

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



He Lives

Hymn 299



In the Hour of Trial

Hymn 122



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We're glad you're here!





Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

plbiblechurch@gmail.com

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:7-13

Psalm 96:7-13 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Hymn 621



I Surrender All

Hymn 408



Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:
Promise Land Bible Church
PO Box 1437
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Famous Quote:

“The trouble with people who are not seeking for a Savior, and for salvation, is that they do not understand the nature of sin. It is the peculiar function of the Law to bring such an understanding to a man’s mind and conscience. That is why great evangelical preachers 300 years ago in the time of the Puritans, and 200 years ago in the time of Whitefield and others, always engaged in what they called a preliminary ‘Law work.’ ”

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the book's pages.

Today's Message

“The Hour Has Come”

Scripture text: Matthew 10:16-39

While the truths in this section would apply to God's servants during any period of Bible history, they seem to have a special significance for the church today.

The emphasis is, "**Fear not!**" (Matt. 10:26, 28, 31) The particular fear Christ discussed is explained in Matthew 10:32–33: **the fear of confessing Christ openly before men.** God has no "secret service." The public confession of faith in Christ is one evidence of true salvation (Rom. 10:9–10).

Several reasons show **why we must not be afraid to openly confess Christ.** Let's examine these reasons that are found in Matthew 10.

1. Suffering is to be expected (vv. 24–25).

Men persecuted Jesus Christ when He was ministering on earth, so **why should we expect anything different?**

We are His disciples, and the disciple does not “outrank” the Master.

They said that Jesus was in league with Satan (Beelzebub: lord of the dung; lord of the house); so they will say the same thing about His followers.

However, **we should count it a privilege to suffer for Him and with Him** (Acts 5:41; Phil. 3:10).

Act 5:38-42 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, **they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.** Then they left the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.** And every day, in the temple and from house to house, **they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

Philippians 3:8-11 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. **For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him,** not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith--**that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**

2. God will bring everything to light (vv. 26–27).

The enemies of Christ use secret and deceptive means to oppose the Gospel. But true believers are open and courageous in their lives and witness. We have nothing to hide. **“In secret have I said nothing,”** said Jesus (John 18:20).

False witnesses lied about Jesus during His trial, but God saw to it that the truth came out. **We have nothing to fear because the Lord will one day reveal the secrets of men’s hearts (Rom. 2:16) and expose them and judge them.**

Romans 2:12-16 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, **God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.**

Our task is not to please men, but to proclaim God's message.

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? **If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

The present judgment of men does not frighten us, because we are living in the light of the future judgment of God.

Isaiah 3:8-11 For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, **because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD**, defying his glorious presence. For the look on their faces bears witness against them; **they proclaim their sin like Sodom**; they do not hide it. **Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.** Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. **Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.**

This could be applied to America, have we not stumbled? Is not our sin like Sodom?

3. We fear God alone (v. 28). All that men can do is kill the body; and, if they do, the **believer's soul goes home to be with the Lord.** But God is able to destroy both body and soul in hell! Of course, **God will never condemn one of His own children.**

Martin Luther caught this truth when he wrote:

*Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.*

The person who fears God alone need never fear any man or group of men. The fear of God is the fear that cancels fear.

John 5:24-27 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. **He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.** "Truly, truly, I say to you, **an hour is coming, and is now here,** when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, **so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.** And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

4. God cares for His own (vv. 29–31).

It did not cost much to purchase sparrows in the market. If we compare these verses with Luke 12:6, we discover that sparrows were so cheap that the dealer threw in an extra one!

Yet the Father knows when a sparrow falls to the ground; and the Father is there. If God cares for sparrows in such a marvelous way, will **He not also care for His own who are serving Him?**

He certainly will! To God, we are of greater value than many sparrows.

God is concerned about all of the details of our lives.

Even the hairs of our head are numbered—not “counted” in a total, but numbered individually! God sees the sparrow fall to the ground, and God sees when a hair falls from the head of one of His children.

When He protects His own, He protects them down to the individual hairs (*Luke 21:18 But not a hair of your head will perish.*).

There is no need for us to fear when God is exercising such wonderful care over us.

5. Christ honors those who confess Him (vv. 32–33).

To confess Him means much more than to make a statement with the lips. **It also means to back up that statement with the life.** It is one thing to say, “**Jesus Christ is Lord,**” and quite another thing **to surrender to Him and obey His will.** The walk and the talk must go together.

In heaven, Jesus has two special ministries. **As our High Priest,** He gives us grace to keep us from sinning. **As our Advocate,** He forgives and restores us when we do sin (1 John 2:1–2).

The merits of His heavenly intercessory work do not depend on our faithfulness, **for He is faithful even if we are not** (2 Tim. 2:12–13).

But the benefits of His heavenly ministry **are for those who are faithful to Him.**

When Christ confesses us before the Father, **He is securing for us the benefits of His sacrificial work on the cross.** When He denies us before the Father, He is unable to share these graces with us. **The fault is ours, not His.**

But something else is involved.

One day we shall stand before His judgment seat where the rewards will be distributed (2 Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.; see also Romans 14:10*).

If we have denied Him, **we will lose rewards and the joy of hearing His “Well done.”**

To be sure, anyone who denies Him on earth may be forgiven. Peter denied the Lord three times, was forgiven, and was restored.

6. **We cannot escape conflict** (vv. 34–39).

Once we have identified with Jesus Christ and confessed Him, **we are part of a war**. We did not start the war; God declared war on Satan (Gen. 3:15).

On the night our Lord was born, the angels declared, “On earth peace” (Luke 2:14). But Jesus seemed to deny this truth. “**I came not to send peace, but a sword**” (Matt. 10:34).

Had Israel accepted Him, He would have given them peace. But the people refused Him, and the result was “a sword.” Instead of there being “peace on earth,” there is “peace in heaven” (Luke 19:38).

He has made peace through the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20) so that men can be reconciled to God and to each other.

The only way a believer can escape conflict is to deny Christ and compromise his witness, and this would be sin.

Then the believer would be at war with God and with himself. We will be misunderstood and persecuted even by those who are the closest to us; yet we must not allow this to affect our witness.

James 4:1-5 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "**He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us**"?

It is important that we suffer for Jesus' sake, and for righteousness' sake, and not because we ourselves are difficult to live with. There is a difference between the "offense of the cross" (Gal. 5:11) and offensive Christians.

Each believer must make the decision once and for all to love Christ supremely and take up his cross and follow Christ.

The love in Matthew 10:37 is the motive for the cross in Matthew 10:38. To "**carry the cross**" does not mean to wear a pin on our lapel or put a sticker on our automobile.

It means to confess Christ and obey Him in spite of shame and suffering. It means to die to self daily. If the Lord went to a cross for us, the **least we can do is carry a cross for Him.**

Matthew 10:39 presents us with only two alternatives: spare your life or sacrifice your life. **There is no middle ground.** If we protect our own interests, we will be losers; if we die to self and live for His interests, we will be winners. **Since spiritual conflict is inevitable in this world, why not die to self and let Christ win the battle for us and in us? After all, the real war is inside—selfishness versus sacrifice.**

Act 17:10-13 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; **they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.** Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

**This WAR is here now! The Hour has Come!
Choose Wisely, whom will you serve?**

Blessed Assurance

Hymn 67

