

## OPENING HYMN #309

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Eric Lutter made it home safely on Monday morning. He thanked us for a comfortable stay while here, and said he will remember us in prayer. that God will provide for all our needs.
  - Don has asked Eric if he will be able to visit us again early January. If possible we will try to have him here on the weekend of the 7th.
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## SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 3:14-4:6

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## WORSHIP HYMN #388

Have Thine Own Way Lord

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## 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

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## WORSHIP HYMN #318

I Need Thee Every Hour

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## MESSAGE

**CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE      ISA 3:9**

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## CLOSING HYMN #75

Abide With Me

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## THINGS TO PONDER

Yes, mercy reigns, and justice too,  
In Christ they both harmonious meet;  
Christ paid to justice all her due,  
And now He fills the mercy-seat.

*-Anonomous*

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And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

*-1 Tim 3:16*

## Jesus Christ is Come in the Flesh

What does it mean to confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh? It is an important distinction, for Paul warns us to test the spirits whether they are of God. Every year at this time men and women the world over are celebrating the fact that Jesus was born. For many, it is one of the few days they may even attend a church service, and there are many churches that go to great length to cater to the worldling that wishes to celebrate that Jesus has come on Christmas. Is celebrating Christmas a confession that Jesus is come in the flesh? I think not, else one would have to agree that every preacher, yea even the Pope of Rome, who celebrates the nativity of Jesus or the birth of Jesus every year are of God. But we are warned of the spirit of Antichrist who confesses NOT that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

To deny that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is to deny either his deity as God the Son, or his humanity as the Son of man. It is to deny his purpose in coming into this world as a man. There are some who teach that Jesus was a created being, and in doing so they deny his Godhead. This is a denial that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, because their Jesus was just a man. Others deny that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh by denying his manhood. There are some like the gnostics of old who believe that only the spirit is good, and matter is evil. They deny that Christ was made sin for us because they do not acknowledge that he is altogether God and altogether man, that is to say that he has two natures, one Spiritual, and one fleshly. They deny his humanity which was in all ways tempted as we are, yet without sin. It is a denial of substitution to say that he was made sin by imputation alone, as if charging him with our sin was sufficient for God to allow wicked men to crucify him in our stead. If he were not *really* made sin for us, and justly killed in our stead, than his righteousness is not *really* made ours and we are still in our sin and unrighteousness.

We confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh by the conviction that is wrought in our soul by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit in the new birth. It is the experience of every born again soul that he who is one with God in his divine nature, is also one with his bride, the church which he purchased with his own blood, in his human nature. John confessed that Jesus is come in the flesh in his gospel: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. The preacher who confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh teaches why he came. He came to redeem the lost sheep of the house of Israel, who like Abraham, believe God, and it is accounted to them for righteousness. He came to bear the sins of many in his body on the tree, and in doing so he accomplished the redemption of all whom the Father gave him, John 6:39.

*-Mike*

### Two natures in every believer

In Romans chapter 7 we have two natures identified which are in every believer. One is called “sin that dwelleth in me”, the other is described as wanting to do good, and as not having done the evil that the other does (7:20). One is said to serve the law of God, and the other, the law of sin. Here they are called flesh and spirit. Those who walk after the Spirit are not sinless, because they are still flesh also. But neither does sin have dominion over them, because, by God’s grace and the work of Christ for and in them, they are spirit. Our flesh is still just as wicked as ever it was and always shall be. It never improves. Those who deny the existence of the new nature are forced to attribute worship, love for God, faith and all other graces to an improved flesh, an influenced flesh, but this is just an example of one error leading to another. We are still flesh, and with that flesh we still serve the law of sin (7:25), and we always will, but thank God, we walk after the Spirit. We do love God, though, because of the flesh, we do not yet love Him as He is worthy to be loved. We worship God, yet, the flesh hinders us in it. We believe while being forced to cry, “Help thou mine unbelief”. We acknowledge our sin, by His grace, but we also praise Him who hath made us free inasmuch that we do believe on Him, and “He that believeth on him is not condemned ...” (John 3:18). No condemnation. Hallelujah!

*-Arthur W. Pink*

### How Can I Know if Christ Died for Me?

To some that is a moot point because they believe he died for all men without exception. But according to the Bible, He only died for His sheep (John 10:16). Not everybody is a sheep. There are also goats. So how can I know that I am one for whom He died. Am I simply to have faith that He died for me? No. You can believe that He died for you and that does not mean He did. Faith is not believing He died for you. Faith is not believing you are saved. Those things have to do with assurance. When the Ethiopian eunuch asked Phillip, “What hinders me from being baptized?” Phillip said, “If you believe with all your heart you may.” Notice what the eunuch did not reply. He did not say, “I believe that Christ died for me personally” or “I believe that I am saved.” He said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” It is believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God: it is believing that He is the only successful Savior and that He is able to save you. Do you believe the Gospel? If you answer no, that is no assurance that Christ died for you. But if you believe the Gospel, yes, Christ most assuredly died for you. “And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48).

*-Pastor Todd Nibert*

# San Diego Grace Fellowship

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**Pastor Don Fortner**

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Sunday 10:30 AM

Morning Worship Service

[www.sandiegograce.com](http://www.sandiegograce.com)

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Mid-week Worship Service

Listen to the gospel at: [www.freegraceradio.com](http://www.freegraceradio.com)

**Sunday, December 24, 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**