

## REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2013 EVENING SERVICE

**Sing before:** Scripture versification 9-1:11

*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 of praise: Psalm 98:1,2

**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 84:2, 5

**Scripture reading:** Hebrews 7

**Scripture text:** Hebrews 7:25; Catechism Sunday 11

**Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

(Hebrews 7:25)

These days it is difficult to be a true Christian, because we live at a time the devil has entrenched himself in the church.

- He has quite a number of people in the church who have changed the church to such an extent that it has lost its true character as the body of the Lord.
- Long ago already the Lord warned us that the antichrist would arise from the church.

This is why there are many people who call themselves Christians but no longer are Christians. Let's look at a few examples.

- Two people appeal to the same Bible but regarding their life style and values they are completely different.
- So-called Christians are members of organizations based on strange principles – organizations that do not acknowledge the Triune God as the one and only God of heaven and earth. When these people are at a church service though, they confess their belief in the Lord.
- We notice faith becoming shallow and disruption in the church itself.
  - It is said that churches should be accommodating
  - Churches should expand their doctrines to make space for other religions too.
  - By doing that the only salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ is denied.

That brings us to an in-depth question: Who determines the doctrine of the church? Who determines what a church is and what is to be taught in a church? The answer to both these questions is: the Lord. The Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us reflect again during this sermon on a few basic things that we believe and confess about the Lord Jesus Christ:

- 1. The name Jesus reveals the glory of the Son of God.**
- 2. The joy of the faithful is in the Name Jesus only.**
- 3. In the name Jesus is a sentence for so-called Christians.**

### **1. The name Jesus reveals the glory of the Son of God.**

Why didn't our Saviour have another name, like Peter for example? Or any other name used during that time? Didn't his coming to earth only had to do with the fact that He became a human being; why a specific human name as well?

- The promises in the Old Testament did not deal with a name.
- Only a Messiah was promised.
  - Messiah only means Anointed. We use the Greek word Christ. It also means Anointed.
  - In the Old Testament the promised Saviour is called the Sent (sjaliach).

The people therefore did not expect somebody with a specific name.

- That is why the angel who appeared to Mary, told her that God wanted the child's name to be Jesus.
- The people should hear the Name so that they would know that it was He!
- This Jesus is the Anointed and the Sent who has been promised for such a long time.
  - His Name tells us that He came to redeem us.
  - His Name says who this Being is whom we should worship because He redeems us.
  - We must know his Name so that we can glorify and worship Him by his Name.

Jesus was God who came to live on earth as a human being.

- He left the glory of heaven to live among sinners on earth.

- He fought against Satan with his human powers.
  - It was of course not necessary to conquer the devil in this way.
  - He could have exterminated him from heaven in less than a split second.
  - But Jesus wanted to do it in this way because He, as a human being, wanted to conquer the devil.

## **2. The joy of the faithful is in the Name Jesus only.**

No other name can be called with such pride and glory.

- Even the names of great leaders on earth do not shine as much as that of the Lord Jesus.
- Not even the names of angels bear such glory as the Name Jesus.
- Every believer – and the creation – is coupled with the Name Jesus Christ.
  - In simple practice, and maybe oversimplified, it means that you can only go to heaven if you confess Jesus as your only Saviour.

Our joy is in that we confess Him only and that we deny everything that either wants to add to our salvation or, on the other hand, wants to weaken Jesus' reconciliation as if any other religion or form of worship also have the potential of salvation.

The worshippers and confessors of Jesus Christ can rely on the fact that they have eternal life, because He still lives and still redeem those who confess Him.

- He does it every day and every moment.
- In terms of the fact that He alone is God, He does not share our worship with anybody else.
- Only the Lord gives us perfect joy and peace of the hereafter if we only worship Him.

To understand experience the joy and peace in the hereafter we should first have a look at what we are being redeemed/saved of.

- He redeems us from all our original sin.
- He also redeems us from our inherited tarnish.
- He further redeems us from all the sins we commit and have committed.
- He redeems us from all the wrong we just thought of.
- He redeems us from the power the devil has over us.
- He frees us from the curse of the Fall.

On the other hand, He comes to take us to Him (1 Thessalonians 4). With Him conditions are completely different from what they are here.

- There we are free of sin.
- The entire creation is perfect.
- There is no more stress, misery, poverty and death.

We do not experience salvation only after death.

- The Lord Jesus already starts establishing this in our present life although He will only perfect it after the Second Coming.

- He already lets us live another way of life spiritually.
  - A life in which we hate and detest all wrong and ugly things.
  - We flee from our own lives through remorse and repentance.
  - This is how Jesus makes us holier us through the work of the Holy Spirit the longer we live.

We more and more live a life in which we seek the company of God. This is the joy and peace granted to us by the Name Jesus.

### **3. In the name Jesus is a sentence for so-called Christians.**

There is no other way. We must test our own life and worship through introspection. Do we worship Jesus sincerely and with all our heart?

Fact of the matter is that He only grants redemption and perfection to those who serve Him as Saviour.

- Those who do not serve Jesus as Saviour and God can expect great trouble and danger, because they will be judged by Him.
- In the Name Jesus God reveals that He is unstoppable:
  - The powers of hell could not even stop Him when He lived in a human body.
  - Those who do not want to worship Him as Jesus who, in his human body, bore the punishment and judgement to be the propitiation for our sins, will certainly be cornered by Him!
    - They will find themselves to be in the same camp as Satan and be judged like him.
    - And they are heading for the same judgement and punishment as Satan.

This should make us realise how conscientious our approach towards our worship should be.

- After all, a Christian cannot become reconciled with anything.
- The moment we add something to or take something away from our complete worship of the Lord Jesus we deny the Lord Jesus Christ.
- That means that we bring ourselves within sight of the unthinkable anxiety and grief of hell.

*The Lord asks us from us very clearly distinguish between faiths. We live in the era of the rise of the antichrist and his heralds. Therefore, let it be very clear to you that our worship and our faith have absolutely no room for expanding our religion.*

- Other religions may not be included in the Christian religion.
- Other gods may not be worshipped besides, or with, the Triune God.
- The church may not weaken the principles and demands laid down by God in his Word for the sake of human needs of its members.

Of course there should be continuous religious renewal. However, we should more and more search for how we can truthfully worship the Lord. This renewal should however have a few perspectives:

- The renewal should put the honour of God in a brighter light as before.
- It should serve the spiritual wellbeing of the congregation in a better way than before.
- It should also not put another principle in the place of the principles laid down by the Lord in his Word.

The moment these principles are not applied in renewal it is wrong. Our principles and practices must comply with true worship of the Lord. This is what Jesus requires.

His death on the cross divides mankind into two clearly distinguishable groups:

- In the one group are those who reject Him as Saviour.
  - They do not acknowledge Him as the Sent from God and also do not worship Him as God.
  - They are not reconciled by his death and are doomed.
- In the other group are the true believers.
  - Their faith is clear-cut.
  - Their faith is not flexible or bribable.
  - Their faith also does not allow room for any god next to the Triune God.

Jesus grants redemption from the wrath of God for this group of people and also eternal life. This is why the Bible teaches about Him that He saves completely those who go to God through Him, because He lives forever to intercede for them.

Let us read together Catechism Sunday 11:

## 11. Lord's Day

### Q. 29.

**Why is the Son of God called "Jesus", that is a Saviour?**

**A.**

Because he saveth us, and delivereth us from our sins; (a)  
and likewise, because we ought not to seek, neither can find salvation in any other. (b)

(a)

Matt.1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Heb.7:24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Heb.7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

(b)

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

1 Tim.2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Isa.43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

**Q. 30.**

**Do such then believe in Jesus the only Saviour, who seek their salvation and welfare of saints, of themselves, or anywhere else?**

**A.**

They do not; for though they boast of him in words, yet in deeds they deny Jesus the only deliverer and Saviour; (a)

for one of these two things must be true, that either Jesus is not a complete Saviour; or that they, who by a true faith receive this Saviour, must find all things in him necessary to their salvation. (b)

(a)

1 Cor.1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Cor.1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

1 Cor.1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Gal.5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

(b)

Heb.12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isa.9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Col.1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

Col.1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Col.2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

**Amen.**

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 89:1

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**

**Dr MJ Du Plessis**  
**Helping Reverend**  
**Reformed Church Clanwilliam**  
**2 June 2013**  
**Scripture Modern King James Version**