

July 18, 2010

*The Christian's state in this life is described as wrestling. It is a solitary battle, a one against one fight. The Christian's life is a continual warfare and so he needs a sword as much as a trowel. The Christian is assailed on every side by the enemy. When he is praying, Satan and the flesh are prattling to drown out his cry. Bathe your soul with frequent meditations of Christ's love; it will make you disdain the very offer of sin. Do not say you love him as long as you can lay sin in your bosom, which pierced his heart. It would be a strange thing for a child to keep and delight to use no other knife but the one with which his father was stabbed. As a wise wrestler, fall with all your weight upon your enemy. Do not let it breathe or rise. The state of grace only begins our warfare against sin. O how this should make us long to be at home, where there is no stir and scuffle; where there are no swords but palms; no drums, but harps; no groans of bleeding soldiers and wounded consciences, but sweet and wonderful music of praise to our God and the Lamb. Comfort yourselves with these things. There is a place of rest for the people of God. Here, we overcome only to fight again. The battle of one temptation may be over, but the war remains. What peace can we have as long as devils can come out of their holes? But when death comes, the last stroke is struck. The good physician will perfectly cure you of all spiritual blindness and lameness. What is it, Christian, that takes away the joy of your life but combat? Is it not life that is loss, and death that is gain? Peace is sweet after war, and what tongue can express, what joy, what glory must fill the creature at the first sight of God and that blessed company. None but those who dwell there can tell.*

– William Gurnall



## Proclaiming the Sovereign Majesty of God

*There was, to be sure, that unforgettable lecture day at Dedham, some time in the 1620s, when the great John Rogers bore down on his 500 hearers for neglecting the Bible:*

*He personates God to the people, telling them, 'Well, I have trusted you so long with my Bible...it lies in such and such houses all covered with dust and cobwebs; you care not to listen to it. Do you use my Bible so? Well, you shall have my Bible no longer.' And he takes up the Bible from his cushion, and seemed as if he were going away with it and carrying it from them, but immediately turns again and personates the people to God, falls down on his knees, cries and pleads most earnestly. 'Lord, whatever thou dost to us, take not thy Bible from us; kill our children, burn our houses, destroy our goods, only spare us thy Bible, take not away thy Bible'. And then he personates God again to the people: 'Say you so? Well I will try you a while longer; and here is my Bible for you, I will see how you will use it, whether you will love it more...observe it more...practice it more, and live more according to it.'*

– John Rogers

Pastor Jess Smith  
Sunday School at 9:00 am  
Worship at 10:15 am  
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**July 18, 2010**

*Please enter reverently and silence all communication devices.  
Parents with crying children may use the conference room.*

**Preparation for Worship**

*A Prayer of Moses the man of God.*

*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.”  
Psalm 90:1-2 (ESV)*

*Prelude to Worship.....Amelia Kelly  
Glen Harper*

*Chiming of the Hour*

**Invocation**

*“Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
as when fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!”  
Isaiah 64:1-2 (ESV)*

*\*Call to Worship..... How Great Thou Art (page 4)*

*\*Scripture Reading.....Zechariah 2:13*

*Confession of Sin and Pastoral Prayer*

**Adoration**

*“Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!  
For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!”  
Psalm 117 (ESV)*

*Hymn..... Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty (page 61)  
\*Hallelujah, What a Savior! (page 175)*

*\*Scripture Reading..... Revelation 8:1-5*

*Worship in Tithes and Offerings.....Amelia Kelly  
Glen Harper*

**Exposition**

*“Then Philip opened his mouth,  
and beginning with this Scripture  
he told him the good news about Jesus.”  
Acts 8:35 (ESV)*

*Pastor Jess Smith.....Zechariah 2:13*

**Consecration**

*“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts,  
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if  
one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has  
forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which  
binds everything together in perfect harmony.”  
Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV)*

*\*Hymn of Commitment ..... Great Is Thy Faithfulness  
(page 43)*

**Benediction**

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”  
Romans 15:13 (ESV)*

*Postlude.....Amelia Kelly  
Glen Harper*

*\*Congregation please stand*