

OPENING HYMN #296

All The Way My Savior Leads Me

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Brother Aaron Greenleaf will be visiting us next weekend, Lord willing. We plan to meet Saturday evening at 6:30 and Sunday at our regular time. There will be a meal served after the service on Saturday and all are welcome. Aaron is from Todds Road Grace Church in Lexington, Kentucky.
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SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-21

WORSHIP HYMN #53

How Sweet The Name of Jesus Sounds

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 #460

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

MESSAGE

A FAMILY LOVED BY GOD

JOHN 11:1-57

CLOSING HYMN #294

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

THINGS TO PONDER

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” Heb 12:2

If one looks to their works, either as the cause or the evidence of their salvation, they are not looking to Christ.

-Pastor Greg Elmquist

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree.” I Peter 2:24

He did not bare them anywhere else. He did not bare them in the manger, nor in the wilderness, nor in the garden, but only on the tree. He suffered at the hand of God on the tree. It was there that God hid His face from Him because He was made sin (II Corinthians 5:21). It is, “by His stripes we are healed,” and those stripes He endured on the tree and nowhere else.

-Scott Richardson

SICKNESS

John 11:3

Our Lord's friend, Lazarus, was very sick. When his sisters saw their brother in grave danger, they sent this message to the Lord Jesus, "He whom thou lovest is sick." Martha and Mary knew that Lazarus' sickness was not an indication of the Lord's anger or displeasure. And they knew that the Lord Jesus could, if he would, heal Lazarus of his ailment. So they simply sent a word to Christ to inform him of their hearts' trouble: "He whom thou lovest is sick." In that brief sentence they implied their faith in and submission to the Lord Jesus. You can almost read between the letters and see the comfort of their hearts. These two dear women were hurting. Their brother was dying! But they found comfort in Christ.

How much sickness we have seen! It hurts to see loved ones and friends suffer and die, even when we are confident of their saving interest in Christ. But, in the midst of pain, there is comfort and strength for God's people in Christ. Our Lord himself has been there (Matt.8:17). Our Savior will never call upon us to walk any path he has not walked before us. Whatever we suffer in this world, our Lord suffered that and more to redeem us. We have a sympathizing High Priest in heaven (Heb. 4:15-16). Because Christ lived as a man upon the earth, he is touched with that which touches our hearts, moved by that which moves us, and feels that which we feel. How it helps to know that a friend understands what we feel in our hearts. And when that Friend is God our Savior, that is help indeed! The Lord assures us of his presence to help in the time of trouble (Isa. 43:1-4). He will hold you, when you have nothing to hold. He will strengthen you, when all strength is gone. He will help you when you are helpless. Our tender Lord will, himself, be a nurse to help us (Psa. 41:3). He will turn you upon the bed of languishing and make you comfortable in the midst of great sorrow, pain, and trouble. And the sickness of God's saints is never unto death (John 11:4). It may bring about the dissolving of this tabernacle of clay. But when this body is dissolved, then we begin to live; for to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

-Pastor Don Fortner

The new birth is not a change of life, but the gift of life. It is not an improvement made upon the old man, but the gift of a new man “created in righteousness and true holiness.” It is not the reformation of our fallen nature but being made “partakers of the divine nature.”

-Pastor Don Fortner

**“In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider:
God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man
should find nothing after him.” Ecclesiastes 7:14**

The use of the word “day” tells us that the time of prosperity and adversity is short in the grand scheme of things. In the day of prosperity, when everything seems to be going well...health, money to pay the bills, no conflict, good relationships...be joyful for this is the gift of God for you to enjoy. But there will also be a day of adversity: sickness, sorrow, trouble, debt, strained relationships, and conflict. Consider...God is the author of both, and has set them one against the other so we will not be able to find true satisfaction in anything but God Himself! Consider prosperity and adversity for what they really are...vanity. The only truly satisfying thing there is, is being in Christ and beholding His face. May we find nothing in anything else!

-Pastor Todd Nibert

ECLIPSING THE GLORY

From our perspective, it generally looks as though the moon has a light of its own. But during an eclipse – when the moon comes between the earth and the sun – the moon is shown for what it is: a dark and dead body. Rather than adding light to the sun, it actually diminishes the sunlight that reaches us.

So it is with doctrine. While in its proper position, it shines with a brilliant light or glory. But, just as with the moon, the glory of doctrine is not its own, it is Christ. The proof of this is simple. Let any doctrine occupy a place between Christ and us, and it will “eclipse” the glory of Christ and become a dead and darkening thing to our souls.

Election is a glorious and wonderful doctrine. But its glory is wholly borrowed from Christ. There is no glory in election apart from the fact that “we are chosen in Him...” Predestination has no glory apart from the fact that we are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ. Redemption viewed by itself becomes nothing more than a point of contention and pride. Arguments arise over its extent and scope. But, when we understand that we have redemption in Christ, even more, Christ IS our redemption, than all arguments over its extent and scope are silenced and a glorious, God-honoring, soul-comforting truth appears: that every blood-bought sinner IS redeemed by a redemption that cannot be undone. And so the principle applies to every truth: until truth is seen in its proper relation to Christ, it is a dead and dark thing. But when it is viewed in its proper relation to Christ, it shines with His glory and reveals His glory to us.

- Pastor Joe Terrell

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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 April 29, 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**