

# REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2014 MORNING SERVICE

**Sing before:** Psalm 119:53

*Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Psalm 146:1

**Confession of faith:** Apostolic

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting

**Amen.**

*After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 40:2*

Law

Psalm: 40:2

**Prayer:**

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

**Amen**

Psalm 104:1, 21

**Scripture reading:** 2Corinthians 13

**Scripture text:** 2Corinthians 13:14

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

(2Corinthians 13:14)

Every Time we gather for a formal meeting with God – that is a worship service – He blesses us at the beginning and end of the gathering with the blessing of His Triune presence in our lives.

When we were baptized God granted this blessing of the Triune God to each of us.:

- We belong to the Triune re-creating God.
- He is the sole sanctifying God that consoles us under all conditions with whatever we might need.

Which living person is there who does not need the blessing of the Triune God? Often under various conditions we need the blessing of the Triune God to strengthen us.

- Sometimes, in the faith that he/she will arise, we stand at a graveside were we commit somebody very close to us to the earth.
- Other times there is sorrow about our own sins.
- Other times there is fear about serious illness.
- Many times we feel threatened in one way or another.

It is only the grace of the Triune God that is so large that it can render relief from all these matters.

We break this sermon up in three parts. We will examine each of the different parts how every one of the three Persons of our Only God consoles and works in our life and death.

**1. The Son saved us.**

**2. The Father elected and guards us.**

**3. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us.**

**1. The Son saved us.**

Everybody who is honest with himself and the Lord knows that by himself and by his nature he gets easier connection with the devil than with the Lord. Still the Lord does not reject us.

- It is written that God handed His own Son over for us to the death so that through this deed we may receive all God's grace. (Romans 8:32, John 3:16)  
**He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)**  
**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)**

Now that the wrath of the Lord has been punished over all our sins, the relationship between Him and us is completely different.

- After the Fall we were just common sinners that damaged the image of God in us and surrendered ourselves to the sins.
- Now, resulting from the atonement by the blood of Jesus Christ, there is such a tender relationship between us and God that He calls us His children.
- Of course we are not children by blood of the Lord like we know the specific relationship here on earth. But it is still true that we are the property of the Lord – His real property in time and forever.
- What are the contents of it that we are the children of God?
  - The Lord Jesus Christ freed our bodies and souls from the realm of the dead and the power of the Satan.
  - At the same time it means that He atoned us to God the Father.

The Lord Jesus did more to us than just make us children of God.

- Jesus saved us from the Satan and He also freed us from ourselves.
- He saved us from matters like our lack of will against the sin and our feelings of guilt when we have committed sins.
- The Lord Jesus also freed us from the violence of the sin (because all sins contain the violence of hell) and the associated rule by the devil.
- Further we were also, facing the Lord, absolved from the guilt we have due to all these matters.

This redemption by the Lord Jesus is not partial as if we also have to contribute something.

- It also is unconditional
- He did it out of His free will and the full strength of His almighty.

Psalm 116:2:

**The cords of death held me in deep despair;  
The pangs of hell, like waves by tempest driven,  
Rolled o'er my soul; by grief and sorrow riven,  
I turned my distress to God in prayer.**

(Anglo-Genevan Psalter - General Synod, New Westminster 1971)

As long as we live in this dispensation this redemption by our Lord Jesus will remain our most needed consolation and hope, because we are not yet into the perfection.

- In this life there are many ties wanting to bind us to pain, by example temptation into sin.
- Or miseries when the people closest to us die.
- Often we are deeply disappointed in others when we are treated unfairly.

Should this have been all that could come our way we might still have been able to handle it, but the problem is that the stronger your faith becomes the more poisonous enemies you acquire.

- They provoke you by matters like false teachings or they impede your progress and promotion at your work.

- Therefore it is of great importance that every believer should realize daily that he/she has in the protection by our Lord Jesus a future rising far above this earthly drudge into the perfect glory of God.

## 2. The Father elected and guards us.

To make the grace of the Triune God even more complete we consider another matter going hand in hand with this, namely **The Father elected and guards us.**

The blessing of the Lord in the Old Testament is very indicative of what the grace of God means to the people.

- From Genesis 12:2 it is clear that the meaning, which is your life, is coupled to the grace of God.
  - The Lord told Abraham:  
**I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.**  
(Genesis 12:2)
- From Genesis 49:25 it is clear that the grace of the Almighty God causes matters like rain from the heavens to fall over us.
  - Even the fountain water and well water from deep underground is part of His grace.
- Deuteronomy 28:8 adds storehouses and in all to which you set your hand.
- Something we often do not consider is that the grace of the Lord also has relevance to the land He gives us. (Compare also Isaiah 31:23 )

The entire salvation we have in the Lord Jesus Christ is indeed also protection by the Father.

- In Ephesians 1:4 we read that the Lord chose us before the foundation of the world and that we should be holy and without blame before Him in the final day.
- The Lord Jesus Himself also says that He and the Father in one and who has seen Him has also seen the Father.

*Therefore it is logical that the protection of the Father over us will be coupled in the blood of Jesus' redemption. By example we think about the prayer of Jesus when He prayed that not one of those given onto Him by the Father was lost. (John 17)*

God the Father was since the earliest times worried that we must be aware that His grace is installed over us every second of our existence.

- Just consider it that He commanded that His blessing must officially be installed to His children by the words:  
**24 "The Lord bless you and keep you;**  
**25 The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;**  
**26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." '**  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord said that His Name covers His chosen people when this benediction is announced over them. We are thus not just ordinary creatures to the Lord.

- We are so valuable to Him that He assembled His Plan in such a way that His Son had to die an accursed death in aid of saving us.
- The effect thereof is that we can daily count on the protection by the Lord.
- Should we become worried about anything going wrong or not working out as wanted, we can still know that the Lord and His protection is still with us.

This is exactly why we believers must know that there is not something as “per chance” for events and those things just happen by accident.

- My heavenly Father carefully plans every second of my life. So carefully that not even one hair will fall from my head without the decision of the Father.
- We are thus ensured that we are not handed over to fate – we exist inside the parameters of God’s Plan.

It is quite important for us to know this because none of us are just strong enough.

- We all are delivered to inherent weaknesses in specific instances.
- Should we not be looked after constantly, all of us can diminish in our faith.
- None of us have insights so honed that we never make any mistakes.

3. The Father physically guards us so that we may be bodily and materially healthy and fit, but He of course also spiritually looks after us. Therefore in closing we consider the following:

#### **The Holy Spirit sanctifies us.**

The Holy Spirit works in the invisible world. He works inside our hearts.

- He works with matters like our conscience, mind and our insight.
- He lets us understand what the Lord wants and does not want.
- He guides us to act with wisdom.

What has this to do with the grace of the Triune God?

- The grace of the Triune God is that the Holy Spirit sanctifies your life.
- Not only does He guide us to live more just and do less wrong, He also guides us so that we internally break with the sin.
- He guides us to be reborn and to daily live a life of reborn.
- Let me put it a little differently: He changes our heart and conscience so that our handiwork is better able to build the kingdom of God.

What happens to a person who daily lives with the solid realization of this consolation that the triune God protects and looks after him?

- Such a person calms down.
- His life also gives fruit of faith because he lives with his heart and mind enlightened by the Lord himself.

Let me put it differently: The Holy Spirit installs the Plan of the Father and the redemption by Jesus Christ into the people it is meant for. Listen to the Lord Jesus’ own words:

**And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever**

(John 14:16)

**"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

(John 14:26)

- Through His witness, power and His residence inside of us the Holy Spirit makes us willing to continually fight the sin, and when we have fallen, He lets us arise from the evil.
- He makes us willing to fight our inability and to live for the Lord.
- In Romans 8:15 it is written that the Holy Spirit guides us to pray and to know that we are children of God. (also compare 1Corinthians 2:12)

The Holy Spirit guides us to, through all disasters, poverty, sickness, derision injustice or whatever may come over us, remain having good faith and loving and serving God by all heart. To serve God Triune and to be consoled.

**Amen.**

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 119:48

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

**Amen**

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