

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 11 October 2020

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 772

Amazing grace – how sweet the sound –
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

2 God's grace first taught my heart to fear,
his grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
his grace has brought me safe this far
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
my shield and great reward is he
as long as life endures.

5 And when this mortal life is past
and earthly days shall cease,
I shall possess with Christ at last
eternal joy and peace.

6 The earth will soon dissolve like snow,
the sun no longer shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be for ever mine.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Reading: James 2:14-26, ESV

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled", without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

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¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Charities Update

Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 810

May the mind of Christ my saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.

2 May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart, from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

3 May the peace of God my Father
in my life for ever reign,
that I may be calm to comfort
those in grief and pain.

4 May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea,
him exalting, self abasing,
this is victory!

5 May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking all the while to Jesus
as I onward go.

6 May his beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win;
and may they forget the servant,
seeing only him.

Katie B Wilkinson (1859-1928)

Sermon: James 2:14-26 – On Faith and Works

Introduction: A Controversial but Essential Passage

1. Should We Offer Prayers or Actions? (vv14-17)

2. Excuses, Excuses (vv18-19)

3. Old Testament Examples (vv20-26)

4. Conclusions: Complementary Opposites and Joyful Works

Hymn: Praise! 815

Take time to be holy, speak much with your
Lord;
remain in him always, and feed on his word;
make friends of God's children, help those who
are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

2 Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him you will be;
your friends, in your conduct, his likeness will
see.

3 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide:
and run not before him, stay close to his side:
in joy or in sorrow still follow your Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

4 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and emotion beneath his control.
So, led by his Spirit and filled with his love,
you soon will be fitted for service above.

William D Longstaff (1822-1894)

Closing Prayer