

OPENING HYMN #36

A Mighty Fortress

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will be having our monthly fellowship luncheon this afternoon, all are welcome.
 - Bro. Eric Lutter will be preaching for us on Sunday December 17, Lord willing.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

WORSHIP HYMN #236

Amazing Grace

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

YOU, YOUR GIFTS, AND OTHERS

ROMANS 12:1-21

CLOSING HYMN #38

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

THINGS TO PONDER

He who is not liberal with what he has does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more.

– *William Plummer*

He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

– *Proverbs 17:15*

Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

– *Matthew 26:31*

Candlestick Removed

“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” (Revelation 2:5)

The Apostle Paul came to Ephesus, a city of more than 225,000 people, on his third missionary journey. He preached the gospel in that place for over three years (Acts 18-20). Multitudes were converted by the grace of God. A gospel church was established, which quickly became a lighthouse for truth, from which the gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in Christ went forth into all the world. The church at Ephesus was devoted to Christ. It was known throughout the Christian world for its devotion to and zeal for Christ.

But that local church, like so many since, is no more. Though it was, for many years, a faithful congregation, the Lord Jesus Christ discovered a very sad fault in the church at Ephesus. The pastor, the angel of the church, did not discern the fault. The people were unaware of it. But Christ saw it. Therefore, he sent a letter to the church (Revelation 2) to be read publicly in the assembly of the saints. How their hearts must have sunk when they read these words from the Savior — *“I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”* — *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”*

Because the Ephesian church left its first love, because they found something more important to them than Christ, his gospel, and his glory, he removed the candlestick out of its place (Revelation 2:5). That great lighthouse became a den of darkness and withered away. What a loud word of warning that should be to us!

The Church of God must and will stand until time shall be no more. But the candlestick is a piece of furniture in the house that may be removed without the least injury to the house. In other words, local churches, that includes you and me, are expendable. The only purpose for the existence of any local church is that it might be a pillar and ground of truth, holding forth the light of the gospel in this dark world for the glory of Christ. If it ceases to do that, the candlestick should and shall be removed out of its place.

Let every local church and every believer be warned and take heed. Cling tenaciously, uncompromisingly to the *“old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls”* (Jeremiah 6:16). Beware of any who would turn your heart from Christ and his gospel. *continued on back...*

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Beware of any who would undermine the ministry of that man by whom God taught you the gospel and turn your affections away from him (Galatians 1:6; 4:15).

Let no one move you away “*from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached*” to you by God’s faithful messenger to your soul. As those who followed Absalom to hell turned their backs upon faithful king David, who had given his life to Israel, I have seen many turn their backs upon men of proven faithfulness to their souls, men who devoted their lives to preaching the gospel to them, to follow a false prophet condescending from his high place, because he knew how to pipe and harp to itching ears.

-Pastor Don Fortner

There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty over-rules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Master over all creation, the kingship of God over all the works of His own hands, the throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne. On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldlings, no truth of which they have made such a football as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine of the sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends His throne, His creatures gnash their teeth. And we proclaim an enthroned God and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter; then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us, for God on His throne is not the God they love. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne whom we trust.

- C. H. Spurgeon

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Sunday 10:30 AM

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Morning Worship Service

Mid-week Worship Service

Listen to the gospel at: www.freegraceradio.com

Sunday, December 3, 2017

“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