

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise The Savior # 51

SCRIPTURE READING

Sun- Kevin T.

Wed- Cass H.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lord willing, we will have a meal following service November 6th. Kimberly has sent out the sign-up sheet. If you have not received it, let us know.

- Frank Tate, pastor of Hurricane Road Grace Church in Ashland, KY, is scheduled to preach here the 13th of November. I will be preaching at the conference in Rocky Mount, VA and that Sunday evening in Kingsport, TN.

CLOSING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 40

“The Lord make His face shine upon thee, AND be gracious unto thee.” Num. 6:25.

All spiritual blessings (faith, hope, forgiveness, joy, righteousness, love, peace...) are in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He owns them. He manages them. Only He can distribute them in the measure He sees fit. He does not deposit these assets into our account to be withdrawn at our pleasure. They are part and parcel of His glorious person. Only when His face shines upon us, can we enjoy what is in His hand. “*Seek His face continually.*” I Chron. 16:11b.

- Greg Elmquist (Apopka, FL)

PLAYING CHURCH

My two children from infancy attended every worship service of the church I pastored. They soon became quite adept at “playing church”, ably imitating everything done in worship services. My son would use a piano bench as a pulpit, and place his open Bible on it, even though he was too young to read it. My daughter would take her seat before him, with her open Bible in her hands, even though she was too young to read it. My son would open their service with prayer and lead them in singing hymns they had memorized. One of them would collect the offering, to which the other contributed. My son would teach a lesson while drawing on his chalkboard, and then preach his message. It often was the story of the Good Samaritan, which he had memorized. He very graphically and accurately recited the account. My daughter behaved throughout the service like a model congregant. Their service would be closed with prayer and a song.

How cute!

Unhappily, the world around us is full of adults playing church. They very adeptly imitate everything done in churches of Christ. Many men and women think they are qualified to preach just because they have a pulpit and can convince others to sit in front of them and give offerings to them. The open Bibles in their hands are closed books in their untaught minds. They recite Bible verses and stories, but are ignorant of the gospel in them. They sing the same hymns sung by God’s saints, but with a different motive. They wear “church clothes”, but not the garments of salvation. They have head-knowledge of God, but no heart-knowledge of Him. They entertain and amuse.

Not cute!

When children play church, they do what children do, and are cute. But when adults play church, they do what actors do, and are ungodly.

Thankfully, the Lord in His sovereign grace saved my son and daughter. They now conduct themselves in His church as His children should. They are no longer “playing church”.

O that the Lord would do so to adults who are “playing church”!

- Daniel Parks (St. Croix, USVI)

LIVING ON LOVE

It has been said that people cannot live on love, that love won't pay the bills. I say that you cannot live without it. Now I am not talking about what the world calls love, the scriptures tells us that *"men are lovers of self, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God"*. (2 Tim.3:1-5)

I am talking about those to whom the *"love of God is shed abroad in their hearts,"* those who love Christ because Christ first loved them.

It is love that causes men and women to get up every day and go to work to provide a comfortable home, to provide food and clothing to see that the ones they love have the best they can provide. Love seeks the best for those they love. Where there is love, it will do without itself to give to those whom they love.

It is love that causes parents to discipline their children and to instruct them in the truths of God's word.

What but love would make men and women come to hear a man tell them that their *"righteousnesses are as filthy rags"*, or tell them that they have no works or worth to commend them to God? It is love that causes sinners to deny themselves, causes them to lay no claim to anything in themselves and to find that Christ is all their righteousness. It is love that makes souls count everything they were and all they did before in religion as dung.

What but love would cause men and women to bring their hard earned money and give it to support the ministry of their assembly, to support one another, and give to those in need?

Can't live on love, I say you cannot live without it. Our Lord said; *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* (Jn.13:35).

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God". (1 Jn.4:7)

Men can counterfeit many things but love cannot be imitated. Either you have or you don't.

- Don Bell (Crossville, TN)

San Diego Grace Fellowship

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

1Cor 1v23-24

October 23rd, 2022

Service Times

Sunday - 9:30 AM
- 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 6:30 PM

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