

OPENING HYMN #234

Wonderful Words of Life

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Eric Lutter will be preaching for us next weekend, Lord willing. We plan to meet on Saturday evening at 6 pm and Sunday morning at our regular times.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Matt 28:1-10

WORSHIP HYMN #354

What a Friend We Have in 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 #127

Hallelujah, What a Savior!

MESSAGE

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? 1 COR 15:1-4

CLOSING HYMN #449

To God Be the Glory

THINGS TO PONDER

It is by the help of the Holy Spirit that we are able to pray, Gal 4:6, "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Rom 8:26, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

-Thomas Boston

My salvation never depended on my righteousness, and my assurance now does not depend on my righteousness. John Jasper, when asked, "What right do you have to be in heaven?" replied, "I am not here on my righteousness but on the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ." Paul said, "By the grace of God I am what I am."

-Henry Mahan

Abusers of Grace

Some will hear the gospel of God's Sovereign Grace in Christ Jesus and give lip service to it. They will, for one reason or another, (usually to keep peace in their family) attend services and associate themselves with the true church. They may even prefer the message of grace because they think it gives them liberty to sin. For lack of true saving faith, they are unable to enter into spiritual worship or any meaningful fellowship with other believers. Most, in time, will lose whatever motivation they have for coming and eventually give up on the charade. "They went out from us for they were never of us". It will be evident that they believed in vain. The tendency is to say they believed in their head but not in their heart. The truth is they never believed in their head or their heart but as natural liars simply espoused with their lips something they never understood.

Those closest to these poor souls know all too painfully the gross inconsistency between what they say they believe and how they live. They know better than all other believers the inability the false professors have to rejoice in Christ or demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit. The heartfelt desire for the believer in this case is for the spurious faith of their loved one to be exposed so they can see their need for true faith in Christ Jesus. The thought is that if we could show them how inconsistent their life is with true saving faith they will give up on their false security and turn in humble submission to Christ Jesus the Lord.

The problem with that idea is twofold. First, it is the Holy Spirit alone that is able to give repentance and faith to dead sinners. Any attempt we make to expose or manipulate an unbeliever is sure to fail. Second, if we preach to expose abusers of grace all we end up doing is discouraging and defeating true believers. The inconsistencies every true believer has in their struggle between the flesh and the spirit becomes the focus of attention. Trying to shame unbelievers with the law will only serve to cause the true children of God worldly sorrow. It will take away their joy by turning their attention away from the accomplished work of Christ to their own works, or lack thereof.

Anytime the pure and simple gospel is preached there will be abusers of grace. Did the Lord not say there would be tares among the wheat? Did He not also say, not to try to root them out? He knew that in doing so we would damage the wheat. In spite of how men might abuse it, we must remain faithful to preach grace. We should pray for those who are yet strangers to it and trust the Lord to either save them or separate them in His time.

-Greg Elmquist

Another Gospel

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Gal1:6

If the world will not come to Christ, if the people of our “enlightened” age will not accept the gospel of Christ, the wisdom of the world tells us that we must make Christ more acceptable, we must tone down his teachings, that we must take the offence out of the gospel. Such foolishness we have come to expect from self-serving, man-pleasing religious hucksters. Sadly, today there are many who claim to believe the gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in Christ who have succumbed to the philosophy of the world. They vainly imagine that the offence can be taken out of the cross and that the gospel of the grace of God can be presented in a way that will make it palatable to unregenerate men.

Rather than proclaiming the gospel as good news, the good news of redemption accomplished (Gal. 3:13), they present it as good advice and an offer of possible redemption. Rather than proclaiming God’s grace as the special, distinct operation of salvation (Gal. 1:15-16; Eph. 2:8-9; Col. 1:12), they present it as a thing common to all. Rather than proclaiming the efficacy of God’s grace (Gal. 3:14; Rom. 9:16), they present a notion of grace that makes the operation of grace dependent upon the will of man. Rather than setting forth the distinct love of God for his own elect which results in their salvation (Gal. 2:21; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 9:13-18; 1 John 4:19), they make the love of God a universal, and therefore insignificant, helpless passion in God. Rather than declaring that faith is that which God gives to and works in chosen sinners by the revelation of Christ in them (Gal. 1:15-16; Col. 1:12), they make faith a work done by the sinner for God. While claiming to preach the gospel of Christ, they have so perverted the gospel that the gospel they preach is another gospel, a gospel that is no gospel at all (Gal. 1:6-9).

How often I have been told that my message is out of date, that it will not suit people, and that if I would reach the people of this age I must tone down my message and modify my doctrines. Such a message is all right for the Bible College or seminary, or for private, intellectual discussion, but it ought to be modified for the pulpit. Oh, we may use the old phrases so as to please the obstinately orthodox, but we must dress them in new meanings so as to neutralize their force and make them palatable to natural men. The spirit of the age suggests that the wise preacher will abandon all that is too severely righteous and all that is too surely of God. Away with such nonsense! God has given us the message that men need, and he has supplied us with the means of communicating that message. The message is the gospel of the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ and his death upon the cross. And God’s method of communicating that message is preaching. We must not be deterred by the opinions of men. We must not be “*corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*” (2 Cor. 11:3). We must not be “*removed from him that called us into the grace of Christ unto another gospel*” (Gal. 1:6).

He, and he alone, who preaches the gospel that Paul sets before us in this epistle is the messenger of the grace of God. Such men have many characteristics by which they are identified. They are set forth in many ways in the Book of God. But as they are revealed in these verses, they are threefold.

-Don Fortner

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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 31, 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