

## A “Fair Summer” Religion: God Glorified in **John Wesley’s** Awakening

By the most infallible of proofs . . . **I am convinced:**

1. of **Unbelief**; having no such faith in Christ as will prevent my heart from being troubled, which it could not be if I believed in God, and rightly believed also in Him;
2. of **Pride**, throughout my life past, inasmuch as I thought I had what I find **I have not**;
3. of **Gross Non-recollection**, inasmuch as in a storm I cry to God every moment; in a calm, *not*:
4. of **Levity and Luxuriance of spirit** recurring whenever the pressure is taken off, and appearing by my speaking words not tending to edify; but most, by my manner of speaking of my enemies.

*Lord, save, or I perish! Save me!*

I went to America to convert the Indians; but Oh! **Who shall convert me?** Who, -what is He that will deliver me from this evil heart of unbelief? I have a **fair summer religion**. I can talk well, *and believe myself* while no danger (*temptation, cost, frustration, etc.*) is near. But let death look me in the face, and my spirit is troubled . . .

But **what have I learned** myself in the meantime?

Why (*what I the least of all suspected*), **that I** who went to America to convert others **was never myself converted to God . . .**

**All** my works, my righteousness, my prayers **need an atonement for themselves!**

So that my mouth is stopped. I have nothing to plead. God is holy. I am unholy. God is a consuming fire: I am altogether a sinner, suitable only to be consumed. . .

I had so long lived a Pharisee! -J.Wesley

*But the tax-collector, standing some distance away, was unwilling to lift up his eyes toward Heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, the sinner!”*  
*Luke 18:13*

*But God, being rich in Mercy, because of the great Love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by Grace you have been saved— and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the Coming Ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His Grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*  
*Ephesians 2:4-7*

# A Celebration of Worship & The Lord’s Supper

For the Children of God in Covenant at

## River City Reformed Church

August 6, 2017

I will Bless the LORD at all times; His Praise shall continually be in my Mouth!  
My Soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be Glad.  
Oh, magnify the LORD with ME, And let us exalt His Name, together.

*Wonderful, Merciful, Savior*, Precious Redeemer and Friend  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

*You are the One that we praise. You are the One we adore.  
You give the healing and grace, Our hearts always hunger for,  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace.  
You offer hope when our hearts have, Hopelessly lost the way,  
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. (chorus)

Almighty, Infinite, Father, Faithfully loving Your own.  
Here in our weakness You find us, Falling before Your Throne  
Oh, we're falling before Your Throne. (chorus)

## PRAYER

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## OFFERING &amp; DOXOLOGY

## PREACHING

*Resting In The Arms of the Good Shepherd*

1 Samuel 19

## COMMUNION HYMN

*In Christ Alone* my Hope is found; He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;  
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of Love, what depths of Peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in all— Here in the Love of Christ I stand.

In Christ Alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This Gift of Love and Righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that Cross, as Jesus died, The Wrath of God was satisfied;  
My every sin on Him was laid— Here in the Death of Christ, I live.

There in the ground His Body lay, Light of the World -by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in Glorious Day, Up from the Grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in Victory, Sin's Curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious Blood of Christ!

No guilt in life, no fear in death— This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, **Jesus commands my destiny.**  
No power of Hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me Home— Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

## INVITATION &amp; FENCING OF THE TABLE

(What Is **Effectual Calling**? Effectual Calling is the **work of God's Spirit**, whereby **convincing** us of our sin and misery, **enlightening** our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and **renewing** our wills, He does persuade and **enable** us to **embrace** Jesus Christ, **freely offered** to us in the **Gospel**.

*No man can come to Me, unless the Father Who has sent Me, draws him. John 6:44*



**Our Elders** are eager to be of service,  
to pray with you,  
or answer any questions:

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*Come, You Blessed  
of My Father!*

If you would like more information, or would like to contact Pastor Bob, he may be reached at 910.520.0272

TEMPLE BAPTIST ACTIVITY CENTER, GEORGE ANDERSON DRIVE, WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

OUR HEAVENWARD GOSPEL FOCUS AS WE APPROACH HIS TABLE OF GRACE

Upon Finally Entering in to the Very Presence and Glory of the One True God:

Is *This* the Purchase that cost so dear as the blood of Christ? No wonder. . . !  
Is *This* the end of believing? Is *This* the end of the Spirit's workings?  
Have the gales of Grace blown me into such a Harbor?  
Is it to *This* that Christ has allured my soul? O blessed Way, and thrice blessed End!  
Is *This* the Glory which the Scriptures spoke of, and ministers preached of so much?  
**I see the Gospel is indeed Good Tidings**, even tidings of Peace and Good Things,  
tidings of great Joy to all nations!

Is my mourning, my fasting, my sad humblings, my heavy walking, *come to This*?  
Is my praying, watching, fearing to offend, *come to This*?  
Are all my afflictions, Satan's temptations, the world's scorns and jeers, *come to This*?

**O vile nature**, that resisted so much, and so long, such a Blessing!  
**Unworthy soul! is this the Place you came to so unwillingly?**

Was duty wearisome? Was the world too good to lose?  
Could you not leave all, deny all, and suffer any thing *for This*? Were you loth to die, to come to *This*?  
**O false heart**, you had almost betrayed me to Eternal Flames,  
and lost me *This Glory*!

Are you not now ashamed, my soul, that ever you did question that love which brought you here?  
that you doubted the faithfulness of your Lord? that you questioned His love,  
when you should only have questioned yourself?  
**that ever you did quench a motion of His Spirit?**  
and that you should misinterpret those Providences, and repine at those Ways  
which have such an End as *This*?

Now you are sufficiently convinced that **your blessed Redeemer was saving you**  
when He crossed your desires, as well as when He granted them;  
when He broke your heart, as well as when He bound it up.

No thanks to you, **unworthy self**, for this received Crown;  
**but to Jehovah and to the Lamb be Glory for ever!**

-R.Baxter,

***Christian, what do you believe?***

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.  
Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from Heaven, and was incarnate  
by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;  
and ascended into Heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with Glory, to judge the living and the dead;  
whose Kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen*

(\* *catholic* - meaning worldwide and age to age, -**not** Roman Catholic)

PARTING HYMN

***It Is Well With My Soul***

**Hymnal 691**

BENEDICTION

Sovereign Lord, Teach me the nature of a sacrament as a **seal and pledge of love**,  
that Christ is faithful to make Himself a present reality to His own -who are guests at His Table.

Assure me by it, that His Word is made good to my faith, that He, by Sacramental Union, is given to me,  
that I shall have strength not to fall into sin, that His life begun in me, **will be perfected** hereafter,  
that His Covenant with me is confirmed, that He gives Himself to all who take Him thankfully.

As I come to the Feast, help me to recall **my neglect** of duties towards myself, my family, church, friends,  
by not instructing, exhorting, nor being an example.

Grant me to see **my ignorance**, not knowing how or what to pray,  
**my unsavoriness**, not delighting in, but loathing to speak for You,  
**my pride**, because I would not speak what I could from fear of not doing it well,  
**my lukewarmness**, in not reaching for Your glory,  
**my idleness and sloth, my lack of tender love.**

I praise You, Triune God, King of the universe, for Your faithful love which endures forever!  
Heal me now, as I approach Your Table, grant me repentance unto life,  
and fill me with all the Christian Grace of Your true *imago dei*.

*Grant me to worship You now, Holy Trinity, and at the hour of my death. For Jesus' sake, Amen*

THE FLOOD CAME AND SWEEPED THEM ALL AWAY!

(Edward Griffin, "NOAH'S ARK")

"HE wiped out every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, from mankind to livestock,  
to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they were wiped off the earth!  
Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark!" Genesis 7:23

Finally, the frightful morning began! The heavens gathered blackness. Angry tempests conflicted in the skies.  
The lightnings flashed over the world! Word was spread, that **Noah** and his family had entered into the ark.  
The ungodly then began to fear!

Before long, floods of water poured from the sky. Some now began to turn their eyes towards the **ark**;  
others stood doubting; others still dared to scoff!

The waters go on to increase. The rivers fill--and start to overflow. The waters begin to rise in the streets.  
Some flee into their houses; others, more intimidated, hasten to the hills!  
Others are now convinced, and with dreadful fright, are seen *wading towards the ark!*

The fountains of the great deep are now broken up. The waters rise more rapidly, and begin to rush  
with impetuous force. With difficulty they stand against the stream. They struggle for their lives to reach the ark!  
Thousands come - some wading, some swimming, some sinking, some hanging onto the ark with the grasp of death -  
**all screaming for admission!**

But it is too late! Time was, when the Ark was open and they might have entered in - but that time is past!  
Where are now those tongues which derided the enormous vessel and the man who built it?  
Now what do you think of him - who for more than a century has borne the character of a *fool* and *madman!*  
They would give a thousand worlds - to be in his condition now!

Those nearest to the Ark, cry and plead for admission, but in vain! The waters roar! The Ark is lifted up!  
They sink and are seen no more!

By this time, every wretch on earth is thoroughly convinced. Hear their cries from the tops of the *houses*,  
which are answered by wails from those on the *hills*. See the multitudes who have fled to the *mountains*.  
How like frightened sheep they crowd together! Now the waters, roaring and foaming, have reached their feet!  
They flee up to the highest ridge - but the floods pursue them there! Some are able to climb the lofty oaks -  
and the waves overtake them there!

They flee to the highest branches, and for a moment have time to reflect on their former madness:  
"How could I disbelieve the Lord's prophet? Where is now the ark which I scorned? Where am I going?  
O eternity! eternity! What a dreadful God have I despised!"

On the topmost bough, the impetuous torrent sweeps them away! Their hold is broken - and they sink to rise no more!

The Ark floats by - and sails over the heads of the revilers and persecutors!  
***Only that blessed family in the ark, are safe!***

The same terrors will seize an unbelieving world when Jesus comes again!  
"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood,  
people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the Ark;  
and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and swept them all away!"

That is how it will be at the Coming of the Son of Man!"

Matthew 24:37-39