

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 9, 2018

11 am: "Why Must Christ Be Lifted Up?" John 3:14-15
Mark Pannell

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.
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Christ's Righteousness

We must be declared free from guilt and invested with a righteousness that will stand before the law of sinless perfection and entitle us to the kingdom of heaven. And if we have it not in ourselves, where must we look for it but as existing solely in the person of Jesus Christ? Dependence therefore upon that righteousness, as wrought out by Him for believers and appointed of God for sinners to trust in, is the gracious faith of the gospel by which the soul is justified. Satan and the world may ask us, "How can ye be justified by a righteousness which is not yours?" We answer, "The righteousness of Christ is ours, and ours by as great a right as any other thing we possess by the free gift of God; for it hath pleased Him to give us a garment who were naked, and to give us who had none of our own, a righteousness answerable to divine justice." —William Cowper

Peace on Earth?

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

Did the Lord Jesus Christ come into this world to bring peace among men and nations? If this was His goal, He failed. And, in fact, He Himself said to His disciples, *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword” (Matt. 10:34)*. Granted, the *“sword”* of which He spoke was not a physical weapon made of steel but the *“sword”* of His Word (the Gospel) which divides believers and unbelievers. In teaching of the last days, He also told His disciples that they would *“hear of wars and rumours of wars” (Matt. 24:6; 13:7)*. So the peace of which He spoke in *Luke 2:14* is not peace on earth among men and nations. If we were to translate *Luke 2:14* literally from the original manuscripts, it would read as follows –

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WITH WHOM HE [GOD] IS PLEASED.”

Why is this important? It is because the Bible tells us that only ones *“with whom HE is pleased”* are those who are found IN CHRIST, washed in His blood, clothed in His righteousness, and believing in HIM for all salvation. What peace did Christ come into the world to establish then? IT WAS (AND IS) PEACE BETWEEN GOD AND HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE. And how did Christ establish this peace? The Bible gives us the answer:

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21); and

“And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath Ge reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight” (Col. 1:20-22). -- Pastor Bill Parker

Hymns for 12.9 services

All The Way My Savior Leads Me - 296
O Come All Ye Faithful - 100

Call To Worship

(Tune: “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” – p. 92)

(Words by Pastor Jim Byrd)

**Sing praises to the Son of God, Who down from heaven came;
To save His people from their guilt, From misery and shame.
Down from His heav’nly glory The Savior came to earth;
And angels looked with fear and awe, upon Messiah’s birth.**

**God in the flesh, the Son of Man, our Prophet, Priest and King;
The Seed of woman came to earth, to save the perishing.
In love and great compassion, the great Redeemer died;
He reconciled us to our God and we are justified.**

**Christ gave Himself, the ransom price, our debt of sin to pay;
The sword of justice pierced His heart, and guilt was washed away.
O’er sin and death He triumphed, His greatness let us own;
The Savior reigns forevermore upon His sovereign throne.**

**Bow down and worship Christ the Lord – His wonders gladly tell;
The fullness of the Godhead three, in Christ the Savior dwell.
The only Mediator, on Him our hopes depend;
He is our Savior, God and King, our Advocate and Friend.**

The true Gospel of God’s grace lays all of salvation upon the Lord Jesus Christ and not upon sinners – **“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6).** The true Gospel is the revelation of God’s righteousness which is His justice fulfilled in the glorious Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ – **“Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isa. 9:7; cf. Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-26).** All who are either ignorant of His righteousness or not submitted to it are lost (**Romans 9:31—10:4**). If we claim that Christ only made sinners savable conditioned upon their making the right decision out of their own will, then God’s justice is destroyed as multitudes perish because they refuse to believe even though Christ paid their debt. Those who do believe, then, can claim that they (of their own will and goodness) did that which is right to rise above the multitudes who perish in unbelief. Is this what the Bible teaches? Is this what the Lord Himself taught? NO! The Bible teaches that God’s righteousness in Christ fully secured and even demands the eternal salvation and final glory of all for whom Christ died and arose.

–Pastor Bill Parker