# 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 2, 2023

10am: "Wise Men Seek Christ" Lesson 4 | Matthew 2:1-12 Bill Parker

11am: "Striving Together in Truth" Philippians 1:21-30 Bill Parker

#### **Live Stream**

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

- -Sermon Audio
- -Facebook
- -YouTube

#### **Contact**

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## What is My Righteousness?

"The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me." (Psalm 18:20)

We can easily see how the reward mentioned here can apply to the Lord Jesus Christ Who is righteous in Himself and Who worked out a perfect righteousness in His obedience unto death as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people for whom He died and arose again. But is there any way that, as sinners saved by grace, we can say "the LORD rewarded me according to MY righteousness"? The only way we could ever say such a thing is as we stand righteous, not in ourselves nor by our works, but in Christ Jesus, washed clean from all our sins in His shed blood, and justified before God in His righteousness imputed to us. It is Christ's righteousness that has been made ours by the imputation of the merits of His perfect obedience unto death to our account. It is His righteousness that becomes ours as we lay hold of Him by God-given faith upon which we reject and repent of having any righteousness of our own by our works. How has the LORD rewarded us for our righteousness? He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3). —Pastor Bill Parker "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning." (Psalm 130:5-6)

Waiting on the Lord does not imply idleness on the part of the believer. His people are active in the kingdom of God; zealous of good works (Titus 2: 14); diligent about their Father's business (Luke 2 49); vigorous in spreading the Gospel by whatever means the Lord supplies (Acts 5:41-42). Our God highly disapproves of idleness – "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion" (Amos 6:1). However, we do wait on Him for direction, open doors, liberty, wisdom, and for results. Here is the source, strength and the sweetness of our waiting – "In His WORD I do hope." His WORD is always successful (Isaiah 55:11); His WORD is always true (Psalm 33:4); His WORD is living (John 1:14) and powerful (Heb. 4:12). The apostle Paul declared that he labored hard in preaching the WORD, but he waited on the Lord for the results. Listen to what he said – "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6). Let us be diligent laborers in the kingdom of God, always striving to preach the WORD (Jesus Christ), but let us be just as diligent to wait on the Lord for the results. His blessings are worth waiting for (1 Cor. 1:30).

# **This Glorious Gospel**

The glorious Gospel is the Gospel of the imputation of sin to a suitable sinless person, the Saviour. It is said, God "hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21). There was a complete transference, a mutual transference, the transferring of guilt to the Saviour, and the transferring of His righteousness to the sinner "that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." Take this out of the Gospel and what is there left that is worth notice? Take this out of the Gospel and how could a wretch who feels his wretchedness in sin have any hope in the mercy of God? Such is a terrible gospel, no gospel at all if imputation is taken away. Eliminate this doctrine of the imputation of sin to Christ, and the imputation of righteousness to the sinner, and we are all as good as in hell. There is nothing for us but perdition. When a sinner, brought by the Spirit of God into solemn and deep despair of himself and of his own righteousness, looks on the Lord Jesus, and adoringly and wonderingly believes in the imputation that removes from himself all sin and brings to him nothing but righteousness, he is complete in Christ. That is the Gospel word.

—James Popham

## "No Spot"

"You are all beautiful, My love; there is no spot in you." (Song of Solomon 4:1)

There is no spot in the church, because the blood of Jesus entirely obliterates each stain. Omniscience may look for sins, but no more can they be found. The absence of defect is the result of her being adorned with His perfect righteousness. In this no blemish can exist. Thus, she appears righteous, even as God is righteous. This blessed truth must be held fast without obliterating the knowledge of our own constant and innumerable transgressions. It cannot be too often repeated, that in ourselves we are deformed and loathsome. The most saintly of saints will ever breathe the prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner." But Jesus says of His people, "You are all beautiful, My love; there is no spot in you."
—Henry Law (1879)

#### **Birthdays**

Patsy Parr - Apr. 4th

# Prayer Requests

Winston and Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Kathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Leon Drake, Akimi Okada, Sue Parker, the mission in Malawi, Africa.

#### Hymns

April 2nd services

I Love to Tell the Story - 431

Praise Him! Praise Him! - 442

## Call to Worship

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(Tune – O God Our Help – p. 10) (Words written by Pastor Gary Shepard)

It is a mystery so great
That for eternity,
God has determined all my hope
To be in Christ not me.

By faith alone can I believe
That I'm a righteous one.
Not by the things that I might do
But through what Christ has done.

Greater it is that I on earth Might unto God draw nigh; Not in my person here below But Christ who lives on high.

What Jesus did on my behalf Two thousand years ago; Is my salvation then and now And I am glad it's so!