rev. Ben Shaw

**Hymn 131**..... Children of the Heavenly Father

**Benediction**

**Postlude**



*November 12, 2017*

*6:00 p.m.*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI