

OPENING HYMN #449

To God Be The Glory

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Brother Obie Williams from Kingsport Grace Church in Kingsport, Tennessee is scheduled to preach here the weekend of September 29-30. Lord willing we plan to meet Saturday evening at 6:30 with supper and fellowship following the service, and Sunday morning for our regularly scheduled service. We hope to see you here, invite a friend!
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SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:1-28

WORSHIP HYMN #314

I Am Thine, O Lord

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 #242

Jesus I Come

MESSAGE

HOPE

ROMANS 15:4

CLOSING HYMN #293

The Lord's My Shepherd

THINGS TO PONDER

Brother Scott Richardson once wrote – “I defy anyone to find a solitary text of Scripture in the New Testament that uses the law to motivate, inspire, regulate, or even guide the believer. Believers are motivated by love, inspired by gratitude, regulated by grace, and guided by the Holy Spirit. The whole Word of God, the complete revelation of His will is our law. Our lives are governed by love, not by fear. We walk by faith, not by legislation. We walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh (Romans 8:9-14; Galatians 3:3).”

So great is the depravity of unregenerate man that, although there is nothing that he needs more than the Gospel, there is nothing that he desires less.

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“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 sin. Now He tells him to go home to his family and friends and to 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 hath 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 the 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 hath done in you and for you! Notice the Lord said, “tell them what great thing the Lord hath done.” It is a story of Free Grace. Not what we did, willed, or gave, but what He did for us by His own free, sovereign, and undeserved love. We will not convince them nor change them, anymore than another man could convert us. But the Lord who did great things for us can do great things for them if He so pleases. And He is pleased to use the faithful witness of those who go and tell “how great things the Lord hath done for thee.”

- Pastor Henry Mahan

What is a Blessing?

When an unbeliever speaks of being blessed, I fear the things they are looking at as a blessing will end up being a judgment against them. Why? Because they are looking at their favorable circumstances as evidence of their favor with God. “Blessed” means “Happy”. They are happy without Christ. Their “blessings” cloud their need for Christ.

True blessings are contingent upon grace. “Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”. Eph. 1:2-3. For the child of God, everything is a blessing. Yes, everything. They look to Christ for all their “favor with God”. The only time they experience true happiness is when they are resting all their hope in Christ. Often, they find their greatest blessing, or happiness in the hardest of circumstances.

-Pastor Greg Elmquist

“If by love they mean...”

I do and am constantly maintaining both privately and publicly as far as ever the Lord has enabled me the wonders, the glories, the beauties and the preciousness of love. And yet I must be branded as being a man that is an enemy to love. But if by love, these people who brand me as an enemy of love mean that I ought to unite with Arians and Socinians who deny the deity of my Lord and Saviour whom I proved again in my very soul that he is the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace,— if by love they mean that I ought to meet and unite occasionally with people that can testify and say without a blush that election is a damnable doctrine and they hate it with their hearts, that imputed righteousness is imputed nonsense and a doctrine that ought to be abhorred and spurned by all which is the very garment and covering that hides all my shame, the very robe that adorns my naked soul and so very many times has been the joy and rejoicing of my heart and which I have found to be so many times the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. — If they mean by love that I ought to unite with people that can say and testify that we may be a child of God one day and a child of the devil another, that Christ died and atoned for the sins of Esau, as well as of Jacob, for Cain as well as Abel, for Judas as well as for Peter, and that there are thousands in hell for whom Christ died. — If they mean by love that I ought to unite and call these brethren who profess to believe in the doctrine of grace and call themselves Calvinists, but can declare at times that those blessed doctrines which are so precious and glorious to my soul are nonessential things. That is, if I understand their meaning right, they view them as useless things and that it is of no consequence whatsoever whether we receive or believe these doctrines or not provided we do but unite with all sorts and pray for all and be candid and mild and esteem all as partakers of grace, — I confess from my heart if all this be love I am destitute of it. And instead of being grieved for my want of it, I glory in it.

I do not indeed feel the least ill-will against any of their persons, as the creatures of God, nor do I desire to do them the least injury, but those principles that debase free and sovereign grace, and exalt the creature, I hate and abhor. For how can two walk together except they be agreed? My soul has bought truth too dearly to part with it for such empty baubles as the praises and smiles of men; and those professors that love the smiles of men more than the truth of God, they are heartily welcome to them. I do not begrudge them. But notwithstanding all that ever these reporters could report, God stood by me, a poor worm, and gave such testimony to the word of grace, that neither men nor devils could overthrow it. I believe they tried with all their might to do so; but God hath said it, and I know it will stand, for I have proved it again and again: — “My word shall go forth; it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I have sent it; it shall not return unto me void.”

-John Warburton (1776-1857)

San Diego Grace Fellowship

13910 Lyons Valley Road, Suite A
Jamul, CA 91935

Pastor Don Fortner

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 September 9, 2018

“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