

Sunday Morning Worship — November 9

Summary of Service and Message

Opening Worship & Announcements

The service opened with songs celebrating God's grace and the mystery of redemption through Christ—*"All Glory Be to Christ," "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery,"* and *"Before the Throne of God Above."*

Pastor Patrick began with church announcements, including:

- Thanksgiving offering for the **Tom Bean Ministerial Alliance**,
- Fundraising for **new A/C units**,
- **Men's Breakfast (Nov. 22)** and **Thanksgiving Fellowship (Nov. 23)**,
- **Connect Class (Nov. 17)**, and **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes** due next Sunday.

He expressed gratitude for the congregation's faithfulness and the previous day's funeral ministry before transitioning into a special moment of worship.

Baptism of Elijah Bottoms

A highlight of the morning was the **baptism of Pastor Patrick's son, Elijah**.

The pastor shared tenderly about years of prayer and conversations leading to Elijah's confession of faith.

He emphasized the **father's role in discipleship**, encouraging parents to pour into their children and the church to partner in that discipleship:

"You get to be a part of his sanctification—pray for him, encourage him, walk with him."

After Elijah's baptism, the church celebrated with joyful greeting and fellowship.

Scripture Reading & Worship

The congregation read **Hebrews 9:1–15**, which highlights Christ's role as the perfect high priest who entered the greater, heavenly sanctuary with His own blood—securing eternal redemption.

Songs like *"It Is Well With My Soul"* and *"Have Mercy on Me"* reinforced the morning's theme of Christ's atoning sacrifice and intercession.

Sermon: “The Heavenly Mediator — Finding Hope in Job’s Lament”

Text: Job 16:1–17:16

Supporting Passages: Hebrews 9; 1 Peter 1:20–21; Isaiah 53; Genesis 3:15; 2 Corinthians 5

Central Theme

Job’s cries for understanding and comfort foreshadow the ministry of **Christ, the true Mediator**. The message emphasized that Job’s suffering ultimately reveals **God’s sovereignty** and points forward to the Redeemer who would stand in the gap for sinners.

Main Points

1. Job’s Desire for Genuine Comfort (16:1–6)

- Job calls his friends “miserable comforters,” exposing their shallow theology and human-centered reasoning.
- The Hebrew word *yasak* (“assuage/restrain”) shows Job’s longing for someone to **stand in the gap**—to restrain his pain rather than increase it.
- This anticipates **Christ**, who interposes Himself between God’s wrath and human sin, taking the blows on our behalf.

2. Job’s Condition: The Innocent Sufferer (16:7–18)

- Job describes his suffering vividly: abandoned, broken, pierced, targeted by God’s wrath.
- His words mirror **the suffering of Jesus**, the truly innocent one who was despised, rejected, and bore divine wrath for sinners.
- The pastor explained that even when God *permits* suffering rather than *commands* it, **He remains sovereign over all outcomes**.

3. Job’s Future and Plea for a Pledge (16:22–17:6)

- Job faces death with the haunting question: “Where is my hope?”

- Yet, in verse 17:3, he pleads for God to “lay down a pledge”—someone to **cover his debt before God**.
- This points to the **gospel promise**: Christ, the pledged Redeemer, who secures our standing before the Father.

4. Job's Heavenly Witness and Mediator (16:19–21)

- “Even now, my witness is in heaven... He would argue the case of man with God.”
- Job's prophetic words reveal a longing for the **God-Man Mediator**, fulfilled in **Jesus Christ**, who alone can represent both God and humanity.
- Christ is the *Heavenly Witness*, the *High Priest*, and the *Son of Man* who intercedes for His people (Heb. 9; 1 Pet. 1).

Key Theological Insights

- The book of Job is **about God's sovereignty**, not merely human suffering.
- True religion rooted in faith leads to **hope**, not despair.
- Christ fulfills Job's longing as the one who stands in the gap, restraining wrath and granting righteousness.
- Faith—even when trembling—turns the sufferer's eyes from self to God's redemptive plan.

Application & Challenge

1. **Be true comforters.** Don't offer platitudes—listen, pray, and act.
2. **Stand in the gap** for the hurting and the lost, pointing them to Christ.
3. **Parents:** model discipleship; continually talk with your children about faith.
4. **Share the gospel.** Pray for and reach out to someone who doesn't yet know Christ.
5. **Reflect Christ's mediating love.** Be agents of reconciliation in homes, workplaces, and community.

“Do you hold forward our Mediator? Are you standing in the gap for others?”

Closing Exhortation

The sermon concluded with a quote from Puritan Stephen Charnock:

“God, apart from Christ, is an angry, offended sovereign... We dare not approach the Father except in Christ, the Mediator.”

Pastor Patrick urged believers to behold God through Christ—the only means of grace and reconciliation—and invited those present to pray or respond to the gospel.

Benediction

The service ended with the hymn “*I Am Resolved*” and a pastoral blessing:

“May you draw near with confidence to His throne of grace and be strengthened by His grace.”