

Sunday Morning Worship – November 30

Welcome & Announcements

Speaker:

Good morning! Welcome to First Baptist Church — we're glad you're here.

A few reminders:

- **Wednesdays in December:** Teaching series on **Covenant Membership**.
- **Next Saturday, 2–5pm:** Christmas **Open House** at the pastor's home. Come by, grab goodies, enjoy fellowship.
- **Two weeks from today: Tom Bean Community Christmas Tree Lighting, Carols, and Parade** (4–6pm).
 - We'll have a booth with information.
 - We need volunteers for caroling and for working the booth.
 - We are also putting together a **parade float**.
- **Women's Christmas Brunch:** Saturday, December 13 at 10am.

Let's go to the Lord in prayer.

Opening Prayer

Prayer:

Most gracious heavenly Father, thank You for this day and for Your Word. Help us to read it, seal it in our hearts, and speak with the wisdom You provide. Be glorified in this service.

Amen.

Worship Through Song

Songs include:

- **"All I Have Is Christ"** – reminding us that Christ is our Redeemer and all we need.

- **“Rock of Ages”**

Prayer after singing:

Lord, thank You for the promise of resurrection — that when we close our eyes in death, we will open them to behold You in righteousness as You stand in judgment and rule justly. You are worthy of all glory. Amen.

Scripture Reading – John 1:1–18

A reading of John’s prologue:

- The Word was with God and was God.
- The true Light came into the world, yet His own did not receive Him.
- But those who believed were given the right to become children of God.
- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Greeting Time

Congregation is invited to greet one another.

Sermon: Job 19

Text: Job 19:1–29

Theme: *“My Redeemer Lives”*

Introduction

Job asks a relentless question repeated throughout the book: **“Why?”**

While philosophy cannot fully answer it, God has given us minds capable of seeking, wrestling, and discovering truth through His Word and by His Spirit.

Job has been trying to find footing in his suffering, especially with the unhelpful accusations of his friends. This chapter divides into three movements:

1. **God attacks me as a sinner**
2. **God cruelly isolates me as a sinner**

3. Yet God will be my Redeemer to vindicate me

1. God Attacks Me as a Sinner (vv. 1–12)

Job rebukes his friends:

“How long will you torment me and break me in pieces with words?”

Though they accuse him, Job feels the deeper wound is from God. His perception:

- “God has put me in the wrong.”
- God feels like an advancing army laying siege to his life.
- God has “walled up” his way and removed his glory.

Job’s experience resembles Lamentations 1:12 — though that passage describes just judgment, Job is mistakenly interpreting his suffering as punitive wrath.

Job cries out “Violence!” but receives no answer.

He feels unheard, unseen, attacked — as if God is treating him like a wicked man deserving judgment.

2. God Cruelly Isolates Me as a Sinner (vv. 13–20)

Job feels entirely cut off:

- Brothers, acquaintances, relatives, friends — all estranged
- Servants ignore him
- Even his wife recoils from him
- Young children despise him
- His physical body is wasting away

This isolation mirrors the relational severing associated with divine judgment — though Job is not under judgment.

Job misunderstands, interpreting his loneliness as God treating him like a condemned sinner.

Isolation is devastating because human beings were created for **community** (**koinonia**). God's design in Genesis makes clear: *“It is not good for man to be alone.”*

Hell is ultimate isolation; heaven is communion perfected. Job feels a foretaste of the wrong thing.

3. Yet God Will Be My Redeemer to Vindicate Me (vv. 21–29)

This is where the clouds break.

Job pleads for mercy. Then, in one of Scripture's highest peaks of Gospel hope, Job declares:

“For I know that my Redeemer lives...”

Three astounding confessions:

(1) *My Redeemer lives*

He is living now — present, eternal, active.
Faith reveals the living Redeemer.

(2) *He will stand upon the earth*

Job foresees the Redeemer coming in judgment and righteousness.
Job believes God Himself will come near, bodily.

(3) *I will see Him in my flesh*

Job professes resurrection hope long before any explicit doctrine of resurrection existed:

“After my skin is destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God.”

His Redeemer will vindicate him — not by Job's righteousness, but by the Redeemer's.

Job's faith graduates from confusion to assurance.

Warning to His Friends

Job ends with a sober warning:

Judgment is real. Wrath is certain for those who reject God's ways.
They must heed the reality of the Redeemer — or face the sword.

Why Wrestle With “Why”?

Job never receives an answer to his “why.”
But wrestling in **faith** — not flesh — matures us.

- Wrestling grows understanding.
- Wrestling leads to submission.
- Wrestling deepens trust in God’s goodness.
- Wrestling moves us from “Why me?” to “**How are You glorifying Yourself in this, Lord?**”

Like Peter, sifted by Satan, the faithful endure because the Redeemer intercedes.

As Anselm wrote:
“I believe in order that I may understand.”

Closing Prayer

A prayer for submission, trust, and hope in the Redeemer who will one day stand upon the earth and whom we will see with resurrected eyes.

Invitation & Response

The congregation is invited to:

- Come forward for counsel
- Pray where they are
- Seek encouragement from the church family

Closing Song – “O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart’s Desire”

A perfect conclusion, pointing us again to:

- Christ our Redeemer

- His victory over death
- His coming return
- His gathered people

Benediction:

May the Lord lift up His face upon you and put gladness in your heart that exceeds all earthly joy.

Merry Christmas — you are dismissed.