

CALL TO WORSHIP

Harpeth Baptist Church

The Old Testament, an overview

Obadiah

God's Friends and Enemies

Text: The Book of Obadiah

Songs for this week

8:30

- 366 Heaven Came Down
- 474 I'd Rather Have Jesus
- 327 He Lives
- 138 Learning to Lean

11:00

- 373 Saved! Saved!
- 241 Our Great Savior
- 272 Jesus is All the World to Me
- 474 I'd Rather Have Jesus

Hymn History

Our Great Savior

John Wilbur Chapman (1859 – 1918) was a Presbyterian pastor and evangelist who ministered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His parents prepared him for a life of Christian ministry, and after seminary he alternated between various pastorates and evangelistic work, spending a total of around 18 years in each sort of ministry, and preaching over 50,000 sermons to audiences totaling over 60 million.

One source relates that at one of his pastorates, a member told him, "You are not a very strong preacher, but a few of us have decided to gather and pray every Sunday morning for you." His pastoral ministry was well received and was marked by the growth of his various churches by the conversion of people to Christ.

In his evangelistic work, he was tireless. In his day, no one had preached in as many nations as Chapman did, for he preached not only across the United States (including Minneapolis in 1905), but held evangelistic campaigns across the world, including

Canada, Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Korea, Japan, England, Wales, Ireland, Australia, Scotland, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, and the Fiji Islands.

The first line of the hymn, "Jesus! What a friend for sinners," is probably a reference to Luke 7:34-35 – "The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children."

. While the Pharisees meant to scoff and accuse, the next story in Luke's gospel illustrates how Jesus really is a "friend of sinners" – a "sinful woman" anointed Jesus' feet and her sins were forgiven (Luke 7:36-50). Jesus said of her, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." (Luke 7:47)

Chapman once said, "The rule which governs my life is this: anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible study, or cramps me in my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult, is wrong for me; and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it."