

CALL TO WORSHIP

O For A Thousand Tongues # 46

HYMN

Amazing Grace # 236

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cleaning for January – Mike & Karen

- Following the morning services, there will be a budget review for those interested in staying. It will be very brief but needed.

CLOSING HYMN

Once For All! # 205

FAITH AND REPENTANCE

We are by nature so works oriented that if not careful we'll turn faith and repentance into a work. True faith is by its very nature the absence of all works. It is finding in oneself no good thing. It is to be shut up to the Lord Jesus Christ, the only One who is good, for all our acceptance before God. We must never view faith as our contribution to salvation.

Like faith, repentance is also a sovereign work of grace in the heart. The Holy Spirit changes our minds about God, about ourselves, and about how God saves sinners. Yes, it involves sorrow for sin. But let us never think we can sorrow sufficiently. God-given repentance is not wallowing in the mire of shame and sorrow for sin. That can very quickly become a work. It is agreeing with God that I am, left to myself, nothing but sin. It is looking, not to my repentance, but to my Redeemer for all the hope of my salvation.

- Greg Elmquist (Apopka, FL)

GO HOME AND TELL

“Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee” - Mark 5:19

The Lord had shown great mercy to this poor sinner, setting him free from demons and from sin. Now He tells him to go home to his family and friends and be THE LORD'S WITNESS.

Do not go home and begin to preach. Do not go home and take up the great doctrines of grace and expound them. Do not go home and strive to bring everyone to your views and beliefs. Do not go home and condemn all who do not see what you see. Go home and tell them WHAT GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU! Not what great things you have read or heard, but what great things you have EXPERIENCED! This is the way to begin our witnessing.

There is never a more interesting story than that story a person has experienced, lived, and felt. If you would really interest others and get their attention, tell them what great things the Lord has done IN you and FOR you!

- Henry Mahan

BY THE GRACE OF GOD I AM WHAT I AM

A believer should never (in false humility) deny having the gifts that God has given them. A believer should also never (in false pride) act like they are better by nature than anyone else. *“By the grace of God I am what I am.”* (I Cor. 15:10) The reason we have everything we have is God's grace. If you believe God it is only by the gift of God's grace that He gave you faith. If you know God it is only because of the gift of God's grace that He revealed Himself to you. If you love God it is only by the gift of God's grace that God loved you first. If you persevere to the end it is only by the gift of God's grace that He kept you. A believer should be known as a person thankful for and dependent upon God's grace. Let us never be guilty of pride of grace. *“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?”* (I Cor 4:7)

- Frank Tate (Ashland, KY)

