

## God Is Not an Idolator by John Piper

*When he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.* (1 Thess. 1:10)

People stumble over the teaching that God exalts his own glory and seeks to be praised by his people because the Bible teaches us not to be like that.

For example, the Bible says that love "does not seek its own" (1 Cor. 13:5). How can God be loving and yet be utterly devoted to "seeking his own" glory and praise and joy? How can God be for us if he is so utterly for himself?

The answer I propose is this: Because God is unique as an all-glorious, totally self-sufficient Being, he must be for himself if he is to be for us. The

rules of humility that belong to a creature cannot apply in the same way to its Creator. If God should turn away from himself as the Source of infinite joy, he would cease to be God. He would deny the infinite worth of his own glory. He would imply that there is something more valuable outside himself. He would commit idolatry.

This would be no gain for us. For where can we go when our God has become unrighteous? Where will we find a Rock of integrity in the universe when the heart of God has ceased to value supremely the supremely valuable?

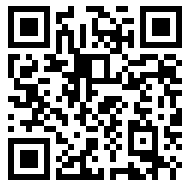
We must come to see that God is love precisely because he relentlessly pursues the praises of his name in the hearts of his people.

### Events

TODAY Handel's Messiah  
Mebane Presbyterian  
3 PM

12/6 Flourisher's  
Christmas Party 6:30 PM  
12/10 7th/8th Christmas  
Party 8:15 AM  
12/11 Girls Bible Study 4PM

### Give



### Upcoming Events



**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

### Service Times

- Sunday School 9:30 am
- Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
- Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
- Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm



**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

## Loving God, one another, and the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ

December 4, 2016

**Tenemos  
disponible  
traducción al  
español  
durante los  
servicios de la  
mañana y de la  
tarde**

### Pastors

Gary Hendrix  
Charles Fortner  
Stu Johnston  
Andy Dunkerton

Stephen Byrd  
Robert Fisher  
Bob Prentice

919-563-9249  
[www.grbc.net](http://www.grbc.net)



# Morning Worship

## Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Alex DiPrima  
You are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak; You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all.  
Seeking You as a precious jewel; Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool. You are my all in all.

**(Chorus) Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame; rising again, I bless Your name. You are my all in all.  
When I fall down You pick me up; when I am dry you fill my cup. You are my all in all.

**(Chorus)**

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## Knowing You

1. All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own;  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now compared to this.

**(Refrain) Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing.**

**You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness, and I love You, Lord.**

2. Now my heart's desire is to know You more, to be found in You and known as Yours,  
To possess by faith what I could not earn, all-surpassing gift of righteousness. **(Refrain)**

3. Oh, to know the power of Your risen life and to know You in Your sufferings;  
To become like You in Your death, my Lord, so with You to live and never die. **(Refrain 2x)**

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick © 1994 Make Way Music Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 9:1-17, page 813

## Pastoral Prayer

## Offertory

#27 Great is Thy Faithfulness

## Preparatory

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

**(Refrain) He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast.**

**For my Savior loves me so. He will hold me fast.**

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

**(Refrain)**

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast;  
'Til our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

**(Refrain 2x)**

Words: Ada Habershon (1861-1918) Music and additional words: Matt Merker , © 2013  
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## Sermon

Pastor Andy Dunkerton

# Evening Worship

## Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Pastor Bob Prentice  
I Will Glory in My Redeemer

I will glory in my Redeemer whose priceless blood has ransomed me.

Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails and hung Him on that judgment tree.

I will glory in my Redeemer who crushed the power of sin and death;

My only Savior before the Holy Judge, the Lamb who is my righteousness,

The Lamb who is my righteousness.

I will glory in my Redeemer. My life He bought, my love He owns.

I have no longings for another, I'm satisfied in Him alone.

I will glory in my Redeemer, His faithfulness, my standing place,

Though foes are mighty and rush upon me, my feet are firm held by His grace,

My feet are firm held by His grace.

I will glory in my Redeemer who carries me on eagle's wings.

He crowns my life with lovingkindness, His triumph song I'll ever sing.

**I will glory in my Redeemer who waits for me at gates of gold,**

**And when He calls me it will be paradise, His face forever to behold,**

**His face forever to behold. (repeat)**

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## Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-19, page 982

## Pastoral Prayer

## Offertory

Have Thine Own Way

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Search me and try me, Master, today! Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,  
as in Thy presence humbly I bow, as in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Wounded and weary, help me, I pray! Power – all power – surely is Thine!

Touch me and heal me, Savior divine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Hold o'er my being absolute sway! Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see

Christ only, always, living in me! Christ only always, living in me! Amen

Text: Adelaide A. Pollard, 1902 Music: Katie Malone Redfern, 2002 Used by Permission

## Preparatory

Help My Unbelief

I know the Lord is nigh and would but cannot pray

For Satan meets me when I try and frights my soul away, And frights my soul away

I would but can't repent though I endeavor oft

This stony heart can ne'er relent till Jesus makes it soft, Till Jesus makes it soft

**(chorus) Help my unbelief, Help my unbelief, Help my unbelief**

**My help must come from thee**

I would but cannot love though wooed by love divine

No arguments have power to move a soul as base as mine, A soul so base as mine

I would but cannot rest in God's most holy will

I know what He appoints is best and murmur at it still, I murmur at it still

**(Chorus - Sing 2 times)**

Jesus, I Come

## Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston