

OPENING HYMN #1

O Worship the King

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This coming weekend we will gather together for the ordination service of our pastor Kevin Thacker. The schedule for services will be:

Friday December 6: 7:00 pm Pastor Don Fortner
Saturday December 7: 4:00 pm Pastor Clay Curtis
Sunday December 8: 10:00 am Pastor Don Fortner
11:00 am Pastor Clay Curtis

We plan to have some light snacks following the Friday evening service. A meal will be served after services Saturday and Sunday.

- There will be no service Wednesday evening December 4.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15:1-28

WORSHIP HYMN #268

How Firm a Foundation

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 #229

Tell Me the Old, Old Story

MESSAGE

WHEN CHRIST COMES

ISAIAH 35:1-10

CLOSING HYMN #222

There Is a Fountain

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

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

-Proverbs 17:15

Natural Sense is not Spiritual Sense

Isaiah 6:10: Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

What did the Lord command Isaiah to do to make the heart of this people fat, their ears heavy, which caused them to close their eyes? Isaiah was to simply preach Christ Jesus the Lord, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Holy One of Israel. Most delighted to participate in hearing the message preached. They drew near to the Lord, or at least appeared to (Isa 29:13, 14; Isa 30:8-11.)

Yet, in hearing Isaiah's gospel the Lord declared he would make the heart of this people fat (v10.) Literally, their hearts swelled with pride as they thought themselves secure because of their act of seeing and hearing. But like the sun hardens the clay, so God's Word hardened their hearts. Their ears became heavy (v10) because as they refused to hear, they became more deaf so that they could not hear. They shut their eyes (v10) and because they willfully shut their own eyes to the truth of the Messiah, God gave them up to judicial blindness. So that they could not see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed (2 Thes 2:10-12.)

The declaration is clear. Until God gives the sinners a new heart, spiritual discernment and a willingness to come to Christ then our religion is vanity. Listen to the words of Christ Jesus to the religious elite who mocked him. John 9: 39: And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not, might see; and that they which see, might be made blind. 40: And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41: Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth. Hear the word of the Lord, “If ye were blind, if you cried out to God for sight, not only would you have sight, you should have no sin.” But now you say, “I see, therefore your sin remaineth.” Unless a man be born of God he cannot see...(Joh 3: 3.) This truth will make a blind man mock even more. But it will make one in whom God has given sight to say, “Who is Christ, Lord, that I might believe on him?” And that man shall hear Christ in the heart saying, “Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.” (Joh 9:34-38.)

-Pastor Clay Curtis

No one has ever been saved by walking an aisle, kneeling at an altar, saying “the sinner's prayer,” making a decision for Jesus, getting baptized, joining the church, or by anything else they might do. Salvation is God's work alone. — “By grace ye are saved!”

-Pastor Don Fortner

I Make It An Issue!

It is common to hear conservative preachers say, "I don't make that an issue". They do not want to offend anyone, or get anyone upset, so they do not make an issue over the doctrines of Divine Sovereignty, Human Depravity, Eternal Election, Effectual Redemption, Irresistible Grace, or the Perseverance Of The Saints. One might wonder, "What on earth do such preachers make an issue?" They make an issue of human morality, but not the righteousness of God. They make an issue of man's free-will, but not God's sovereign purpose. They make an issue of Christ's second coming, but not his substitutionary atonement. They make an issue of those things that raise no issue among men, but they do not make an issue of the gospel of the grace of God. I am not of that school. I make it an issue! In fact, the only issue I have is the gospel of God's free and sovereign grace in Christ. In this place we will continue to declare and defend those five blessed truths which are fundamental and essential to the gospel: Total Depravity - Unconditional Election - Limited Atonement - Irresistible Grace - Perseverance of the Saints.

These things may be offensive to men. They may run in opposition to the tide of modern religion. But they are plainly revealed in the Word of God. They are the basis of our soul's comfort. And they give honor to the Lord our God. Others may choose to water these truths down, ignore them, and be silent about them. I cannot. God the Holy Spirit has burned them into my heart. When it comes to the gospel of Christ, and these truths of the gospel, I make it an issue!

-pastor Don Fortner

Too Busy Being Religious

T. T. Martin (pastor, missionary, and writer of the last century [1862-1939]) once said, "There aren't many great sermons preached today. Preachers are bound by too many other things to be great preachers. They give more advice than a lawyer, visit more sick than a doctor, attend more meetings than a club-woman, shake more hands than a politician, teach more people than a professor, and use the other part of their time as errand boys. They are organizers, promoters, executives, and toast-masters – anything but prophets speaking for God to eternity-bound sinners. Preachers today are like the little boy, loaded down with books, who was asked, 'Son, where are you going?' ... 'I'm going to school.' 'What are you learning?' ... 'Nothing, I'm too busy going to school.' I wonder if we are too busy going to church, attending meetings, and promoting religion to sit at the feet of our Lord and learn of Him."

I wonder if we do not often meet together in the name of Christ and forget the guest of honor. Are we indoctrinating men or introducing them to Christ? The preacher spent all of his time talking about the well and no one got to drink of the water of life. It is possible to preach about the gospel and never really preach the gospel.

-Henry Mahan

San Diego Grace Fellowship

13910 Lyons Valley Road, Suite A

Jamul, CA 91935

Pastor Kevin Thacker

Phone: (888) 602-3456

www.sandiegograce.com

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 December 1, 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