

How Satan Serves God by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. (James 5:11)

Behind all disease and disability is the ultimate will of God. Not that Satan is not involved — he is probably always involved in one way or another with destructive purposes (Acts 10:38). But his power is not decisive. He cannot act without God's permission.

That is one of the points of Job's sickness. The text makes it plain that when disease came upon Job, "*Satan . . . struck Job with loathsome sores*" (Job 2:7). His wife urged him to curse God. But Job said, "Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:10). And again the inspired author of the book (just as he did in 1:22) commends Job by saying, "In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

In other words: This is a right view of God's sovereignty over Satan.

Satan is real and may have a hand in our calamities, but not the final hand, and not the decisive hand.

James makes clear that God had a good purpose in all Job's afflictions.

So even though Satan was involved, the ultimate purpose was God's, and it was "compassionate and merciful."

This is the same lesson we learn from 2 Corinthians 12:7, where Paul says that his thorn in the flesh was a "messenger of Satan" and yet was given for the purpose of his own holiness — *to keep him from becoming conceited*. "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited!"

Now, humility is not Satan's purpose in this affliction. Therefore, the purpose is God's. Which means that here Satan is being used by God to accomplish his good purposes in Paul's life. In fact, for God's elect children, Satan cannot destroy us, and God turns all his attacks finally against him and for us.



November 18, 2018

He is the Image of the Invisible God

Events

TODAY

Testimonies 7 PM

Chorale Practice 7 PM

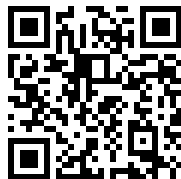
11/12 - 11/19 OCC Shoebox
Drop-Off

11/20 Thanksgiving Service

12/2 College & Career Lunch

12/7 - 8 LAST CALL Photo
Directory Pictures

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

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

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de AM y PM

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Michael Lopes
#20 Give to Our God Immortal
Praise

Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory

John 13:1-30, page 900

The Love of Christ is Rich and
Free

The love of Christ is rich and free fixed on His own eternally
Nor earth, nor hell, can it remove long as He lives, His own He'll love

His loving heart engaged to be their everlasting Surety
Twas love that took their cause in hand, And love maintains it to the end

**(Chorus) Love cannot from its post withdraw
Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law
Can turn the Surety's heart away
He'll love His own to endless day**

Love has redeemed His sheep with blood, And love will bring them safe to God
Love calls them all from death to life, And love will finish all their strife

He loves through every changing scene, Nor aught from Him can Zion wean
Not all the wanderings of her heart, Can make His love for her depart

(Chorus)
At death, beyond the grave, He'll love, In endless bliss, His own shall prove
The blazing glory of that love, Which never could from them remove
Which never could from them remove

Words: William Gadsby Music: Sandra McCracken
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Preparatory Speak O Lord

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You, to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
That the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

2. Teach us Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes; in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Bob Prentice
Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

**(Chorus) Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me**

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

(Chorus)

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross (repeat)

(Chorus)

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Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory

Jeremiah 29:1-32, page 656

**#21 God Moves in a Mysterious
Way**

Preparatory

Be Unto Your Name

We are a moment, You are forever, Lord of the ages, God before time;
We are a vapor, You are eternal, Love everlasting, reigning on high.

**(Chorus) Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
worthy is the Lamb who was slain;
Highest praises, honor and glory - be unto Your name, be unto Your name.**

We are the broken, You are the healer, Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save;
You are the love song we'll sing forever, bowing before You, blessing Your name.

(Chorus)

(Key change) (Chorus)

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Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston