

## Living in Two Worlds

Dr. Ian Hamilton | taken from [banneroftruth.org](http://banneroftruth.org)

The Christian believer is always living in an inescapable tension! Much as we would love to be free of this tension, until we leave this earthly scene and enter the nearer presence of our great and gracious God, we will be engaged every moment of every day in this tension. I hardly need to spell out to you just what this tension is – but I will do so nonetheless! Here and now we live as ‘strangers’ in a foreign land; we are the children of the living God; we are even now ‘seated with Christ in the heavenly realms’; every breath we breathe takes us nearer ‘home’ – and yet we are not ‘home’. We live out the life of faith in a world shrouded in unbelief. The truth is that every Christian lives simultaneously in two worlds. Our life is a tale of two cities.

There have been periods in the church’s life when Christians have sought to escape the reality of this tension. The Monastic movement (which was not irredeemably bad) was, at least in part, an attempt to avoid the strain and pain of this tension. But far from retreating *from* the world, God has commanded his people to be salt and light *in* the world. The gospel does not allow us the luxury of avoiding this tension. We are summoned to live in the world, while affirming in all that we are that we are not *of* the world. This is no easy thing. It would be so much easier to retreat into a ‘spiritual closet’, to ignore this world, to pop out now and again to ‘evangelise’ and then quickly retreat into the safety and security of our spiritual pain-free zone. At the other extreme, Christians have sought to avoid the tension by blending seamlessly into the world, adopting its fashions, trends and ethos. In effect saying, ‘Look, I’m just like you; the only difference is that I have Jesus as well.’ This attempt to avoid the cost and pain of living in two worlds is equally (even more fatally) flawed. The Lord Jesus Christ is not the icing on the cake of life, he *is* the cake: ‘Christ is our life!’ The stark biblical truth is that ‘If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him’ (1 John 2:15). The child of God has experienced a double crucifixion: ‘the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world’ (Gal. 6:14). The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ has made it impossible for a Christian to blend seamlessly into this world. To do so would be to trample on the cross of our Saviour.

The fact is that the Christian life is a life of irresolvable tension. We are, by God’s grace, aliens and strangers. We march to the beat of a heavenly drum in a world shaped by an earth-bounded horizon. We live to the glory of God in a world which lives for itself. More acutely, we live to be holy as God is holy in bodies of death, yet marked by indwelling sin. The tension is within as well as without. We cannot, this side of glory, escape the tension without becoming a disloyal traitor to our God and Saviour.

Perhaps this all sounds just darkly depressing, a counsel of despair: grit your teeth and get on with it! Never. This is the way the Master walked (though he did not have the tension of indwelling sin). It is our great privilege to follow in his steps. No servant is greater than his Master! But we must not and cannot stop there. The tension is real, at times overwhelmingly real, but we share this tension with all the saints. The fellowship of the church is a great comfort and support. Even more wonderfully, the Lord has promised never to leave you nor forsake you. There is always grace to help in time of need, promised grace, oath-bound, blood-sealed grace. And so, ‘we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.’

God does not hide from us the reality of kingdom life in a fallen world. But nor does he hide from us the privilege of following in the Master’s steps and the grace he promises to support and strengthen us in the tension – thanks be to God (Rom. 7:25). In fact the deepest truth about every Christian is that we are ‘more than conquerors’. We have been caught up in Christ’s ‘triumphal procession’ (2 Cor. 2:14) and are being led to glory by our all-conquering Saviour and King. It may not feel like it at times. There are days when it seems a triumph simply to get through the day. Brothers and sisters in Christ, it *is* a triumph to get through a day, a triumph of God’s grace to us in Christ. The world, the flesh and the devil are ranged against you; but your faithful Saviour Jesus Christ is for you and will never fail you. He will carry you through. Day by day cast yourself and all your burdens on the Lord because he cares for you (read 1 Pet. 5:7-10). Soon enough we shall be together with the Lord.

## Announcements

- Prayer Meeting this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- To volunteer to help clean the church property, please speak with Mr. Groff or Mrs. Pipa, or contact the church at [info@antiochpca.com](mailto:info@antiochpca.com).

## Vision

**Our vision** is to see the historic Antioch Presbyterian Church revitalized as a worshipping community to be a blessing to every man, woman, and child in the growing residential hub west of Woodruff and south of Reidville, to the glory of God.

## Mission

**Our mission** as a parish church at the crossroads of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties is the gathering and perfecting of God’s people through biblical worship, evangelism, and pastoral care.

## Areas of Ministry Focus

*Expository Preaching*

*Biblical Worship*

*Parish Evangelism*

*Pastoral Care*

*Discipleship*

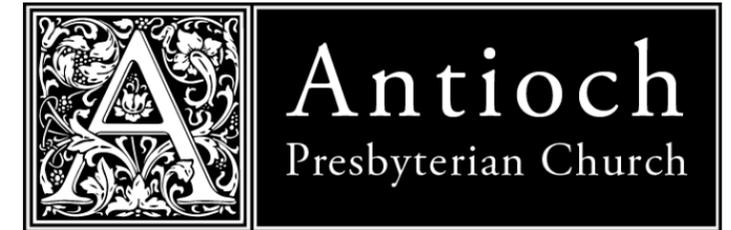
## Leadership & Accountability

As a *mission work*, Antioch Presbyterian Church (PCA) is governed and overseen by a *provisional session* of elders serving as a *commission* of Calvary Presbytery. The six men appointed to the *provisional session* are active elders within the bounds of Calvary Presbytery, and they have graciously agreed to serve “above-and-beyond” to encourage the revitalization of Antioch. They include:

Dr. Chipley Bennett, Ph.D. – Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church  
Dr. E. Todd Buchner, D.Min. – Pastor, Reidville Presbyterian Church  
Mr. Richard Hollifield – Ruling Elder, Roebuck Presbyterian Church  
Mr. William Johnson – Ruling Elder, Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church  
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., Ph.D., D.D. – Professor of Systematic & Applied Theology, President Emeritus, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary;  
Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church  
Pastor Richard Thomas – Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Presbyterian Church;  
Clerk of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church

## Church Staff

Mr. Zachary Groff – Ministerial Assistant  
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. – Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session



The Lord’s Day  
November 15, 2020

“A Suffering Leper Meets the  
Compassionate Christ”

*Mark 1:40-45*

Mr. Zachary Groff

Worship – Sunday, 5:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

3600 SC-417 | Woodruff, SC 29388  
864.519.3604 | [info@antiochpca.com](mailto:info@antiochpca.com) | [antiochpca.com](http://antiochpca.com)

# The Lord's Day

November 15, 2020

## Meditation

Isaiah 2:2

*Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.*

## \*Call to Worship

## \*Congregational Commitment

**Minister: Congregation, in whom is your confidence?**

Congregation: Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who made the heavens and earth.

## \*Salutation

## \*Hymn of Adoration

No. 146

*Praise the LORD! My Soul, O Praise Him!*  
RIPLEY

## \*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

## \*Revelation of God's Will

Leviticus 19:1-4

## \*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

Our heavenly Father, You have clearly told us in Your Word that You have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ and chosen us in Him before You even created the world, to be holy and blameless in Your sight. We are thankful for our high position in Christ, but we confess to You that we have failed to live up to our holy and blameless position. We have sinned daily against Your divine majesty by thought, word, and deed. We confess that our sins are the reason Jesus suffered and died. Forgive us for our manifold sins against You and cause us to grow into the people You created us to be by the power of Your blessed Holy Spirit. Amen.

## \*Assurance of Pardon

1 John 2:1,2

*<sup>1</sup>If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

## Offering

No. 85

*You Were Pleased to Show Your Favor*  
RUSTINGTON

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Supplication

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Hymn of Preparation

No. 86A

*Hear Me, O LORD and Answer Me*  
(stanzas 1-6)  
LLEF

## \*Old Testament Reading

Numbers 5:1-4

## \*New Testament Reading

Mark 1:14-45

## Congregational Response

**Leader: The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD**

Congregation: As the waters cover the sea!

## \*Prayer for Illumination

## Sermon

“A Suffering Leper Meets the Compassionate Christ”  
Mark 1:40-45

## Prayer of Application

## \*Hymn of Response

No. 86A

*Hear Me, O LORD and Answer Me*  
(stanzas 7-12)  
LLEF

## \*Benediction

## \*Doxology

No. 235

*All Glory Be to God*  
GLORIOUS MIGHT

## \*Silent Prayer

## “A Suffering Leper Meets the Compassionate Christ”

Mark 1:40-45

## Main Proposition

Through faith in Jesus Christ the Son of Man, earthly sufferers draw near to God in His glorious Kingdom.

## Outline

I. The Leper's Earthly Suffering (v. 40)

II. The Son of Man's Divine Compassion (vv. 41-44)

III. God's Glorious Kingdom (v. 45)

*\*Congregation standing, unless physically hindered*