

# EAGER AVENUE GRACE CHURCH

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:21

## Worship Services

### Sunday April 25, 2021

10 am: "The Red Sea of Redemption"

Christ in the Old Testament  
Lesson 27 | Exodus 14  
Bill Parker

11 am: "God, the Righteous Judge" | 1 Peter 2:13-25  
Bill Parker

## Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.  
[sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace](http://sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace)  
[facebook.com/eageravechurch](https://facebook.com/eageravechurch)

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## How Do We Describe a True Christian Life?

I heard of a preacher who once described what he called the Christian life in the following way – “The Christian life is like walking a tightrope holding on to the balance pole. On one end of the pole is the imputed righteousness of Christ. On the other end is our works of righteousness. And we must continually strive to balance the two.”

Another preacher spoke up and stated boldly – “No, my friend, the Christian life is NOT like walking on a tightrope trying to balance Christ’s righteousness with our own. For we have no righteousness of our own, and we have no power to balance ourselves between works and grace. That is certain death for sinners like us. The Christian life is standing on a rock, and that rock is Christ and His righteousness alone. And as we stand firmly upon Him, we continually look out of ourselves and to Him alone for all righteousness. Christ is *‘the Author and Finisher of our faith’* (Heb. 12:2). *‘Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock’* (Matt. 7:24-25).” --Copied

Christ is neither valued nor His grace appreciated until men have a genuine knowledge of their misery, helplessness, and lost condition because of sin. When sin is sin indeed, then grace is grace indeed, and Christ is Christ indeed. If men have a superficial sense of sin, they have a superficial faith in Christ.

*Thomas Manton*

## “Just As if I Had Never Sinned?”

We sometimes hear the popular explanation of justification by the following – “Justification means ‘just-as-if-I-had-never-sinned.’” This definition is a clever play on words and seems to simplify the matter. But this statement is untrue for several reasons. First, it does not take into consideration the miracle of God’s grace in justifying the ungodly (sinners). Secondly, it portrays God as a great pretender who views the people whom He has justified as something they are not. The fact is that those whom God has justified have sinned and are sinners until they die and pass into His eternal presence. Thirdly, it mentions nothing about the fact that Christ’s righteousness (the merit of His obedience unto death as the Surety, Substitute and Redeemer of God’s elect) is reckoned to the account of all sinners whom God has justified. Fourthly, it denies the fact that all true believers will never be able to say, “I stand before God ‘just-as-if-I-had-never-sinned,’” because they will always be conscious of the fact that they have sinned and that they are not innocent people. They are sinners who have been freely and fully forgiven by the blood of Christ. They are sinners to whom God will not impute iniquity because their iniquity was imputed to Christ Who paid their debt to God’s justice. They are sinners in themselves but who are made the righteousness of God (Christ’s righteousness imputed to them) in Christ. They will forever know that they have not lived a life of perfect righteousness, but that Christ’s righteousness was given to them by God’s grace. They will forever sing the song of the redeemed – “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!” For what was the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, slain? He was slain for our sins. They will forever acknowledge that Christ’s righteousness imputed to them was (and is) the only ground of their justification before God and the only source and power of their spiritual and eternal life in glory. They will forever know that they are righteous in Christ, and when they are perfected in themselves in glory, they will know that it is all due to God’s grace in saving them from their sins.

—Pastor Bill Parker

## Birthdays

RALSTON SPARKS - APR. 25

MARY MARGESON - APR. 29

## Hymns

### April 25th services

Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus - 145  
Near the Cross - 351

## Worship

We should come to worship God with as much eagerness and interest as if we were attending the reading of the last will and testament of a wealthy relative. What is the Gospel but the declaration of the fullness of the blessings of grace and glory which have been obtained and secured for God’s people based solely upon the death of Christ our Testator.

## **Call To Worship**

**(Tune – Majestic Sweetness – p. 52)**

**How rich the depths of love Divine  
Of bliss a boundless store;  
Dear Saviour let me call Thee mine,  
I could not wish for more. (Repeat)**

**On Thee alone my hope relies  
Beneath Thy cross I fall;  
My Lord, my life, my sacrifice,  
My Saviour and my all. (Repeat)**

**How great Thy wisdom, power, and grace  
That in redemption shine;  
The heavenly hosts with joy confess,  
The work is all Divine. (Repeat)**

**Before His face they cast their crowns,  
Those crowns which Jesus gave;  
And with ten thousand, thousand tongues,  
Proclaim His power to save. (Repeat)**

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God judges the believer in Christ as perfectly righteous and holy at all times by virtue of Christ's righteousness imputed to him. The world cannot make a right judgment of believers. Only the spiritual person discerns the things of God and the people of God (1 Cor. 2:14). The faults of the godly are seen by everyone, but their graces are too often unseen. The royal daughter is all glorious within (Psalm 45:13). When you are able to make a right judgment of other believers, you will want nothing better than to be in their company.

—John Owen