

OPENING HYMN #36

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pastor Angus Fisher from Shoalhaven Gospel Church in Nowra, Australia is scheduled 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.
 - There will be no meeting this Wednesday, December 26. Lord willing we will meet again the following Wednesday, January 2 at our regular time.
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SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:1-27

WORSHIP HYMN #38

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

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 #294

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

MESSAGE

THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

ROMANS 15:13

CLOSING HYMN #512

Saved By Grace

THINGS TO PONDER

True Worship

Consider whom we profess to worship, and we shall not hurry into his presence as men run to a fire. Moses, the man of God, was warned to put off his shoes from off his feet when God only revealed himself in a bush; how should we prepare ourselves when we come to him who reveals himself in Christ Jesus his dear Son?

-C.H. Spurgeon

SIN IS IN THE HEART OF FLESH

“Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?” (Eze 14:3)

God is speaking of the elders of Israel that came each day and sat before Ezekiel to hear a message from God. (v1) They came with the offerings God commanded in his law. Outwardly, they appeared to be true worshippers of God. Yet, God looks, not on the outward appearance, but on the heart. God said that though they appeared outwardly to worship God, in their hearts they had set up their idols and put the stumblingblock of iniquity before their face.

Though they pretended to sit in God’s house and hear God’s prophet and seek God’s counsel, they set their idol god before their face. The “stumblingblock of their iniquity” God called “the greatness of thy way.” No matter what God’s messenger declared to be the word of God, they preferred their own word, their own wisdom, their own will, their own traditions, their own ways and rejected the clear declaration of God’s word: they sought other places to assemble rather than with God’s people (Is 57:5); they exalted themselves and their understanding of God’s word rather than bow to God’s word (Is 57:7); they hid the truth of God behind the doorpost while they embraced every false way for the sake of gain (Is 57:8); they used means and methods of worship which were not ordained by God (Is 57:9-10); they found life by their own hand therefore they were not grieved over their sin (Is 57:10); they feared man—father, mother, son and daughter—and were more fearful of offending them rather than fearing God and being fearful of offending him (Is 57:10). God called their iniquity a stumblingblock because they not only caused themselves to stumble by their perversity but they caused others in their sphere of influence to stumble.

Brethren, each depraved sinner has a god crafted in the imagination of his own heart. Every unregenerate sinner, though he may profess to believe the true and living God in truth, thinks the true and living God is like the idol he has carved out in his own heart. Never think that idolatry—or any other sin—is only sin when it is manifest outwardly. Outwardly these men appeared genuine. The sin was in their heart. Depraved man always looks to himself: his wisdom and word rather than Christ our Wisdom who is the Word of God, his works rather than Christ our Righteousness, his holiness rather than Christ our Sanctification, his bondage rather than Christ our Redemption. The law only works in his depraved heart concupiscence—the desire for the very thing the *continued on back...*

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law forbids—which is summed up on the first commandment which he breaks—he makes himself to be his god. God must create in us a new man, giving us a new spirit, which is after God created renewed in knowledge after the image of Christ who created him.

-Pastor Clay Curtis

True or False Professor?

There is a distinguishing difference between a true child of God and a false professor. The Bible is filled with illustrations of this truth – Mt 7:22-23; Mt 23:27; Mt 25:32; John 14:21; 1John 3:14. This discernible difference is characterized from an inward presence of the indwelling Spirit of God which is produced and manifested by the love of God in the true believer, and is absent in the false professor. The child of God, by his grace, loves God, loves his Son, loves his Gospel, loves the brethren, and loves his work.

Although this inward nature can be imitated outwardly by the false professor for awhile, to some degree, it can never be counterfeited in the heart. What a person loves and gives himself to is, at some point, revealed in his life – For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also Luke 12:34. There are those who profess their allegiance and love to Christ and His Church, yet can never bring themselves to a commitment to the same. They remain their own person, not Christ's.

The true children of God have a new nature, the Divine nature, which continually causes them to give themselves to the things of God. The truth is that the distinguishing difference is LIFE and DEATH. To those who know him, he is their life. Those who only profess to know him, their life consists of themselves, which is death.

It is of a truth that the true believer's life revolves around Christ, and that to the false professor Christ revolves around his life. It is comforting to know that God has a people, in this world of falseness and deception, and that they, having the divine nature, live for his glory.

No, they are not perfect in themselves! But they are perfect in him and seek to honor him and his cause by his distinguishing grace. WHICH ONE OF THESE PROFESSORS ARE WE?

-Tommy Robbins

We worship one God in the trinity of his sacred Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) and adore each as the God of all grace by whom we are saved.

-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 23, 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