

## The Order of Worship

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Opening Song              | Immortal, Invisible                    |
| A Prayer of Praise        | Highlight Attribute<br><i>Goodness</i> |
| Scripture Reading         | II Peter 1:2-7                         |
| A Prayer for the Nations* | Eritrea                                |
| Affirmation of Faith      |  |
| Congregational Song       | He Will Hold Me Fast                   |
| A Prayer for the Lost     |  |
| Congregational Song       | It is Well                             |
| Sermon:                   | II Peter 1:4-5                         |

Christians from non-traditional denominations face the harshest persecution in Eritrea, both from the government and from the Eritrean Orthodox Church (EOC). The EOC is one of the only Christian denominations recognized by the government, and it is tightly controlled by those in power.

Government security forces monitor phone calls, scrutinize activity and conduct countless raids which target Christians, seize Christian materials and damage house churches. Christians can be arrested and imprisoned without trial. Many Christians are held in inhumane prisons because of their faith, and their loved ones often do not know where they are or even if they are still alive. In June 2020, the UN reported there was no meaningful progress to address human rights violations in Eritrea.

Non-EOC Christians and Christians from a Muslim background face extreme opposition from their families and communities and from the state, often being denied crucial social services and other resources.

## Prayer Requests

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mary Ann Cooper    | Barry Wilson     |
| Collierville       | Rita Stewart     |
| James Payne Family | Danette Roberson |
| Shirley Pruett     |                  |

## Announcements

### **Fundraisers** (See Margie Thompson for Details)

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Rummage Sale          |
| Nov 21 <sup>st</sup> | Farmer's Market       |
| Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Cookie Walk |
| Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> | Chili Lunch           |
| Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> | Valentine Cookie Cake |

### **Explorer's Bible Study**

Tuesday Mornings and Wednesday Evenings

### **The Brethren of Emory** (Joel Barrett)

=====

In EVERY situation and EVERY circumstance of your life, God is always doing a thousand different things that you cannot see and you do not know. John Piper

## II Peter 1:4-5

Do you lack assurance of your salvation? Eternal security is based on an understanding of something objective and something subjective. Objectively speaking, your assurance is understanding what \_\_\_\_ has done. The second component of assurance is rooted in our subjective confidence of living faithfully in Jesus Christ.

John MacArthur believes some other reasons exist for a lack of assurance: strong preaching regarding God's holiness that lacks the mention of God's \_\_\_\_\_, maybe the person believes they're too \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved, maybe the person doesn't understand the gospel, lacking the clarity of a specific date of a decision, others who doubt maybe should doubt due to ongoing willful sin.

### I. Assurance and Divine Promises

God's goodness and mercy have gifted us exceedingly great and precious \_\_\_\_\_. He "gave" us. The verb reveals a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the gift. He has just promised He gave us \_\_\_\_\_. Other promises are in 1:16, 3:4 and 3:9. Another promise is the fact we share God's \_\_\_\_\_. The word denotes \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

John Calvin "Let us mark, that the end (purpose) of the gospel is, to render us eventually conformable to God..."

Immediately upon conversion, the redeemed person begins to look like His Father. If there's no pursuit, no process,.....?

Believers, partaking God's nature, also are rejecting, escaping the world's corruption. II Peter 2:20. We participate in the divine nature by reflecting the King's virtues. Those who've

come to Christ have had their desires transformed. While we once loved things corruptible, we now love goodness, holiness, grace and peace. People who continuing loving the corruptible things ought not to have assurance.

After being redeemed, a fully devoted follower pursues.....

### II. Assurance and a Divine Prescription

An important truth: Grace \_\_\_\_\_ precedes commands. The gospel indicatives (statements of fact) always precede the gospel imperatives (commands). Another important truth: Understanding grace precedes commands doesn't cancel out a \_\_\_\_\_ effort on our part. After all, He's died on our behalf, He's delivered us, what should we do as an act of worship?

We should apply every \_\_\_\_\_. Godly character won't come through \_\_\_\_\_. Martin Luther: "They should \_\_\_\_\_ their faith by their good \_\_\_\_\_." Kistemaker: "Even though the initiative in salvation comes from God, He works out sanctification by putting \_\_\_\_\_."

### ADD

Peter lists 8 virtues, faith being the first. Without it, the other virtues are unattainable. A person who has genuine faith in Jesus Christ will live, will talk, will act in a different way. John Calvin wrote that faith must not be naked or alone. Genuine faith will always have other clothing. So, Peter adds virtue, meaning to live an \_\_\_\_\_. While we understand the pursuit is rooted in grace, we practice with energy and intensity.

Upon what are you basing the assurance of your salvation?

