

July 30th, 2023
9th Sunday after Pentecost



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee.

DEFINE CHRISTIAN

Ask ten different people to define Christian and you may get ten different answers. One might say, “A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus.” Okay. But the demons believe that Jesus exists and is the Son of God. So is that definition adequate? Another person might have a more negative view. He says, “A Christian is someone who believes he is better than others.” Is that completely false? And if you aren’t humble, does that mean you aren’t Christian?

In our next worship series Christ himself defines the term Christian and describes what Christians do. We will be struck by how often we do not do all those things. There likely are times when people could look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Yet throughout this series Jesus will demonstrate that ultimately a Christian is one who runs to Christ for forgiveness precisely because he has failed to live like what he is—a Christian. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to better fit Christ’s beautiful definition, doing all the things Jesus says that Christians do.

THE CHRISTIAN SEEKS SPIRITUAL WEALTH

What do you consider your life’s priorities? If you made a list, what would be near the top? Faith, family, and friends would probably head the lists of many. Financial security and health would be right up there. Reputation and recreation would likely make the cut. But perhaps a more interesting question than “What do you consider your life’s priorities?” is “Which of the items on that list would you be willing to sacrifice to save your top priority?” What if you had to give up the whole list—family, friends, finances, health, reputation, recreation—to save just one priority: faith?

This week we are given an honest assessment of what really matters in life. The kingdom is worth everything. Worldly wealth can buy the things of this world, the type of things that rust and decay, things that will not last. True wealth is spiritual wealth. It can be found only in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ. The Christian seeks first spiritual wealth and will sacrifice anything to obtain it.

Stand

♪ O Lord, open my lips,
♪ **and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

♪ Hasten to save me, O God;
♪ **O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

♪ The Spirit of the Lord fills the world:
♪ **praise and thanks to God!**

♪ **O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord** ♪

CW 208

**1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.**

**2 For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
the heights of the hills are also his.**

**3 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hand formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**4 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.**

Be seated

♪ Psalm 63B O Lord, My God, Now Hear My Plea ♪

Psalm 63B

- 1 O Lord, my God, now hear my plea;
I seek your holy face,
within your house again to see
the glories of your grace.
Apart from you I long and thirst,
and naught can satisfy;
I wander in a desert land
where all the streams are dry.

- 2 O Lord, your tender loving care
is more than life to me;
so I will praise you all my days
and pray continually.
In you my soul has all it needs,
my darkness turns to light,
and joyful meditations fill
the watches of the night.

- 3 Beneath your ever shelt'ring wings
I sing my joy and praise;
you hold me in your pow'rful arms
through troubled nights and days.
All those who seek my life will fall;
my life is in your hand.
God's king and people will rejoice,
in vict'ry they will stand.

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FIRST READING

1 KINGS 3:5–12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷“Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹²I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 6:17–21

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

²⁰Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:44–52

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵²He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN: YOUR KINGDOM, O GOD, IS MY GLORIOUS TREASURE

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SERMON

1 TIMOTHY 6:17–21

Stand

♪ We Praise You, O God ♪

CW 210

- 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
all creation worships you, Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

- 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'nly hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.**

- 3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:
Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and only Son;
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.**

- 5 When you became man to set us free,
you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

- 6 You sit at the right hand of God
in the glory of the Father.
We believe that you will come
to be our judge.**

- 7 Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213

- ♪ Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.
♪ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Prayers of intercession, seasonal prayers, and the Prayer of the Day may be offered.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

♪ Let us praise the Lord.

♪ **Thanks be to God.**

♪ The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪ **Amen.**

HYMN: TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS

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Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Christian Worship

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