

“Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the Lord, and I will be the glory in her midst.” (Zechariah 2:4-5)

There are mornings when I wake up feeling fragile. Vulnerable. It’s often vague. No single threat. No one weakness. Just an amorphous sense that something is going to go wrong and I will be responsible.

It’s usually after a lot of criticism. Or maybe after a lot of expectations that have deadlines, and that seem too big and too many.

As I look back over about 50 years of such periodic mornings, I am amazed how the Lord Jesus has preserved my life. And my ministry. The temptation to run away from the stress has never won out — not yet anyway. This is amazing. I worship my great God for this.

Instead of letting me sink into a paralysis of fear, or run to a mirage of greener grass, he has awakened a cry for help and then answered with concrete promises.

Here’s an example. This is recent. I woke up feeling emotionally fragile. Weak. Vulnerable. I prayed: “Lord help me. I’m not even sure how to pray.”

An hour later I was reading in Zechariah, seeking the help I had cried out for. It came.

“Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the Lord, and I will be the glory in her midst.” (Zechariah 2:4-5)

There will be such prosperity and growth for the people of God that Jerusalem will not be able to be walled in any more. “The multitude of people and livestock” will be so many that Jerusalem will be like many villages spreading out across the land without walls.

Prosperity is nice, but what about protection?

To which God says in verse 5, “I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the Lord.” Yes. That’s it. That is the promise. The “I will” of God. That is what I need.

And if it is true for the vulnerable villages of Jerusalem, it is true for me a child of God. That is how I apply the Old Testament promises to God’s people. All the promises are yes to me in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). There is a “how much more” after every promise for those who are in Christ. God will be a “wall of fire all around” me. Yes. He will. He has been. And he will be.

And it gets better. Inside that fiery wall of protection he says, “And I will be the glory in her midst.” God is never content to give us the protection of his fire; he aims to give us the pleasure of his presence. I love the “I wills” of God!



September 8, 2019

Traducción simultanea
al español
disponible en servicios
de AM y PM

SING TO THE LORD

A NEW SONG

HIS PRAISE

FROM THE END OF THE EARTH

Isaiah 42:10

Events

TODAY College & Career Lunch
1 PM
Hamilton Retirement & going
away party 7 PM
10/5 Church Picnic 3 PM
10/12 Dr. Andy McIntosh 9 AM

Give



Upcoming



Pastors

Gary Hendrix Stephen Byrd
Stu Johnston Bob Prentice
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
919-563-9249
www.grbc.net

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Congregational Reading
Opening Hymn

Pastor Bob Prentice
Psalm 1, page 448
#70 Praise My Soul the King of
Heaven

Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer

Mark 1:21-39, page 836

Offertory

I Need No Other

My faith has found a resting place, Not in device or creed
I trust the ever living One, For me his wounds shall plead

(Chorus) I need no other argument

I need no other plea

It is enough that Jesus died

And that He died for me

It's enough for me that Jesus saves, This ends my fear and doubt
A sinful soul I come to Him, He'll never cast me out **(Chorus)**

My great Physician heals the sick, The lost He came to save
For me His precious blood was spilled, For me His life He gave **(Chorus 2x)**

Text: Lidie Hornsby Edmunds Music: Todd Agnew, Michael Neale
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Preparatory

Show Us Christ

Prepare our hearts, O God, help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground, help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us, cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear, lead us in Your truth

(CHORUS) Show us Christ, show us Christ

O God, reveal Your glory

Through the preaching of Your Word

Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Your Word is living light upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through temptations, makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones, freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul; come, speak to us today **(CHORUS)**

BRIDGE (3x)

Where else can we go, Lord,

where else can we go?

You have the words of eternal life

(CHORUS)

Show us Christ, show us Christ

Show us Christ, show us Christ

O God, reveal Your glory

Through the preaching of Your Word

Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Music by Doug Plank, words by Doug Plank and Bob Kaufflin. © 2011 Sovereign Grace Worship

Sermon

Pastor Michael Lopes

Evening Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Stephen Byrd
And Can it Be

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace,
humbled Himself so great His love, and bled for all His chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amen

Text and Music: Charles Wesley, 1738 Alt, 1990

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:14-34, page 882

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory/Preparatory

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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Sermon
Communion

Pastor Stu Johnston
Pastor Stephen Byrd
#411 No, Not Despairingly
What Wondrous Love is This
God Undefeatable