



Sunday, September 13, 2020

Jesus Is All the World to Me

Schedule of Worship—8am

Songs:	Mike Avedikian
Welcome:	Rodger Yarbrough
Opening Prayer:	Jeff Perkins
Sermon: <i>Shall Famine?</i>	John Poole
Communion Message:	David Lock
Closing Prayer:	David Lock

Prayer Requests:

- **J.D. Nix:** It is so good to be back with our church family. We love you all. Thank you for all your prayers.
- **Teresa Chilton:** My nephew, Ronnie Embrey, just started Marines boot camp. Please pray for him and his family.
- **Raul Camarillo:** Blessings from the Lord will come in time. Trust in Him for daily life. Stay strong.
- **Rodessa Jones:** Prayers for strength and guidance as I have good and bad days. I'm still grieving the loss of my mom.
- **Jeanetha Henderson:** Help me to love at all times with my words, actions and deeds and not be prideful. Lord, watch over John Poole and his family.
- **Glenna Gammel:** A while back, my daughter Jennifer had gotten the virus. She has now tested negative, praise God!
- **Ruben Tostado:** Please pray that my wife, Alicia, will recover from her illness.
- **Jermaine & Annette Bowers:** Please pray for our daughter.
- **Greg & Gracie Burns:** Please pray for the Burns and Dean families regarding the loss of Patrick Dean.
- **Joe & Lorry Boe:** Patrick Gee is improving slightly although he is still in ICU. Sylvia and the kids are in need of our prayers.
- **Gina Guerrero:** Please pray for my children and my family (depression).
- **Dave & Jann Coles:** Praying Joel and his family keep leading people to righteous, Biblical lifestyles and the mind of Christ. Praying for their protection as they defend the Gospel to the young Christians.
- **Olga Ramos:** Prayers for all of us. May God keep us all safe, especially spiritually. Prayers for Joel and his family as they go do God's work elsewhere.
- **Gabriela Astudillo:** Thankful because my knee pain is better. Prayers/encouragement for my children as they continue their on-line classes. May they keep their path in Jesus Christ.

Our Spiritual Beauty

A city dweller was being driven by a rancher over a blistering and almost barren stretch of desert when a large brightly-colored bird scurried across the road in front of them.

The visitor asked what it was. "That's a bird of paradise," said the rancher. "Pretty long way from home, isn't he!" remarked the visitor.

This story reminds us of what it's like being a Christian. We are citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20), and when people see us they ought to see a contrast with the world around us. Our character ought to be so different that people see our spiritual beauty and wonder what land we hail from.

We are strangers in a strange land, for sure. But let's be the salt and light the Lord wants us to be, and make the "scenery" here as good as it can be!

Matt Clifton, Bulletin Digest

Contribution for September 6, 2020
\$12,165

Church Family,
Please be in prayer for our mountain communities affected by the recent forest fires. Pray for the safety of our frontline fire fighters, rescuers and care givers.

Card that came in the mail this week:

Just wanted to thank you for the food I received this AM—it was my first time and I'm very grateful for your generosity.

God Bless,
A lady from Clovis

"Shall Famine?"

We have been in this series on Sunday mornings on God's eternal purpose and plan, the scheme of redemption, and we've started this by looking at one of the more difficult aspects of God's plan; sin. Sin destroyed our relationship with God. God had a plan because all people sin. God sent Jesus to fulfill His plan because of our sin. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave to destroy sin's power. This had a starting point. After Adam and Eve sinned, God told the serpent and the woman that there would be enmity between their descendants (Genesis 3:15), and God wasn't kidding. It was the beginning of a battle, the battle of good and evil, which has been waging since the beginning.

Think about it. Right out of the garden the oldest brother murdered the youngest (Gen 4). By the time you get to chapter 6 the whole world is so messed up with sin that God wipes it all away and starts anew with Noah and his family. You come to chapter 11 and we have the tower of Babel and the confusing of the languages. In confusing the languages, can you imagine some conflicts arising nearly immediately thereafter? God, right from the beginning of the Bible was establishing his authority over the nations. He was in the process of moving humanity toward His goal of redeeming humankind through Jesus. Something God was doing at Babel was beginning the process of forming the nations, something that will play heavily as God's eternal purpose unfolds. Today, we will see that God was working to build one nation in particular. Actually, it started with a promise to one childless man (Abraham) to bless the whole world through his offspring (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6). It was a promise God would reiterate to Abraham's immediate descendants (Genesis 26:1-6; 28:13-15). Even a barren womb wouldn't stop God's plan. And as we trace their history to the cross, God's people certainly weren't immune to difficulties and conflicts. The serpent was always there, attacking God's people. Later the Apostle John would summarize this "cosmic" battle using the language of Genesis to warn the church that the serpent would now be turning his attention to Christians (Rev 12:9, 17).

Those struggles that God's people faced in the Old Testament were numerous and constant. You can hardly read an Old Testament book without reading about God's people in some kind of peril, somewhere. And those struggles really seemed to take shape once the descendants of Abraham got a little bigger. Like 12 great grandsons. That started viciously enough. Even from within their own group, some of the brothers (likely out of jealousy) decided to kill the second youngest son, their own brother (Genesis 37). But God is so awesome that He can work astonishing good through even the worst of situations. We will see that in this series time and time again. Today's conflict comes in the form of something largely unfamiliar to most of us in the West: Famine.

Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer to thank God for our daily bread. And if you are reading this and you have never had to wonder where your next meal would come from then you are most blessed, and you should be most thankful. But while you have people who struggle to find food, even in America, none of us really knows famine. Famine is when nobody can get any food. We've recently heard the words "food shortage" in the news. A "famine" would be an extreme food shortage. We should all be praying that we never come to that. But if we do, we won't be unique. Even recent history is filled with examples of famine. The communist revolution in China, under Mao, led to the Great Leap Forward Famine from 1958-1962 which killed 16.5 million Chinese. It's believed that nearly 20 million people in Europe died from famine during World War 2. History is filled with the tragic examples of famine.

Starving to death is not on my top 10 list of ways I would prefer to die, but it is something that God's people have faced. Yet even in great difficulty, great difficulty which may cost us our earthly lives, God loves His people with an undying love. The apostle Paul would write to the church in Rome, reassuring them of God's love with these beautiful words. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35-39.