

Sunday Morning Worship – November 16

When Foundations Fail: Bildad's Graceless Gospel vs. God's Sovereignty

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Patrick opened the service with several upcoming event reminders:

- **Men's Breakfast:** Saturday at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall — open to men and their sons for fellowship and encouragement.
- **Church Thanksgiving Meal:** Next Sunday after morning worship — church providing smoked turkey and ham; sides by sign-up.
- **Wednesday Schedule:** This week, a time of Scripture reading, singing, and fellowship together in the Fellowship Hall. No Wednesday service the following week due to Thanksgiving.
- **December Wednesdays:** A three-week series on *Covenant Membership* at 6:30 p.m. each week, leading into *Annual Covenant Renewal Sunday* in January.

He encouraged everyone — even those who do not typically attend midweek gatherings — to make an effort to join those sessions.

Opening Prayer

The pastor prayed, thanking God for His sovereignty, His goodness, and the gift of the church. He emphasized gratitude for God's Word, which allows believers to hear His voice, and for the body of Christ, where each member strengthens and encourages one another.

Scripture Reading and Worship in Song

Before singing, Pastor Patrick read from **John 6:66–69**, where Peter confesses, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*"

He connected this passage to Job, noting how Bildad's failure was forgetting God's sovereignty and grace.

“We have Christ — the words of eternal life. When we are confused or suffering, we can still say: Hallelujah, all I have is Christ.”

Songs:

- *All I Have Is Christ*
- *In Christ Alone*
- *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Each song reinforced the morning’s theme — the sufficiency and sovereignty of Christ as the believer’s hope, comfort, and foundation.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 7:15–29

The congregation read Jesus’ teaching about false prophets and the wise man who builds his house on the rock.

This passage directly set up the sermon’s central question: “*What is your foundation built upon?*”

Sermon: “When Foundations Fail – Bildad’s Graceless Gospel vs. God’s Sovereignty” (Job 18)

Main Question:

“What do we do when what we experience no longer fits our worldview?”

Summary of the Message:

- **Context:** Bildad’s second speech in Job 18 reveals his rigid, works-based worldview — a “graceless gospel.” He believes the righteous prosper and the wicked suffer, leaving no room for divine mystery or sovereign grace.
- **Problem:** Bildad sees Job’s suffering as proof of guilt, ignoring that Job has been declared *blameless*.
- **Key Illustration:** Bildad describes hell vividly — total darkness, inescapable punishment, terror, dissolution, and separation — applying these horrors to Job’s situation as evidence of his supposed wickedness.
- **Bildad’s Error:**

- He correctly understands the reality of hell and God’s justice but wrongly applies it to Job.
- He presumes to know God’s mind, leaving no room for mystery or mercy.
- **The Gospel Correction:**
 - Both the righteous and the wicked deserve hell.
 - Only through **Christ the Mediator**—who lived in perfect obedience, died a substitutionary death, and rose victorious—can righteousness be imputed.
 - Grace is what distinguishes God’s true gospel from Bildad’s graceless one.

Practical Reflections:

- Let Scripture, not experience, shape your worldview.
- Leave room for God’s sovereignty and mystery when others suffer.
- Beware of interpreting circumstances as automatic proof of God’s favor or judgment.
- Remember that **“We all deserve hell, but God made heaven possible through Christ.”**
- Cultivate humility and mercy rather than judgment toward those in hardship.

Invitation and Prayer of Response

The service concluded with a prayer asking God to retrain minds and renew hearts — to think biblically, not culturally. Pastor Patrick invited anyone with questions or burdens to come forward for prayer and conversation, emphasizing the beauty of grace for all who turn to Christ.

Closing Song and Benediction

Final hymn: *Only a Holy God*

The pastor closed with a blessing from Genesis 48:15–16:

“May the God who has been my shepherd all my life bless you, and let His name live on in you and your children after you.”

He reminded the church of God's holiness and grace, and dismissed the congregation in peace.

Service Summary (in one sentence):

The November 16 worship service centered on the contrast between **Bildad's graceless worldview and God's sovereign grace**, calling believers to build their lives on Christ—the true foundation that never fails.