

OPENING HYMN #268

How Firm a Foundation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today is the first Sunday of the month, we will observe the ordinance of the Lords supper following the message. The Lord left two ordinances for the assembly of believers, the observation of the Lords table and believers baptism, and the only requirement to participation in these ordinances is that you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - We will hold a brief congregational meeting immediatly following the service this morning.
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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:16

WORSHIP HYMN #294

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

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 #195

Look And Live

MESSAGE

VAIN WORSHIP

ISAIAH 29:13-14

CLOSING HYMN #334

Be Thou My Vision

THINGS TO PONDER

If he is what he ought to be, the preacher is not a political enthusiast, a religious social worker, a psychoanalyst, an entertaining performer, a religious salesman, or a denominational organizer. The preacher is a man sent from God Almighty with a message. He is God's spokesman to his generation. He is wholly immersed in and consumed by one thing - Preaching the Gospel of Christ. If you ever find such a man, you would be wise to hear him!

-Pastor Don Fortner

... it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Cor1:21

I Don't See Much Happening

Once in a while, someone says to me, "I don't see much happening." With that statement, the person usually means to imply, "There must be something wrong. The church is not growing. Sinners are not being converted. It does not appear that the Lord is doing anything in our midst." I would be the last to discourage anyone from honest self-examination. If it appears to me that nothing is happening, the fault is probably with me. Most likely, **I AM DOING NOTHING FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL.** But let us never judge God's works by our perception of his works. If we gather in his name and faithfully give ourselves to the worship of God, the furtherance of the gospel, and the service of his kingdom, we may be assured that **SOMETHING IS HAPPENING.** God is being honored. Christ is being exalted. God's people are being comforted, instructed, edified, and encouraged. God's purpose is being accomplished. God is saving his people - (Isa. 55:11; I Cor. 15:58). Was there something else you wanted to happen?

The life and ministry of a local church will be greatly determined by that church's attitude before God in prayer. We sing our hymns of praise to God, give our offerings, observe the ordinances, listen to the sermons of God's servants, do whatever needs to be done to maintain the church property, and send a monthly check to our missionaries, and do it all with a feeling of apathy and indifference. But when men and women begin to pray with regard to the work of the gospel ministry, they do all these things, and more, with a lively, cheerful, anxious spirit. Prayer causes people to feel that they are truly a part of the church ministry. When they pray for their pastor, they sense that he is God's messenger to them. When they pray for their missionaries, they sense a personal interest in the missionary's work and his welfare. When they pray for the various ministries of the church, whether it is the pastor's preaching engagements, the distribution of tracts, tapes, and books, the radio ministries, or the teachers in their Bible classes, they get a sense of personal involvement in the work.

Above all else, the usefulness and success of our labors as a local church for the glory of God will be, in great measure, determined by our prayer or lack of it. It is true, God has promised grace, mercy, and power to his church; but it is promised only to those who seek it by fervent prayer. Real spiritual power and real fervent prayer go hand in hand. Our usefulness as a church depends greatly upon our faithfulness in prayer. Both in our public meetings and in our private worship, let us be united in heart as a church before God in prayer. Let us pray earnestly for God's grace and power to be upon our every endeavor for the furtherance of the gospel and the glory of Christ.

-Pastor Don Fortner

Where is the Offence?

Paul spoke in *Galatians 5:11* of the offence of the cross. The word offence is also translated as “*a stumbling block.*” We have all been offended. We have felt wronged – even violated. We have all heard that which made us stumble. The implications of what was said made us feel we cannot go in that direction.

The preaching of today is offensive. But not in the manner Paul spoke of. It is offensive to God because His Word is not plainly declared. Preachers preach in code, saying things in a way to keep all happy and offend none. It is offensive to believers because when the offence is removed, the Gospel is removed, and they do not hear that which they must hear. When I hear a message I must ask the question: Where is the offence? This I know, if my message does not offend men I can be sure it offends God. Paul said in the previous verse of these men who remove the offence, “*He that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.*” And he said in the following verse regarding these men, “*I would that they were even cut off that trouble you.*” Oh, for a revival of the offence of the cross.

-Pastor Todd Nibert

Our Assemblies

By God’s all-wise appointment, our assemblies are the life, the food, and the nourishment of our souls. It is the main way whereby we publicly identify with Christ and His Gospel. We evidence our love for Christ by our loyalty and support of one another in opposition to all false worship. Many things will rise up in competition to the diligent attendance of our assemblies. We must recognize and refuse to give in to anything that is opposed to what Christ commands. The total falling away of a graceless professor always begins with this neglect, this disassociation with God’s people (*Hebrews 10:25*).

- John Owen 1616-1683

Are You Qualified?

If being a sinner is the qualification of those whom Christ came to save, no one is more qualified than me; the chief of sinners. If being poor and needy is the qualification of those whom Christ came to save, who is in more spiritual poverty and in need of mercy more than me? If it is true that God hath chosen the foolish, the weak, the base, and the things which are not, that no flesh should glory in His presence; who has less reason to glory in themselves than me? Are you qualified?

- Pastor Greg Elmquist

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Sunday 9:30 AM Bible Class lesson

10:30 AM Morning Worship Service

Wednesday 6:30 PM Mid-week Worship Service

Listen to the gospel at: www.freegraceradio.com

Sunday August 4, 2019

“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