

CS - 1/18/81

Yesterday Lucille and I prayed together as I left for the Special Council Mtg that the will of the Lord would be done.

We accept the Council action as His will, and so have resigned.

The motion - to leave Feb. 1.

I asked to be relieved immediately. I would have preferred not to be here this morning, but agreed to do so because I want to do everything in severing our ties with CB in a way that is pleasing to the Lord.

But this will be my last service with you.

I do plan to be back for the wedding of Jim Byrne and Becky Johnson on Feb. 6 - but after that I expect to discontinue all participation in the work here.

I do not feel it would be proper for me to be involved in <sup>CB</sup> weddings or funerals after this, and I trust you all will respect my convictions in these things. (2)

The question of a farewell reception came up yesterday. Lucille and I had discussed this many weeks ago and decided that, under these circumstances, there could be none. This is our firm decision and so our ministry here will conclude with this service this morning. We are going to leave right after the service is over, so we won't be at the rear door as we usually are.

We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity of serving Him here at CB. It has not been easy, but who says the Lord's work is ever easy. Many of you are

our very dear friends, (3)  
and you will always be  
upon our hearts. Thank you  
all for your many kindnesses  
to us - and I trust that those  
of you who have ~~ever~~ prayed  
for us will continue to do so.

We have no plans for the  
future. We are just waiting  
on the Lord.

What do you say at a time like this? I have never been in a situation like this before.

my greatest concern: <sup>Phone call about Phil 2:12</sup>

" In the sweet fear of Jesus

Verses for 1981 - Psa. 16:8. <sup>"I have set the Lord</sup>  
also ~~3~~ Isa 26:3,4 show will keep him...

my mind directed to Psa 103 about 6 this morning.

What goes through my mind in a time like this?

Regrets for preaching as I have? no - only regrets that I have not preached better.

Psa. 103 contains some of my thoughts -

I Of praise to God (vv. 1-5).

II. The ways of the Lord. (v. 5)

Psa 18:30 Isa 55:8, 9 Rom 11:33 <sup>0 the depth</sup>

How strange they are to us - (5)  
and yet how wise + wonderful!

Poem - "I asked the Lord  
that I might grow..."

### III. The mercies of God (vv. 8-18)

A. Inexhaustible

B. In spite of our

1) Sinfulness

2) frailty and failure

~~Remember~~ Remember me as the Pastor  
who had nothing good to say  
about the nature heart of man,  
but also a Pastor who was at  
a loss to find the right words and  
enough words to say about the  
greatness, the majesty, the glory, the  
wisdom, the power, the love, the  
grace, the faithfulness, the sufficiency  
of our wonderful God

His Son

and the Holy Spirit.

Lam. 3:22,23 "It is of the Lord's  
mercies..."

### IV. The sovereignty of God (v. 19) - not something just future, but true right now!

V Finally, back where we started - Of praise to God.

Note David starts by talking to himself.

As he goes on he addresses the saints ("us" "our" - vv. 10-14)

He then speaks to angels (v. 20)

Goes on to all creation (vv. 20 <sup>1/2</sup> - 22 <sup>1/4</sup>)

Finally, comes back to himself

Concl: This is the way I want to be, and this is my hope for you.

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health  
and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so  
wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently  
sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

(Over)

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me  
adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen sound from His people again:  
Gladly for eye we adore Him.

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"  
(Phil. 2:12b).

In the sweet fear of Jesus,  
Let me begin each day,  
Fearful lest I should grieve Him,  
Fearful lest I should stray;  
Fearful lest earthly longings  
Ever my heart should share,  
Taking the throne of Jesus,  
Placing an idol there.

In the sweet fear of Jesus  
Let me begin each day,  
Serving or resting, always  
Under His gentle sway;  
All that I say directed,  
All that I plan, conceived  
With the remembrance present  
Jesus must not be grieved.