

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, August 13, 2023

11 am: "Religious Vertigo"
1 Corinthians 2:9-14
Randy Wages

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.
-[Sermon Audio](#)
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Faith Works By Love

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” (Gal. 5:5-6)

As we preach and live the truth and power of God’s grace, mercy, and love towards us (sinners saved by grace) in Christ, unbelievers often accuse us of being antinomians (against the law) and paving the way for sinful behavior. When this happens, I want to ask them – If the reality of God’s grace, mercy, and love for His people in Christ, whereby He justifies us in His sight based on Christ’s righteousness imputed, cannot motivate a person to worship, serve, and obey the Lord’s Word, then where does that leave him? It leaves him with no other motive than the evil, God-dishonoring, Christ-denying, motives of self-righteous legalists and mercenaries who seek to serve the Lord for gain. But make no mistake about it – true God-given faith works by love, grace, and gratitude for the things that God has freely and unconditionally given us in and by the Lord Jesus Christ. If righteousness and the blessings of salvation and eternal life come by our works, then Christ died in vain (*Gal. 2:21*). But He did not die in vain for His people. He not only established the only righteousness by which they are all justified – His righteousness imputed – He also gives them a new heart to serve the Lord and fight sin in newness of life (*Rom. 7:4-6*). This newness of life is that faith that works by love and which honors God and exalts Christ, the Lord our Righteousness.

—Pastor Bill Parker

Cared For By the Creator

Elijah the prophet had the same essential needs as every other sinner. He will be provided for and cared for by his God in a way that causes him to lean more fully on Him and glorifies Him. God instructed him to go down to a particular brook and said, “I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.” Every creature and all the creation are under the sovereign rule of Him who made all things. Will these black birds actually be there? Will they bring sufficient to sustain him? Yes, they will, because Almighty God has “commanded” them to do so! God has often proved Himself to be the great Provider of His people. He has done so in unlikely places and by unlikely means. We should learn this as we look to the cross. It comes, sent of God, winging its way into our lives through the Gospel. It first appears dark and dreary, reminding us that we are sinners, assuring us that God hates sin and convincing us that God is just. But this raven has “bread” and “flesh” in his mouth. It brings the message of Christ and Him crucified – Christ who is the “Bread of Life” and “God manifest in the flesh.” Hope and peace, righteousness and forgiveness, grace and mercy. *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world ... Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:51; John 6:54).* It is to the sinner as it was to the prophet, “Rise and eat.” Believing on Christ, the raven becomes to us the white dove of peace! The “bread and flesh” of Christ becomes our Life!

Then, sometimes the providence that God sends to us at first seems to darken our sky like a flock of black ravens. Will they destroy us and pick our bones? Will they take away our every joy? No. They will “feed” us and bless us and bring us on our way to glory. They are messengers that work together for good to the His “called” ones that love Him. They will because He has “commanded” them to!

So, on any midnight dreary, if I ponder, weak and weary.
And need or unbelief come tapping on my chamber door.
God will send His ravens winging, bread and flesh to me there bringing,
And remind me that He'll leave me, “Nevermore!”

—Pastor Gary Shepard

Debbie and I are in Ashland, KY, this week visiting our family. Brother Randy Wages is preaching here today (8/13). We will be traveling home in a few days. Pray for Randy as he preaches and for Debbie and me as we travel.

We extend our prayers and sincere sympathies to Brother Mark Pannell and family and to Brother Leon Drake and family. Mark’s brother, Gordon, and Leon’s sister, Mary, passed away last week. May the Lord bless them with comfort as only He can give.

Prayer Requests

Carol Bryan, Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Kathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Leon Drake, Akemi Okada, Sue Parker, the mission in Malawi, Africa.

Hymns

August 13th services

Break Thou the Bread of Life - 176

Trusting Jesus - 262

Birthdays

Ashlyn Mattle – Aug. 14th | Dennis Vanzandt – Aug. 17th | Kathryn Cox – Aug. 19th

Charlotte Pannell – Aug. 19th | Jane Sparks – Aug. 19th | Mariel Moore – Aug. 20th

Call to Worship

(Tune – Depth of Mercy – p. 233)

**Brethren, let us join to bless,
Christ our Peace and Righteousness;
Let our praise to Him be giv'n,
High at God's right hand in heaven.**

**Son of God, to Thee we bow,
Thou art Lord and only Thou;
Thou the woman's promised seed,
Thou, who did for sinners bleed.**

**Thee the angels ceaseless sing,
Thee we praise, our Priest and King;
Worthy is Thy Name of praise,
Full of glory, full of grace.**

**Thou hast the glad tidings brought,
Of salvation fully wrought;
Wrought, O Lord, alone by Thee,
Wrought to set Thy people free.**

**Thee, our Lord, would we adore,
Serve and follow more and more;
Praise and bless Thy matchless love,
Till we join Thy saints above.**