

ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD
A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM—9:00 A.M.

Jackson Monahan McClain
son of Byron and Liz McClain

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM—10:45 A.M.

Jesse Christopher Dettloff
son of Chris and Cara Dettloff

Levi Thomas Painter
son of Christy and Richard Painter

INVOCATION

—David Winningham

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 45:10-11 (NIV)

10 Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear:
Forget your people and your father's house.

11 The king is enthralled by your beauty;
honor him, for he is your lord.

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request

PASTORAL PRAYER

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART I

—SCOTTY SMITH

UNVEILED HOPE

The Consummation of Hope: The Marriage of the Lamb

As God brings judgment upon the world, "Babylon the Great", there is mourning by those who hate the thought of her demise. But for those who love God and the Lamb there is great rejoicing! So how are we to live in the meantime, while we wait for that great Day of the Lord when all of the enemies of God and His people are thrown down by the Lamb and we are set perfectly free from every semblance of sin? We are to live as the betrothed bride of Christ, for there is a great wedding coming and a feast that we can hardly imagine and an eternity of glory beyond our most awesome dreams!

I. MARRIED TO JESUS: Preparing for Our Wedding to the Lamb

Revelation 19:6-8 *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)*

A great "Hallelujah chorus" erupts from the entirety of God's servants, angelic and human. Can you imagine what this is going to be like? Notice the song they sing, one which rejoices in the sovereign rule of God! But it is also a song which is deeply impacted by the intense love of the Lamb for His people, His bride! A marriage is coming! There is no greater truth than to realize that as the Church, we are the Bride of Christ! (Eph. 5:25, 32; Matt. 25:1ff. Mark 2:19; John 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2).

"The righteous deeds of the saints, then, do not constitute or contribute to their justification before God, which would be self-justification; as the deeds of the saints they are performed by those who are already redeemed and justified in Christ. They are evidence of the bride's sanctification and at the same time of her serious concern to prepare herself for the marriage of the Lamb. This preparedness is effected through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit transforming her progressively into the likeness of her Bridegroom (2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Jn. 3:2f; 2 Cor. 5:15; 2 Cor.11:2; Tit.2:11-14)" (Hughes).

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

— SCOTT ROLEY

II. BELOVED OF JESUS: Our Bridegroom Loves Us as None Other

Revelation 19:9-10 *Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." ¹⁰At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

The only thing we actually need in life and death is the "spousal affection of Jesus." What a marriage banquet this is going to be (Matt. 26:29; Luke 22:28-30)! Feasting with our glorious and gracious Lord with His redeemed from every people group throughout history! These are the true words of God, no mere sentimental myth or fanciful religious imagining! Look what happens next! John is so overwhelmed by the glory of it all that he simply has to worship. The problem is he starts to worship the angel making the declaration. Oh, that such awe would overtake us now as the truth of these things sinks in! The angle quickly rebukes John, for God alone is to be worshipped, now and forever!

SONG OF REFLECTION

MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 3

—SCOTTY SMITH

III. DEFENDED BY JESUS: Our Bridegroom Wars for Us as None Other

Revelation 19:11-21 *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." ¹⁹Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

The next thing John sees is a revelation of our bridegroom as a mighty warrior, One who must smite His enemies before He finally rescues His bride. His name is "Faithful and True". Get that name burned into your heart, for it speaks well of your Savior! This vision of Jesus shows His unmitigated glory. The Lamb is a Lion! He comes to make war against evil and the enemies of God. He is covered with the blood that comes from the execution of justice, "as awesome as it is thorough". (Isa. 63:1-4) His name is "the Word of God", by which He is both the revealer of God's mind and the agent of God's will. He leads the armies of heaven in this final assault against the unbelieving nations. His Word will smite the enemies of God. He is the fulfillment of the promised judgment of God. (Isa. 11:4; 2 Thess. 2:8; Psalm 2). Indeed, He is "the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords"!

Next, another angel announces another banquet. This banquet is not the marriage feast of the Lamb, rather, the feeding frenzy by birds of prey upon the carcasses of the enemies of God overthrown by the Lamb and His armies.

SONGS OF RESPONSE

BENEDICTION



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What encouraged and informed your heart today?
2. Why should the theme of our being the "Bride of Christ" deeply encourage and thrill us? What hope and joy does this truth give you?
3. Talk among yourselves about the theme of good deeds. Respond to these statements: "Good works are not the root but the fruit of our justification, not the "in order to," rather the "now that." "Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is never alone." (Calvin).
4. How can we as the Bride make ourselves more ready for the glorious wedding that is ahead?
5. What comfort do you derive from the coming war depicted at the end of this chapter? In what ways are you looking forward to the destruction of evil? What does this have to say about our being involved now in the war for righteousness in our culture?