

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





Call to Worship
Psalm 147:1-6

Psalm 147:1-6 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Hymn 321



Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Hymn 159





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“A barracks is meant to be a place where real soldiers were to be fed and equipped for war, not a place to settle down in or as a comfortable snugger in which to enjoy ourselves. I hope that if ever they, our soldiers, do settle down God will burn their barracks over their heads!”

CATHERINE BOOTH



Today's Message

“Consider Well”

Scripture text: Luke 16:14-31

Luke 16:10-13 "One who is **faithful in a very little** is also **faithful in much**, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And **if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**"

Luke 16:14-17 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. **For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.** "The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and **everyone forces his way into it.** But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, **you must not be like the hypocrites.** For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, **that they may be seen by others.** Truly, I say to you, **they have received their reward.**

Luke 20:46-47 "**Beware of the scribes,** who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

Proverb 16:4-6 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. Everyone who is **arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.** By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.

Psalm 10:3-4 For the **wicked boasts of the desires of his soul**, and the one **greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.** In the pride of his face the **wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God."**

Luke 16:27-31 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house--for I have five brothers--**so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.**' But Abraham said, '**They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.**' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, **but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.**' He said to him, '**If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.**'"

Act 28:21-23 And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. **But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.**" When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. **From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.**

Luke 16:28 suggests that Lazarus had testified to the rich man and probably to his brothers, but none of them had taken his witness seriously. But now, Lazarus' testimony is very important! The brothers knew that Lazarus had died, so if the beggar appeared to them, they would be frightened and would listen to his witness. People in hades have a concern for the lost, but they cannot do anything about it.

Abraham explained that only one thing could prevent the five men from eventually joining their brother: **they needed to hear the Word of God and respond to it by faith.** Moses and the Prophets tell sinners how to repent and be saved, and the Jews heard them read every Sabbath in the synagogue. Though **miracles can attest to the authority of the preacher, they cannot produce either conviction or conversion in the hearts of the lost.**

Faith that is based solely on miracles is not saving faith (*John 2:23–25*). **A man named Lazarus did come back from the dead, and some of the people wanted to kill him!** (*see John 11:43–57; 12:10*) Those who claim that there can be no effective evangelism without “signs and wonders” need to ponder this passage and also **John 10:41–42**.

In the rich man’s lifetime, God had spoken to him in many ways. God had permitted him to have riches, **yet he did not repent** (Rom. 2:4–5).

John 2:19-25 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. **When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this,** and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But **Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.**

John 12:6-10 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, **they came**, not only **on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.** So the **chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.**

John 10:37-42 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, **believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.**" Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. And **many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true."** And many believed in him there.

Romans 2:4-8 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, **not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but **for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.**

Lazarus had witnessed to the rich man, and so had the Old Testament Scriptures that were familiar to the Jews, but **his heart remained unbelieving**. The fact that Lazarus died first was a **strong witness to the rich man, a reminder that one day he would also die**, but even a death at his very doorstep did not melt the man's heart. In spite of the fact that he was in torment in hades, the rich man did not change; **he was still self-centered**. He prayed, but it was for his comfort and the safety of his family. He was not concerned about other lost sinners; **his only concern was his five brothers. He argued with God instead of submitting to His will**. This indicates that the punishment of lost sinners is not remedial; it does not improve them. Hades and hell are not hospitals for the sick; **they are prisons for the condemned**.

We must remind ourselves that the rich man was not condemned because he was rich, nor was Lazarus saved because he was poor. Abraham was a very wealthy man, yet he was not in torment in hades. **The rich man trusted in his riches and did not trust in the Lord.**

“The safest road to hell,” wrote C.S. Lewis, **“is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”**

Mark 8:34-38 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "**If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**"

Have Thine Own Way Lord

Hymn 400

