

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. | www.FPFO.org | 706.866.2521 | 1 Harker Road

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD’S DAY | MARCH 15, 2026 | 10:45 A.M.

## The Announcements

## The Prelude

### \*The Call to Worship ..... Psalm 92:1, 2, 4

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night, For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

### \*The Hymn of Praise Psalm 9B ..... “Wholehearted Thanksgiving” (pg.4-5)

### \*The Prayer of Adoration

### \*The Confession of Faith..... Heidelberg Catechism #4

Q. What does God’s law require of us?

A. Christ teaches us this in a summary in Matthew 22: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

### The Call to Confession.....from Colossians 3

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

## **The Prayer of Confession**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

## **The Silent Confession**

### **The Assurance of Pardon ..... Titus 3:3-7**

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### **\*The Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 308 ..... "Jesus Paid It All"**

**~ We Respond to God's Grace with Offerings of Ourselves and Our Needs**

### **The Offering and Encouragement to Give ..... 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

### **The Old Testament Reading ..... Exodus 37:1-16**

### **The Great Prayer ..... Rev. Jim Richter**

### **\*The Psalm of Preparation No. 660 ..... "O God Beyond All Praising"**

**~ God Speaks to Us in His Word ~**

### **The Sermon ..... Rev. Jim Richter**

**"The Heart of the Matter" | Rom. 2:17-29 | Pg. 884**

~ We Respond to God Speaking in His Word ~

\*The Hymn of Response No. 473 ..... "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

\*The Benediction

\*The Response No. 735 ..... "The Gloria Patri"

## Psalm 9B

1. Whole - heart - ed thanks - giv - ing to thee will I bring,  
 2. Thou, Lord, art a ref - uge for all the op - pressed;  
 3. Give praise to Je - ho - vah, the might - y deeds tell  
 4. Be - hold my af - flic - tion, thy mer - cy ac - cord,

in praise of thy mar - vel - ous deeds I will sing;  
 all trust thee who know thee, and trust - ing are blest;  
 of him who has chos - en in Zi - on to dwell,  
 and back from death's por - tals re - store me, O Lord,

in thee I will joy and ex - ult - ing - ly cry,  
 for nev - er, O Lord, did thy mer - cy for - sake  
 of him to whom jus - tice and ven - geance be - long,  
 that I in the gates of thy Zi - on may raise

thy name I will praise, O Je - ho - vah Most High.  
 the soul that has sought of thy grace to par - take.  
 who vis - its the low - ly and o - ver - throws wrong.  
 my song of sal - va - tion and show forth thy praise.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to Je-ho-vah, declare ye his fame,

and give him all hon-or, for just is his name.

Partial  
Fanny J. Crosby, 1875; alt., mod.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11. ref.  
William H. Doan, 1875

## Sermon Outline

### The Heart of the Matter (Romans 2:12-29)

In Romans 2, Paul makes it clear that no one, even a religious person, can by his or her own **presumed** self-righteousness or special status, escape the righteous judgment of God for their sin. There must be a response of faith to the Gospel from the heart by the Holy Spirit in order to be counted righteous by God and escape His just judgment for their sin.

- This is true (Vs.1-5) for people who judge others as sinners deserving God's judgment, but who do the same things they judge while **presuming** that they themselves will escape God's judgement without repentance for their own sin.
- This is also true (Vs. 6-11) for those, whether Jew or Gentile, who **presume** they have a right relationship with God that will exempt them from God's judgment for sin while living self-seeking lives that give no indication of real obedience to the Gospel. Salvation is by grace, not by works of obedience, but when a person has been saved by faith in Christ there will be some evidence that the person is living a life that is truly devoted to Him.

Now, in Verses 2:12-29, Paul further warns against false **presumptions** of exemptions from God's judgment, especially focusing on false Jewish **presumptions**.

1. No one, whether Jew or Gentile, is exempt from liability to God's judgment by virtue of having a knowledge of God's Law. Many Jews mistakenly **presumed** this. (Verses 12-29) It is doers/obeyers of the law, not hear of the law, who will be counted righteous before God, and escape His judgment. Simply having/knowing/acknowledging a standard of moral behavior, whether it is the Old Testament Law given by God, or a sense of moral standards arising from human nature, does not exempt us from God's judgment for our failure to obey that standard of morality. Of course, since no one consistently obeys their own, or God's law, no one can be saved by their "works" of obedience to law. Indeed, the Jews did not live lives that were consistent with what they professed, and in the process dishonored the name of God in the eyes of Gentiles.
2. No Jewish person, even males who had been circumcised, thus bearing the mark of being in covenant with God, who disobey the law of the covenant, can **presume** to truly be in right covenant relationship with the covenant God, exempt from God's judgment. (Verses 25-29) However, people who do not bear the sign of the covenant, but from the heart, by the work of the Holy Spirit, strive to live according to God's covenant law, will be regarded as members of God's covenant people. A person is a Jew, a member of God's covenant people, with a circumcised heart, by the Spirit.

**So, how is your heart?**

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## SERMON NOTES

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 15, 2026

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Announcements are due 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and must be emailed to [office@fpfo.org](mailto:office@fpfo.org).

- ❖ The Over Sixties Luncheon is Thursday, March 19 at 11:30. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Come for lunch and great fellowship.
- ❖ Operation Christmas Child collection for March is water bottles & toothbrushes.
- ❖ The Lord's Supper will be observed as part of worship this Lord's Day Evening Service.

### Keep Up With the Worship & Work of the Church

- + Sign up for text message alerts and updates by texting *FPFO* to 84576.
- + To subscribe to the prayer list, please contact the church secretary: [office@fpfo.org](mailto:office@fpfo.org).
- + Contributions may be received during the offering in worship, mailing a check to the church office, or online: [FPFO.org/give](https://FPFO.org/give)

To submit prayer requests, please email the church office or call 706-866-2521.

### FPFO Weekly Activities Schedule

#### The Lord's Day

#### Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship

5:00 p.m. Sermon Broadcast

WAAK 94.7 FM

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

(excluding First Sundays)

5:55 p.m. Covered-Dish Supper

6:30-7:15 p.m. Prayer Meeting

**Children are welcome in worship, but nursery is also available for children 3 and under.**

Nursery: Mar. 15: M. L. Wilson & M. Brande    Mar. 22: E. Wilson & L. Murphy