

Caused to Return by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

Cause us to return, O Lord, that we may return! (Lamentations 5:21, my translation)

There is no hope for God's people unless God causes them to return from their sliding and leaping into sin and unbelief.

The book of Lamentations is the bleakest book in the Bible. God himself had decimated the apple of his eye: Jerusalem.

- The Lord gave full vent to his wrath; he poured out his hot anger, and he kindled a fire in Zion that consumed its foundations. (Lamentations 4:11)
- He has killed all who were delightful in our eyes. (Lamentations 2:4)
- The Lord has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions. (Lamentations 1:5)

So how does the book end?

It ends with the only hope there is:

Cause us to return, O Lord,
that we may return!

Events

TODAY Members Family
Meeting 7 PM
2/7-8 VisionYouth GO Conf
2/9 College & Career Lunch
1 PM
2/15 Vanesa bridal shower
2/21-22 Paul Tripp Parenting
Conference

(Lamentations 5:21)

That is my only hope — and *your* only hope!

Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, *but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.* And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:31–32).

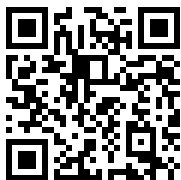
Not *if* you return. But *when* you return. I have prayed for you! You *will* return. And when you do, it will be my sovereign grace that brought you back from the precipice of apostasy.

Christian, this is true for you. This is your only hope of perseverance in faith. Glory in it.

Christ Jesus is the one who . . . is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)

He *will* cause us to return. Therefore, “to him who is able to *keep you from stumbling* . . . be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever” (Jude 1:24–25). Amen!

Give



Upcoming Events



That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

Pastors

Stephen Byrd Stu Johnston
Michael Lopes Bob Prentice

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

February 2, 2020



Morning Worship

Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Pastor Bob Prentice
#400 Come Thou Fount
All I Have is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way.
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that You would own a rebel to Your will.
And if You had not loved me first, I would refuse You still.

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost.
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross,
And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place.
You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace.

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

Now Lord I would be Yours alone, and live so all might see
the strength to follow Your commands could never come from me.
O Father, use my ransomed life in any way You choose,
and let my song forever be my only boast is You.

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.
(a cappella)

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is my life.

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Scripture Reading Pastoral Prayer

Acts 15:1-21, page 923

Offertory

Whate're My God Ordains

Whate'er my God ordains is right, His Holy will abideth
I will be still whate'er He does, And follow where He guideth
He is my God though dark my road, He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all, And so to Him I leave it all

Whate'er my God ordains is right, He never will deceive me
He leads me by the proper path, I know He will not leave me
I take, content, what He hath sent, His hand can turn my griefs away
And patiently I wait His day, And patiently I wait His day

Whate'er my God ordains is right, Though now this cup in drinking
May bitter seem to my faint heart, I take it all unshrinking
My God is true each morn anew, Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart
And pain and sorrow shall depart, And pain and sorrow shall depart

Whate'er my God ordains is right, Here shall my stand be taken
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, Yet I am not forsaken
My Father's care is round me there, He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all, And so to Him I leave it all (repeat)

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1675 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878

Music: Catherine Winkworth, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Samuel Rodigast

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Preparatory

Come All Ye Pining

Lord, we adore thy boundless grace, the heights and depths unknown
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace in thy beloved Son

**(Chorus) Come, all ye pining, hungry poor the Saviour's bounty taste
Behold a never-failing store for every willing guest**

O wondrous gifts of love divine dear Source of every good
Jesus, in thee what glories shine how rich thy flowing blood

(Chorus)

Here shall your numerous wants receive, a free, a full supply
He has unmeasured bliss to give and joys that never die

(Chorus)

Behold a never-failing store for every willing guest

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Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston

Evening Worship

Call to Worship Opening Hymn Scripture Reading Pastoral Prayer

Brad Hicks
#118 O Savior, Precious Savior
Hebrews 7:11-28, page 1004

Offertory

#27 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Preparatory

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)

Round - (Vs. 1-Men, Chorus-Women) Round - (Vs. 2-Women, Chorus-Men)

All sing chorus a final time.

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Sermon

Pastor Michael Lopes