### **OPENING HYMN #62**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Pastor Angus Fisher from Shoalhaven Gospel Church in Nowra, Australia is sheduled to preach here the evening of Wednesday, January 16. Lord willing we will meet at our regular time and we plan to have some refreshments following the service.
- Pastor Don Fortner from Grace Baptist Church in Danville, Kentucky is scheduled to preach here on Tuesday and Wednesday evening, January 22, 23.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Ephesians 2:1-22

#### **WORSHIP HYMN #354**

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

#### **OFFERING**

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." *2 Cor 9:7* 

## **WORSHIP HYMN #125**

Jesus Paid It All

**MESSAGE** 

THE WATCHMAN

ISAIAH 21:11-12

## **CLOSING HYMN #53**

How Sweet The Name of Jesus Sounds

#### THINGS TO PONDER

Available or Accomplished?

Christ did not die to make salvation *available* to sinners. I sure am glad of that because if salvation is merely available in Christ, no son of Adam can be saved since by nature we will not and cannot come to Christ that we might be saved. Christ died to save His elect people from their sins *(Matt. 2:21)*. Then if God is as He describes Himself (always doing His will) those people shall be eternally saved from their sin. I sure am thankful for salvation accomplished in Christ! That is the only salvation that will save a sinner like you and me.

## **Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility**

Proverbs 29:1

I take a back seat to no one in declaring the gospel of God's free and sovereign grace in Christ. Divine Sovereignty, Absolute Predestination, Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, and Perseverance of the Saints are, in this house of worship, like salt and pepper on the table. We never have a meal without them. These are not things discussed only in the secrecy of the pastor's study. They are openly declared from the pulpit without apology or abatement. Arminianism is a heretical form of evil that cannot be denounced in terms too severe. However, we must not distort the truth of God and the plain teachings of Holy Scripture, even in denouncing the heresies of Arminian, free-will, works religion.

Many, attempting to guard the doctrine of God's sovereignty, have denied the responsibility of men. They reason: — "If we preach that a sinner is responsible to repent, we must declare that he is able to repent. If we teach that sinners are responsible to believe on Christ, we must also teach that they are able to believe." They deduce, in what appears to be a very reasonable manner, that responsibility implies ability The problem with this reasoning is that it attempts to mold the Word of God to a theological system.

We must never try to make the Word of God fit into any human system of doctrine or theology. We must build our doctrine upon the plain statements of Holy Scripture. If the plain statements of Scripture contradict, or even destroy our theological system, so be it. If we have to throw away every doctrinal creed, every confession of faith, and every catechism that has ever been written by men in order to be faithful and true to the Word of God, then we will throw them away.

This is one reason why, in this congregation, we do not require members to sign or agree to a confession of faith. Our creed, our confession of faith is the holy, inspired Word of God. If that seems to others to be too simple, too non-intellectual, or too pietistic, we can live with their disapproval. We bow to and build our doctrine upon the Word of God alone, even when it seems to contradict human reason and philosophy (Isaiah 8:20). — Here are two facts which simply cannot be denied or refuted...

- 1. God almighty is absolutely sovereign in salvation. He has mercy on whom he will. He is gracious to whom he will be gracious. He saves whom he will (Romans 9:16).
- 2. All men are responsible under God to walk in the light he has given them. The Lord God has fixed it so that those who perish in their sins, those who die in rebellion and unbelief are altogether without excuse (Romans 6:23).

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No one goes to hell by accident! Unbelief is not a passive thing. If you go to hell, you will have to scratch and claw your way there, fighting to your last breath against the light God has given you. Men and women do not go to hell because they are ignorant. People go to hell because they are rebels (Romans 1:18-20). "The wages of sin is death." You earn that. "But the gift of God is eternal life." That is his work.

-Pastor Don Fortner

## What Is Your Hope?

Lay the foundation of your hope in Jesus Christ. Begin with Christ and end with Christ. As Christ Jesus becomes more to you, self will grow less and less. If your faith puffs you up — it is not the faith of Christ. God will help us when we are weak. He will bless us as long as we confess our dependence upon His blessing. He will fill us when we are empty. He will feed us when we are hungry. He will be our all when we are nothing. He will forgive us when we are guilty. But the moment we begin to boast in ourselves and feel sufficient, we will be left to learn, in no uncertain terms that we are naked, poor, blind, and miserable. Terrible will be the day when proud rebels discover, too late, the dust and ashes of human merit.

-Pastor Henry Mahan

#### Lord, Make Us to See Our Need

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass (Isa. 40:6-7).

Unless the Lord is pleased to teach us and reveal to us what we are by nature (Eph.2:1-3), we will never see our need for Christ and the gospel of His free grace (Rom.3:24). We will never understand our need of Jesus Christ and His great salvation, unless the Holy Spirit is pleased to move upon our heart (John 6:44-45). Only when He reveals unto us our sinful condition, will we seek His salvation in Christ Jesus the Lord (1 Tim.1:12). Only when He speaks to us about our righteousness as being filthy rags, will we seek His righteousness that is performed and provided freely by His grace (1 Cor. 1:30). Only when God reveals to us our total ruin, will we seek redemption through the spotless blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7). Only when God is pleased to show us how unworthy we are, will we seek Him who is Worthy (Rev. 5:12). Lord, make us to know and see what our need is, so by thy Spirit and grace we can seek thy mercy where it can be found (Phil 3:9; 4:19).

- Pastor Tom Harding

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# **Pastor Don Fortner**

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Sunday 9:30 AM Bible Class lesson 10:30 AM Morning Worship Service Wednesday 6:30 PM Mid-week Worship Service Listen to the gospel at: www.freegraceradio.com

## Sunday December 30, 2018

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Rev 22:17



"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." 1Cor 8:6