

OPENING HYMN #255

Blessed Assurance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pastor Don Fortner is scheduled to preach here Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:30 PM each evening. We will have a light meal following each service, see DeeAnne or Gwen if you can bring something.
 - Brother Cody Henson from Kingsport Sovereign Grace Church in Tennessee is scheduled to preach here on Saturday and Sunday February 3,4. Lord willing we plan to meet at 6 pm on Saturday evening, and at our regular time on Sunday morning.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1-10

WORSHIP HYMN #309

Beneath the Cross of 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 #258

He Hideth My Soul

MESSAGE

YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE

ROMANS 12:1-13

CLOSING HYMN #127

Hallelujah, What a Savior!

THINGS TO PONDER

Holy Scripture is not the hiding of truth, but the revelation of truth.

-Pastor Don Fortner

Faith is not believing that God will do what I want Him to do, or what I think I need Him to do. Faith is believing that God will do what He said He would do. Faith in Christ is an abandonment of our own thoughts and ways, and a complete, unreserved trusting of Him as our Righteousness, Sin-offering and Sovereign.”

-Pastor Chris Cunningham

Present Your Bodies

Romans 12:1-13

In this 12th chapter of Romans, Paul is talking to us about living for Christ. He is calling for devotion to Christ, consecration to Christ.

Public Worship

Though few seem to catch it, if you will read the chapter carefully, you will see that the devotion, consecration, and service to which Paul here calls us is devotion, consecration, and service to God’s church. — We present our bodies as a living sacrifice to the Lord Jesus Christ, our dear Savior, only as we present our bodies to God in his house, to worship him and serve one another.

What was the very first thing you were convinced of after God saved you; I mean the very first thing you just knew, knew (really) without anyone telling you? — “I need to be in the house of God.” That is what Paul tells us here. Since God has been so gracious to you, it is the most sensible thing in the world for you to commit yourself to the church and kingdom of God. — If you would serve Christ, serve his church.

In this portion of Holy Scripture, God the Holy Ghost calls all who are joined to Christ in life to make it our business to worship God, to make it our business to be in the house of God with the people of God when they are gathered to worship God (Psalm 84:6-8).

Most Reasonable

What could be more reasonable? Here we are transformed and renewed by the Spirit of God. Here we are taught how to avoid being conformed to this world. Through the Word of God faithfully preached, we learn to worship God in Spirit and in truth, and learn how to live in this world always looking to Christ. Here we learn what the will of God is, as it is revealed by the preaching of the gospel. God’s will is the glory of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the everlasting salvation of his elect (Romans 8:28-30).

We give our bodies a living sacrifice to God when, trusting Christ, we devote ourselves to the church and people of God, “*not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is*” (Hebrews 10:25). The only way under heaven by which we can serve God is by serving his people! If we would do that, we must think of ourselves as God teaches us to think of ourselves (v. 3), as sinners saved by grace (1 Corinthians 4:7).

One Body

Then, Paul tells us that we are “*one body in Christ*” (vv. 4-5). All the Inspired teaching of Holy Scripture with regard to public worship and the ordinances of Divine worship is specifically addressed to local churches, like those spoken of in Revelation 1-3.

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As members of the body of Christ, being placed in the body exactly as we are by the grace of God, we each have gifts needful and useful for the body, gifts “*differing according to the grace that is given to us.*” It is our privilege and responsibility to use those gifts for the benefit of the whole body of Christ in the service of God (vv. 6-13).

-Pastor Don Fortner

MY PRAYER FOR THIS GENERATION

After the last presidential election, many colleges and universities had to establish “safe places” in which refuge and counseling could be found by students unable to cope with the fact that their candidate had lost. I am unaware of any generation in the USA before this one that was so ill-equipped for the difficulties of life that some event as inconsequential as a political election could drive it to despair. However, this does not greatly surprise me. This present generation of college age students in the USA (commonly called Generation Z – the last generation?) was raised in a time unprecedented academically, religiously, culturally and societally. Government schools have evicted God and His Christ. Most “Christians” are so only in name and lip-service. Unchristian religions including atheism are increasing. Few parents endeavor to lead their children away from the world and to Christ. In both our society and culture, immorality and ungodliness and the spirit of anti-Christ are becoming more pervasive. Current events suggest God is withdrawing His restraining hand from the wicked. Christ has been made to be “like a stranger in the land” (Jeremiah 14:8).

My heart cries for this generation. For I have family members and friends in it. And I dearly love my country and am greatly concerned for its future. If a political election drives many in this generation to despair, what will they do when they face the far more consequential events in their future? Where will they find a “safe place” and counseling when they are no longer in their schools? What is the future of our country when this generation is in charge of it?

How sad is the plight of those who are ignorant of Jesus Christ the Hiding-Place (Psalm 32:7; 119:114; Isaiah 32:2) and “Wonderful Counselor” (Isaiah 9:6)!

I therefore pray with the psalmist, “Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come” (Psalm 71:18).

-Missionary Daniel Parks

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Pastor Don Fortner

Phone: (888) 602-3456

Sunday 10:30 AM

Morning Worship Service

www.sandiegograce.com

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Mid-week Worship Service

Listen to the gospel at: www.freegraceradio.com

Sunday, January 21, 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