

**"RESTORING GRACE" from "The Faithful Promiser"
(John MacDuff)**

"I will heal their backsliding!" Hosea 14:4

Wandering again! And has He not left me to perish? Stumbling and straying on the dark mountains, away from the Shepherd's eye and the Shepherd's fold, shall He not leave the erring wanderer to the fruit of his own ways, and his truant heart to go hopelessly onward in its career of guilty estrangement?

"My thoughts," says God, "are not as your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways." Man would say, "Go, perish! ungrateful apostate!" God says, "Return, O backsliding children!"

The Shepherd will not, cannot, allow those sheep to perish, whom He has purchased with His own blood! How wondrous His forbearance towards His wandering sheep! - tracking its guilty steps, and not ceasing the pursuit until He lays the wanderer on His shoulders and returns with it to His fold rejoicing! My soul! why increase by farther departures, your own distance from the fold? Why lengthen the dreary road your gracious Shepherd has to traverse in bringing you back? Do not delay your return! Do not provoke His patience any longer! Do not venture farther on forbidden ground! He waits with outstretched arms to welcome you once more to His tender bosom! Be humble for the past, trust Him for the future. Think of your former backslidings, and tremble - Think of His patience, and be filled with holy gratitude; think of His promised grace, "and take courage."

Excerpt from **"God Our Salvation"** by **William Gadsby**

"You and I stand on the verge of an eternal world, and unless God himself say to the soul, "I am thy salvation," we must eternally perish. The great body of professors of religion are quite satisfied in talking about or hearing of a salvation. They tell us what great salvation God has accomplished for us, if we will but close in with it, if we will but do our part; and other professors please themselves with talking about the discriminating doctrines of the gospel, and more or less ridicule the inward teachings and workings of God the Spirit in the soul, and the feelings of the poor sinner under them. But whenever the Lord the Spirit circumcises the heart of a sinner by the knife of the law, he lays his heart open, and lets the contents of the heart begin to ooze up with abominable filth, guilt, and horrors. Nothing will then do for the soul short of the Lord speaking, and saying to such a soul, "I am thy salvation."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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6/18/17

Call To Worship

God's wisdom formed the vast design
To ransom us when lost;
And Christ's own blood and righteousness
Provided all the costs. (REPEAT)

Strict justice with approving look,
God's covenant was sealed;
When God incarnate undertook
To see the whole fulfilled. (REPEAT)

Now sin appears deserving death
And would its curse impose;
But Christ our Substitute and Head
Has lived and died and rose. (REPEAT)

Upon the merits of His blood,
Secure and saved by grace;
We dare approach the throne of God
In Christ who took our place. (REPEAT)

(Tune: "All Things Work Out For Good ", pg.267)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Judy Ward; Cindy Brantly; Emily Dubose;
Devonne Lewis; Dusty Adams; Lydia Headrick

Happy Anniversary This Week:

Buddy and Lynn Taylor - June 20

Happy Birthday This Week:

Josh Dyess - June 21

Next Sunday After Services:

Women's Bible Study and Fellowship Meal

From William Mason's "Evening Thought"

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever." Lam. 3:31.

“Then there is no danger of perishing. Let us live as we list: walk after the imagination of our hearts: and fulfil the desires of the flesh and of the mind.” Is this the natural language of such a faith? This the genuine influence of such a hope? This the conduct resulting from the knowledge of God’s everlasting love? Yes, say some, if we could believe such doctrine, we should so act. Such sadly betray their ignorance of the sanctifying influence of divine truth, upon the heart and life. This day shalt thou be with me in paradise, says our Saviour to the expiring thief. (Luke 23:43.) Could he hence find it in his heart to say, then will I blaspheme thee again as I did just now? O no. The grace of God, which brings salvation to our souls, teaches otherwise. The goodness of God, which keeps us from hell, and preserves us safe to glory, leadeth us to repentance. And faith in the covenant love, and gracious promises of the Lord, encourages us to hope for pardon from him, because he will not cast off for ever. This was the glorious confession of the faithful, when under the severe chastising rod of God. Then is the season, to call to mind the Lord’s everlasting love and covenant faithfulness. He loves as a Father, therefore he corrects us as children. He hates our sins, at the same time that he loves our persons. If he makes us smart, it is to make us confess and pray. If he puts us into the furnace of afflictions, it is that we may glorify the Lord in the fires. (Isa. 24:15.) This cannot be done by unbelief, saying, the love of my covenant God and Father, is changed into the hatred of a vindictive wrathful enemy—he has cast me off from being his son, and will eternally punish me in hell. Such doctrine never brought a soul back to God with genuine humility, and godly sorrow. No. It is faith in God’s unchangeable love, and covenant faithfulness in Christ Jesus that glorifies him, brings the poor sinner to him, humbles the heart before him, and causes the soul to cry out with tears of deepest gratitude, wretch that I am, by any base conduct to offend that loving Lord, who hates putting away, and will not cast off for ever! Lord Jesus grant that the belief of this truth may bind me closer than ever to thyself. We can assure our hearts of this precious truth. (1st.) “*Because we are the children of God by faith in Christ.*” (Gal. 3:26.) (2d.) “*If children then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.*” (Rom.8:17.) And (3d.) “*We are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.*” 1 Pet. 1:5.

Who have such glorious cause to sing,
And triumph all their days,
As children of the heav’nly king,
Sav’d by his sovereign grace?

Not loved now, cast off anon,
This is not precious faith:
God ever loves us in his Son,
We joy in what he saith.