

The Wonders Of The Lord

September 11, 2022

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry Services are presented on YouTube, Facebook and our website. One week following recording this week's message is titled The Wonders of the Lord. The Scripture reading is Psalm 9, one to ten. Thank you to Dave, Jon, Gloria and Don for being involved in the video.

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Welcome. We're glad you're here with us this morning, too, as we assemble to worship God and we have some announcements. Happy birthday to Glynnis, this week. There is a chair apparently that's missing. Belongs to Great Lakes and it may be somewhere in the building or someone may have taken it to use it for some event or something. And they're looking for this chair so nobody seems to know where it is. Dianne is putting together a new church directory. Please email her with any new or changed information for the directory. Community Care has a food drive coming up on September the 17th and Omagh has a wrap up barbecue on that same day. We have some prayer requests. Rebecca's niece Shannon has passed away and our prayers go out to that family. Nansi L has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Larry, Andrew's brother, had surgery this week to amputate his leg to remove cancer and is beginning the healing process now, and rehab.

Let's go to God in prayer at this time. Father, we thank you for your presence and for your grace, your mercy, and your wonder that surrounds us. In everything we see. And do we ask that your spirit inspire us to do your will to serve others, to be a comfort to those in need. Although we ask that you grant healing for those who are ill. Father, we are in awe of your greatness and for what you have done for us and in us, continue to move us is our prayer in Christ's name, Amen. I have a little quote from a song. Kind of ties into some of what Don is going to be dealing with. There's the wonder of springtime and harvest the sky, the stars, the sun, the sea. There's a wonder of sunset that evening. And the wonder is sunrise. I see what the wonder of wonders the thrills my soul is the wonder that God loves me.

Communion

I never know whether to bring my glasses up here to read from the Bible or the lighting is so perfect here. I don't need those all worked out well. Matthew 27, verse 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium and they gathered the whole battalion before him, and they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him and plaiting a crown of thorns. They put it on his head, put a reed in his right hand, and kneeling before him. They mocked him, saying Hail, King of the Jews and they spat upon him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to be crucified.

Wow. A lot of times we you know, we talk about Jesus. We kind of forget what he went through for us. If you've ever seen the movie The Passion, it's pretty gross. Gross movie, really. But that's what Jesus did, because he loved each and every one of us. And I got thinking about this battalion of soldiers, which is a multiple number of soldiers, and they're mocking Jesus. Oh, Jesus, King of the Jews. Then they took his clothes off and they put a robe around. They smashed the the. The crown of thorns on his

head. Then they stripped them again, and then they let them out to be crucified. That's pretty awesome when you think about it. And as I pick this little tiny bit of scripture out, it just began to lather. We could go here. We could go there. We could go all over the Bible to verify all that Jesus went through for us. And so we're here this morning as we partake of communion who take the loaf to remember that body that was whipped and beat upon and and slapped and mocked and the blood that was poured forth from inside. And that continues to cleanse us of our sins and all that. Because Jesus loved us and was willing to die for us, He became the sacrifice that satisfied, satisfied God. So let's go to God in a word of prayer.

Father, we thank you for the love that reminds us of the body of Jesus that suffered so much at the hands of sinful man, and that as he suffered all that, he continued to endure it. Even though he could have called the angels down to save him, he didn't. He endured it all for us and for his blood that was shed that now continues to cleanse us of our sins. As we partake of the cup, we ask that you'd bless and help each one of us to be more committed to serving him because of what he has done for us. We pray in His name. Amen.

Reading

The reading that was chosen this morning was from Psalms nine, verses 1 to 11. I will give thanks to the Lord, to you, Lord, with all my heart, I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you. I will sing the praises of your name almost high. My enemies turn back, They stumble and perish Before you For you have upheld my right and my cause Sitting enthroned as the righteous judge, you have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked. You have blotted out their name forever and ever. Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies. You have uprooted their cities. Even the memory of them has perished. The Lord reigns forever. He has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed. A stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you. For you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. May God add His blessing to this reading.

Sermon

Good morning, everyone. Glad that you are with us today. I want to spend a little bit of time talking about the wonders of God. In the year 2000, the Seven Wonders of the World changed and they truly are amazing and wonderful. And I'm going to not pronounce them properly in some of the some of them. Number one, the great Wall of China is considered one of the seven wonders of the world. And I'm sure I'm not going to say this properly, the Chichén Itzá in Mexico. My apologies if I got that wrong. The Petra where purportedly was where Moses struck the rock and water gushed forth. The Machu Picchu in Peru and this magnificent wonder of the world, Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro. Absolutely magnificent. A wonder to behold. The Colosseum in Rome was built in the first century by the order of Emperor Vespasian. And that's one of the wonders of the world. And then the Taj Mahal in India is the seventh wonder of the world. So the wonders of the world sort of change as years go by. And I want to spend some time today just thinking about the beautiful wonders in this world.

I was touched emotionally when I thought about some of these things. All of us have experienced many of these things. Think of the wonder of a brand new baby. Your first baby and all the other babies. The wonder when that baby first looks into your eyes and smiles. Many of us remember that. And the first time your baby giggles and laughs, I don't know how to describe it other than just

wonderful. The joy and the wonder of when that baby takes his or her first steps and you want to reach out so they won't fall. But they're going to fall until they learn to walk. And then finally, when they walk into your arms, both us baby and us laugh and giggle together. Just think of the wonder of a rainbow covering the sky. No words to put to and accept the wonder. The wonder of being in the north and seeing the millions of stars, satellites flying back and forth and things that I don't even know are in the sky. So amazing.

And then think of the wonder of God who knew us before we were born and knew the exact time and places where we would live. Think of the wonder of Jesus and that He calls us his friend. The wonder. Think of the wonder of the Holy Spirit who lives inside us and comforts us. Think of the Scriptures and the wonder of all the writers as we learn from their thoughts. Even today, we keep learning from them more and more. Think of the wonder of seeing our loved ones who have passed, but the wonder and the promise of God that we will see our loved ones again. Face to face. Living together as Scripture says, in a new heaven and earth, a new creation, how do you describe it? We have so many wonders. Probably the greatest wonder is that God, the creator of all things, loves us, chose us to be born, and that He wants to live in our hearts every day and that we can talk to him even right now, and that he hears us and that he responds to us the wonder of it.

God could have created the world and say, You're on your own. But He doesn't. I am with you always. His promise and not only that, that our father is kind. He's patient, loving and helping us each and every day, even though we often don't even think of it. And we know trouble and tragedy comes. But even there he is with us, loving us, holding us every step of the way. And Jesus reminds us, in this world, you will have trouble. Who hasn't had trouble in this world? You will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome this world. And God never backs down on his promises. In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant was with Israel. It represented God being with them, containing the Ten Commandments. Gold plated, the jewel, the golden jar, holding the manna and staff which budded in the tablets of the covenant. These were all incredible wonders, and if we would stand back and look at them, we'd go, Well, what's the big deal? But they were a big deal. It was the very presence of God among them. What's the big deal about taking a little cracker and eating it with a little bit of juice and drinking? What's the big deal? It's the wonder that God lives in us. We recognize what He has done for us. He's given himself up his body and his blood. But his presence is always with us, no matter how low. We can get. The promise is, I will never leave you. I am with you always. I will never forsake you.

So I want to read a couple of scriptures today, just a few scriptures that talk about the wonders of God. Sometimes in the old and sometimes in the new. And this is an interesting passage. First Chronicles Chapter 16. We don't read Chronicles very often. It seems to be full of law and everything else, but there are some pretty interesting comments that are made in this. This is First Chronicles Chapter 16, starting with verse seven and it says that that day David King David first committed to Asaph a-s-a-p-h. And if you ever had the time, check how often that word asks of that name. Asaph is in the Bible is everywhere because as of was the director of music for all of Israel. And notice what it says that day David first committed to Asaph and his associates this psalm of thanks to the Lord. The Psalm are words accompanied by music. Maybe when we get to heaven, Asaph will say, You want to hear the song and we'll hear the song. Give thanks to the Lord. Call on His name, make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to him. Sing praise to him. Tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his name. Glory in this holy name at the hearts of those who seek the Lord. Rejoice. Look to the Lord in His strength. Seek His face. Always remember. Remember the wonders He has done. His miracles and the

judgments he's pronounced all descendants of Israel, his servant O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. Then he goes on to say, He is the Lord our God. His judgments are in all the Earth. He remembers His covenant to us forever. The word he commanded for a thousand generations. The covenant he made with Abraham. The oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree to Israel, as an everlasting covenant to you. I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit. When they were but few in number. Few indeed, and strangers in it, they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. He allowed no person to oppress them for their sake. He rebuked kings. Do not touch my anointed ones. Do my prophets no harm. Sing to the Lord all the years, proclaim his salvation day after day, declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among the people.

And then you remember the story of Job. Talk about having a bad day, not just a bad day, but everything in his life was basically taken away from him. Even his health was horrible, but he never backed down on God. And listen to what is said in Job 42 these few verses. Then Job replied to the Lord, I know that you can do all things. No plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge, surely I spoke of things I did not understand. Listen now. Things too wonderful for me to know. Job writes, Even though he was in a disastrous situation, he forgot the wonders of God. And Job, being such a righteous man, went, Oh, this is horrible, this is terrible. But there is a one there to God. Even when we're at our lowest moment, we must remember His promise. I love you. I created you. I will always be with you, even in very difficult times. And remember, in this world you will have trouble. But I've overcome that. One day there will be no more trouble. It's amazing story all the way through scripture of how how many wonderful promises of God is there and how how many times the word wonder is used all throughout the Scripture, magnificent scriptures.

In fact, in Psalm 26 verses 1 to 7. This is interesting. Psalm 26:1-7. A Psalm of David. Vindicate me, oh, lord. For I have led a blameless life. Meaning not that he didn't sin, but he did his very best. I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Test me. Oh, Lord. And try me examine my heart and my mind. For your love is ever before me And I walk continually in your truth I did not sit with deceitful people, nor did I consort with hypocrites. I abhor the assembly of evil doers and refused to sit with the wicked. I wash my hands in innocence and go about your altar, O Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds. God continually expresses Himself in these powerful scriptures. And then I want to turn to Psalm 107 in verse seven and eight, he says he led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle, let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. And then verse 15, Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men. So one of the ways that the Psalmist helps us to remember is by repeating, it's not unusual at all to hear him say something and then a few more lines, and then repeat it and then repeat it and then repeat it. And this is what's true here in Psalm one or seven, wanting the wonderful deeds of the Lord to be remembered, not just in passing, but all throughout our lives. Verse 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and his wonderful deeds. Verse 24 They saw the works of the Lord, His wonderful deeds in the deep. Which is very interesting. And then verse 31, let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and his wonderful deeds.

And then at Christmas time, we often use Isaiah Chapter nine. It's one of the most beautiful passages in our scripture here. Hundreds of years before Jesus is born, Isaiah is looking for that birth of Jesus. And then it says this, and I'm sure many of you can quote it for to us. A child is born to us. A son is given. And the government will be on his shoulders and he will be called. You want to say it with me?

Wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of Peace. It still stands today. It's this marvelous understanding of the Scriptures of Jesus in the New Testament, specifically in second Corinthians, where Paul was writing to a very confused church and some not believing that Paul was an apostle. He wrote these things. The things that mark an apostle are signs. You know what's next? Wonders, signs, wonders and miracles. And they were done among you, as you know. Think of the wonders of God in your life. The wonders of God can be seen every day. They can be seen at night. The stars, the planets, the satellites, the solar systems that continue to expand. It's just too amazing. God's wonders are everywhere. As an older man and an aging apostle, Peter reminds believers in the first century and us today, I think, the profound grace of God when he writes these words, Remember, you are a chosen person. You are a royal priesthood. You are a holy nation. You are a people belonging to God. That you may declare the praises of Him who call you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

I have to stop and repeat that because there are times when we might feel pretty low. But God wants us to know His promise, his wonders, the wonder of God living in each one of us. And let me read again, Peter, even though he doubted. Time after time after time, he was convinced and convicted that God was with him helping, encouraging. And it's the same for us today. The wonder of God taking each of our lives individually and pouring out His love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit and his promise of, I am always with you. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. The wonder of that, he calls us individually a chosen person, a royal priesthood. We belong to a holy nation. We belong to God so that we can declare the promises of God. And to realize that the light will always outshine the darkness, and that He is the wonderful light that shines in each one of us the wonder of God. I think that's why at Christmastime, when we use that passage in Isaiah, it is a profound time. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God and Everlasting Father. So let me wrap up.

There are more wonders that will come our way. And I encourage all of us to not let that go by that every day, maybe even something that didn't seem like a big deal. You want to go, "Well, that was-- that was wonderful! That was nice." Maybe something as simple as driving through a drive through Tim Hortons. And that nice word was said to you. Well, isn't that nice? But the world has become so fast paced that we forget the wonders all around us, and that when we learn about these wonders, we can demonstrate by sharing with others the wonders of God, by being kind, by being loving the fruit of the Spirit, even though it was written a long time ago, changes the world still today. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness when it's so needed today. Gentleness, the love of God all around us. There are more wonders that will come our way. And as time goes by and the older I get, I want to slow down and notice them. Just simple wonders that come along our way. There are words to the majestic song that we're going to be singing in just a moment. And I encourage you, as Adam leads us in this song, to notice the wonders of God. Amen.

Closing

I thank Don for his comments and God is a wonderful God. When you wonder, you wonder about a lot of things. I know you're inquiring minds. You asked the question, why? What? In order to identify who. But with God, his wonders are supernatural acts and just beyond our human understanding, there are extraordinary signs. The God of Wonders demonstrates his limitless power, his inescapable presence, his divine protection, his sovereign purposes. In each instance, God's wondrous works are designed to draw people to Him. The answer to the question It's because God wants me to recognize him.

Whatever it is, whatever wonders you have seen or heard, felt in your whole life and what's to come,

it's because God has designed these works to draw you to himself. The most stunning of miracles, of course, is when he reveals himself in Christ and he redeems everyone for all eternity and offering salvation. Can you comprehend the love of God? It's just to draw us to him. Closing words. May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and the God of our Father who loved us. And by His grace, gave us eternal encouragement and good hope. Encourage your hearts and strengthen you with you in every good deed and word. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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