

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 December 27, 2020

10 am: **Please note: no 10 a.m. service this Sunday**

11 am: "Christ Our Tabernacle"

Hebrews 9:1-14

Jim Casey

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace

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A New Year's Resolution!

"My times a Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant: save me for Thy mercies' sake." (Psalm 31:15-16)

Firmly believing that my times are in God's hand, I here submit myself and all my affairs for the ensuing year, to the wise and gracious disposal of God's divine providence. Whether God appoints for me health or sickness, peace or trouble, comforts or crosses, life or death, may His holy will be done! It is my earnest expectation, hope, and desire, my constant aim and endeavor that Jesus Christ may be magnified in me. In everything I have to do, my entire dependence is upon Jesus Christ for righteousness and strength. If this should prove a year of affliction and sorrow, I will seek all my comforts from the Lord Jesus and stay myself upon Him, His everlasting consolations, and the good hope I have in Him through grace; for I cannot be condemned as long as I am in Him. God will not impute my sins unto me. And if it should be my dying year, then my times are in the hand of Christ. And with a humble reliance upon His mediation, I would venture into the eternal world looking for the blessed hope. Oh, that the grace of God in Christ may be sufficient for me.

—Matthew Henry



Please note!

There will be no 10 a.m. service this Sunday (12/27/20) NEXT SUNDAY (01/03/2021), WE WILL RESUME OUR REGULAR SERVICE TIMES – 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WE WILL SERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER on 1/3/21 THERE WILL BE NO FELLOWSHIP DINNER AFTERWARDS

Birthdays

Travis McKenzie - Dec. 28th
 Monica Hayes - Dec. 29th
 John Pedersen - Dec. 30th
 Patricia Pannell - Dec. 30th
 Becky Wages - Dec. 31st

Hymns

Dec. 27th service
 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
 468
 Holy, Holy, Holy - 70

An Assessment of 2020

Many people anxiously await the next year, 2021, because there has been so much turmoil in this year of 2020. I readily admit that we have had to go through many trials in this year. There was political upheaval, physical illnesses and death, especially due to the current pandemic. There has been much inconvenience in our lives as we were interrupted from our normal courses. But how are we as the children of God to view this past year?

First, we are to recognize that God is in control. There has not been one second of this past year that was not under the sovereign power and management of our great God and Savior – *“The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof” (Psalm 97:1). “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?” (Dan. 4:35).*

Secondly, we know that the Lord is still bringing His chosen people into His kingdom through the preaching of the Gospel of His free and sovereign grace based on the righteousness of Christ alone – *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).*

Thirdly, we who are truly saved by God’s grace and mercy in Christ CANNOT be condemned, and we are blessed above all people to be spiritually and eternally safe and secure in Christ. We can become sick and die physically. We can be persecuted by the government and by false religionists. But we cannot be cursed under God’s law or condemned for our sins – *“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us” (Rom. 8:33-34; cf. Rom. 8:35-39).*

How are we, then, to assess this year? We are to judge it as we are to judge each day of each year – *“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).* Each day (each year) is a rich and precious gift from God, with new grace and new opportunities, even amidst all the trials and tragedies.

—Pastor Bill Parker

Call to Worship

(Tune – Doxology)

**Come, let us sing the song of songs,
The glory which to Christ belongs;
The hosts of Heav'n began the strain,
Worthy the Lamb, for He was slain.**

**Slain to redeem us by His blood,
And makes us kings and priest to God;
To cleanse from ev'ry sinful stain,
Worthy the lamb, for He was slain.**

**Among a thousand hearts and songs.
His sacred name fills all our tongues;
All pow'r in Heav'n and earth proclaim,
Worthy the Lamb, for He was slain.**

We Are Perfect in Christ

It is a Biblical truth and a universally accepted fact among the people of God that our perfection is in Christ. Each believer also agrees with what Paul said when he wrote, “I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18). Since “no good thing” is in us, let us stop expecting perfection from ourselves and stop expecting it from each other. We are fallen sinners rescued from our guilt through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. To the praise of the glory of our Lord's free and sovereign grace, God has, for Christ's sake, forgiven us of all transgressions. Remember that every brother and sister in the Lord is just like you, a saved sinner! You must not, therefore, expect perfection from them and they must not expect perfection from you. As the hymn writer said, so each of us says, “This is my story, to God be the glory - I'm only a sinner, saved by grace!” There is just one who is perfect and that is the God-Man, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Look to Him and you will never be disappointed, but look to others in expectation of goodness and there is no question but what you will be greatly disappointed.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul;
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole;
Thank You, Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation, so rich and free.