

"Whoever desires to love life and see good days . . . let him turn away from evil and do good." (1 Peter 3:10–11)

There is only one basic reason why we disobey the commands of Jesus: it's because we don't have heartfelt confidence that obeying will bring more blessing than disobeying. We do not hope fully in God's promise.

What did he promise? Peter passes on the teachings of Jesus like this:

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days . . . let him turn away from evil and do good." (1 Peter 3:9–11)

Peter, following Jesus, is not ashamed to motivate obedience to hard commands — like not returning evil for evil — with the promise of greater joy. "Bless those who revile you . . . that you may obtain a bless-

ing!" Do you want to enjoy everlasting life? Turn away from evil! Joy for all eternity awaits you! Is that not reward enough to avoid the pleasures of vengeance now?

You will always be better off to obey than to disobey Jesus, even if that obedience costs you your life. Jesus said,

Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time . . . with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (Mark 10:29–30)

The only way to have the power to follow Christ in the costly way of love is to be filled with hope, with strong confidence that, if we lose our life doing his will, we will find it again and be richly rewarded forever.



Events

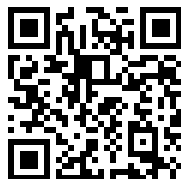
TODAY Constitution Forum
Q&A 7 PM

8/29 Sunday School series:
Ten Commandments

9/1 Small Groups
9/9 Flourishers Meeting
7 PM

9/12 C&C Lunch 1 PM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Stephen Byrd Stu Johnston
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

REJOICE!
in the Lord
always

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory
Preparatory

Pastor Stephen Byrd
#80 How Firm a Foundation
Hebrews 8:1-13, page 1005
Pastor Stephen Byrd
#271 How Sweet and Awful
Jesus Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend, the agonies of Calvary.
You, the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son,
drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

(Chorus) Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near.

Your enemy You've made Your friend.

Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,

Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.

(Chorus) Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank---

Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

(Bridge) Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. Lover of my soul,
I want to live for You.

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. **(Final Chorus, 1 x)**

Words and Music: Pat Sczebel © 2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Sermon Pastor Stu Johnston

Post-lude after sermon for quiet meditation

Post Sermon Nearer Still Nearer

Nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart, draw me, my Savior –
so precious Thou art!

Fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast.

Shelter me safe in that haven of rest; Shelter me safe in that haven of rest.

Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring, naught as an offering to Jesus, my King –
Only my sinful, now contrite heart.

Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart;

Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.

Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be Thine! Sin, with its follies, I gladly resign,

All of its pleasures, pomp and its pride.

Give me but Jesus, my Lord, crucified; Give me but Jesus, my Lord, crucified.

Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last, till safe in glory my anchor is cast;

Thro' endless ages ever to be

Nearer, my Savior, still nearer to Thee;

Nearer, my Savior, still nearer to Thee.

Text and Music: Lelia N. Morris

Evening Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory
(Sing 2x)

Kent Thompson
#35 Immortal, Invisible
Philippians 2:1-11, page 980
Pastor Michael Lopes
Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord,

and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and renew a right spirit within me.

Text: Psalm 51: 10-12 Music: Keith Green

Preparatory **Be Thou My Vision**

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;

I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my great Father, I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,

Thou mine inheritance, now and always;

Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

4. High King of heaven, my victory won,

May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'ns Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Ancient Irish hymn, tr. by Mary E. Byrne, versified by Eleanor H. Hull

Music: Irish Folk melody; arr. by David Allen, © 1986 WORD Music Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Sermon Pastor Michael Lopes
Post Sermon **For All the Saints**

For all the saints who from their labors rest

Who Thee by faith before the world confessed

Thy Name, O Jesus be forever blessed, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock their fortress and their might

Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight

Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light, Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers faithful, true and bold

Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old

And win with them the victor's crown of gold, Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west

Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest

Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed, Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day

The saints triumphant rise in bright array

The King of glory passes on His way, Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds from ocean's farthest coast

Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host

Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!