

OPENING HYMN #510

Shall We Gather at the River

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today we will observe the Lord's table. No unbeliever is worthy to receive this ordinance, but no believer is unworthy.
- Next weekend brother Eric Lutter will be with us to preach the gospel. We plan to meet Saturday evening at 6:00 pm and Sunday at our regular time. We will have refreshments after the Saturday service.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 110:1-7

WORSHIP HYMN #175

Standing on the Promises

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 #235

Pass Me Not

MESSAGE

A LIVING SACRIFICE -Romans 12:1-3

CLOSING HYMN #293

The Lord's My Shepherd

THINGS TO PONDER

Free grace no more makes a person want to sin than health makes a person want to get sick again. The notion of sovereign grace giving people a license to sin is the foolish excuse of Pharisees who are not willing to give up their own righteousness.

-Paul Mahan

If you could hear Christ praying for me in the next room I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me – "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

– Robert Murray McCheyne

Grace Baptist Church — Taylor, Arkansas

Exemplary, Steadfast Faithfulness

Grace Baptist Church in Taylor, AR is a small, rural congregation, known to only a few people outside their own community; but that congregation is one that has demonstrated exemplary, steadfast faithfulness in the cause of Christ. I hold them before our readers, urging all who find themselves in similar circumstances to follow their example.

The Lord called their pastor, Bro. James Watson, home to Glory in 2003. Bro. Watson was a faithful pastor and one of my cherished friends. After his death, the assembly had no one gifted to teach and/or preach. But they continued to meet every Sunday morning. They had preachers in as often as they could, about every other month. I went to preach to them as often as I could, without neglecting other responsibilities.

When they could not get a preacher in for their service, after reading the Scriptures, prayer, and singing God's praise, they watched a video of one of our services here. They continued to meet, Sunday after Sunday, to worship together as a body of believers, usually very few; but those few sheep were hungry both for the Word of God and for the fellowship of their brethren. Several of them drove more than an hour each way; but I never heard one mention the distance, the cost, or the time.

Not a few suggested that they should all move to a place where the Lord has established a gospel church. Some seriously considered doing so. But the thing they all wanted and earnestly prayed the Lord would grant them was a pastor. A few months ago, Bro. Darvin Pruitt went down to preach for them. The Lord immediately knitted their hearts to him and his to them. Last week Darvin and Cathy moved to Taylor.

Let me tell you what I expect. — I fully expect our God to greatly bless his own work in that place and from that place around the world. He has sworn, "*Them that honour me I will honour*" (1 Samuel 2:30).

Many who read these lines live in a place where the Lord has not yet been pleased to establish a gospel ministry. There are some who live near you who love the gospel; but you make no effort to establish a gospel church where you are. I urge you, wherever two or three can be found who believe the gospel, gather regularly in the name of Christ to worship him and hear his Word. Who knows what the Lord may be pleased to do?

This I do know. —The one thing the Lord requires of you and me is faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:2); and our great and gracious God always honors that faithfulness that honors him.

-Pastor Don Fortner

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

Scripture, not logic, is our rule of faith; and not one or two statements taken out of their contexts, but the whole analogy of faith. Error is truth perverted, truth distorted, truth out of proportion. To short-sighted human reason there appears to be a clash between Diving justice and Divine mercy, between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility, between law and grace, between faith and good works; but he who is really taught of the Spirit, is enabled to discern their perfect consistency.

– A. W. Pink

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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, December 10, 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