

RACINE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

January 29, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Jonathan Falk

God Gathers Us Together

Prelude/Opening

Welcome

Call to Worship / Greeting

***Opening Song**

“We Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Psalter Hymnal #430

***Opening Prayer**

***Song of Praise:**

“All My Ways Are Known to You”

God Forgives and Renews

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Confession of Faith:

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 27,28

Psalter Hymnal, Page 871

* Please rise in body or spirit

Song of Response

“Let All Things Now Living”

Psalter Hymnal #453

Congregational Prayer

Offering:

Benevolence Fund

Offertory Song:

“My Worth is Not in What I Own”

God Speaks to Us

Children’s Message

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Sermon:

Strength in Weakness

We Respond to God’s Grace

*** God’s Blessing**

*** Closing Song**

“Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God”

Psalter Hymnal #630

Postlude

Sermon Notes: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 Strength in Weakness

Paul's motto for ministry is "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

- 1. A Man in Christ and His Experience (vv.1-6)**
 - God gave Paul an extraordinary revelation of heaven
 - Christian and Hopeful see the gates of the Celestial City from the Delectable Mountains
 - Sometimes God gives us a glimpse and foretaste of future glory

- 2. The temptation to become conceited (v.7)**
 - To keep Paul humble, God gave him a thorn in the flesh
 - Paul doesn't identify the precise nature of the thorn
 - But the thorn brings pain and suffering to Paul

- 3. A Messenger of Satan (v.7)**
 - Some weaknesses come from Satan
 - Satan's intent is to produce pride; God's intent is to humble us which leads to growth in Godliness
 - The truth of God's Providence brings comfort in times of distress and suffering

- 4. God's Purpose is to Glorify the Grace and Power of Christ (vv.9-10)**
 - Paul pleads with the Lord to remove the suffering, but God's answer is "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
 - Before Christian reached the Delectable Mountains and the Celestial City, he had to climb the Hill Difficulty
 - The great purpose of God in our weakness is to glorify the grace and power of His Son that moved Him to the cross and secure for us our everlasting salvation.