

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Fairest Lord Jesus! #50

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

- Pastor John Reeves is scheduled to preach here on Wednesday, Oct 15 and again on Sunday, Nov 9
  - The Yuba-Sutter Sovereign Grace conference is Oct 10-12, pastor Todd Nibert is scheduled to preach. Several of us plan to attend, and we intend to set up a Zoom broadcast for those who wish to join from here for the Sunday messages.
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#### HYMN

### Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus #204

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#### MESSAGES

-pastor Gabe Stalnaker

- Brethren Dwelling Together      Psalm 133
  - We Are So Blessed      Psalm 1
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#### CLOSING HYMN

### The Church's One Foundation #186

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#### The Trying of Our Faith

Trials and affections do not make us what we are; they reveal what we are. Trials (however light or severe) do not produce faith; they reveal faith! How a man reacts to the providence of God reveals his thoughts toward God and his true relationship with the Lord.

The sun melts the ice and hardens the clay. The effect produced on each is determined by the nature of the object. The soldier who lays down his weapon and flag under fire was never a soldier in heart, but only wore the uniform in the parade. He is called a deserter and is held up to ridicule and shame. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him!" (Job 13:15).

*-Henry Mahan*

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The first link between my soul and Christ is, not my goodness, but my badness; not my merit, but my misery; not my standing, but my falling; not my riches, but my need. He comes to visit His people - yet not to admire their beauties, but to remove their deformities, not to reward their virtues, but to forgive their sins.

*- C. H. Spurgeon*

## Cunningly Devised Fables

Satan knows the nature of men and uses it to his own (as he supposes) advantage. Paul was quite aware of his devices and warned about those who are duped into promoting these deceptions. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (2 Cor. 11:13-14). These deceivers have "a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:5). There is no shortage of those who speak "cunningly devised fables" (2 Peter 1:16), nor of those who will readily receive these deceptions.

One of the safeguards which the Lord has put in place for the benefit of His children is the local assembly where each part of the body is seeking to supply that which the body is in need of. This "ministry of the saints" one to another, is that means whereby the saints are strengthened and encouraged in sound doctrine which helps each to identify the tellers of fables. "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted" (1 Cor. 14:29). "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

The Lord warned His disciples of those deceptions which would come in the earth, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24). Yet He also comforted them with the knowledge that those whom He would guide into all truth would not be deceived.

The greatest and most "cunningly devised fable", that has been foisted upon the unsuspecting religious men of the world, is any message which does not have "JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED" (1 Cor. 2:2), as its only component. Any other message is superfluous and will ultimately lead men away from Christ to embrace numerous competing doctrines. All other doctrines are useless apart from the firm foundation of the redeeming work of Christ.

Another "cunningly devised fable" is that God loves every person in the earth, with the same degree of love. This flies in the very face of the scripture which declares "Jacob have I loved but Esau have I hated" (Rom. 9:13). The stark simple truth that the Lord loves a particular people of His own choosing, forms the very basis of the purpose for which Christ came into the world as the REDEEMER. He came to save that people which were given to Him in the eternal covenant of redemption. For them He prayed and died, "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine" (John 17:9). "And for this cause He is the Medator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that

*continued on back...*

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were under the first Testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance” (Heb. 9:15).

Yet another “cunningly devised fable” is that men have the ability to “have faith” as a function of their own will and choice. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).

To deny that faith is the gift of GOD, quite apart from any work, is to deny the necessity of the redemptive work of Christ. To assert that by “having faith” as a product of his will, a man denies his need of Christ’s work and/ or His sovereign prerogative to show mercy to whom He will.

Another “cunningly devised fable” is that we must wait for some future date to see the LORD sitting upon the throne of His kingdom. He came into this world as the Lion of the tribe of Judah with the specific purpose of saving His people from their sins. As a triumphant KING He has made a show of all of His enemies openly. To think that He must wait to occupy some earthly throne, in order to be a king is to fail to see that HIS Kingdom is one of RIGHTEOUSNESS which He has demonstrated by the redemption of those whom He has loved with an everlasting love.

Another “cunningly devised fable” which Peter speaks directly of is to deny that Christ alone is the Revelation of God in the Earth “God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. 1:1-3). Christ, alone, is the true Message and Messenger.

Do you hear HIM?

-Maurice Montgomery (1939-2015)

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# San Diego Grace Fellowship

***“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.”***

*Revelation 22:17*

**September 21, 2025**

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study - 10:15 AM

Sunday Service - 11:00 AM

Wednesday - 6:30 PM

13910 Lyons Valley Road, Suite A

Jamul, CA 91935

[www.sandiegograce.com](http://www.sandiegograce.com)

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." - *Matthew 11:29*