

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, January 5, 2025

11 am: "The Israel of God"
Romans 9:1-5
Jim Casey

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.
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As believers and followers of Christ, and as those who are commanded to love our neighbor as ourselves, even our enemies, we are not commanded to respect, accept, and appreciate all beliefs. We are to respect, and even defend, the rights of others to believe whatever they want to believe even if what they believe is wrong and as long as what they believe does not harm others. But true Godly love commands us to tell the truth and promote the salvation of our neighbors by telling the truth, even when the truth exposes what they believe to be a lie that leads them to hell. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed”* (Gal. 1:8-9). The Apostle John wrote, *“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son”* (2 John 9).

—Pastor Bill Parker

Servants of Sin Vs. Servants of Righteousness

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom 6:17-18). Prior to God regenerating His elect, we were all servants of sin and under the dominion of sin. Most people automatically go to outward immoral acts when they think of being a servant of sin, and those things are sin, but those things are all products of a selfish sin nature that all men are born with, a nature inherited from Adam, a nature or principal full of self-righteousness and religious pride. What did Adam do when he knew that God had discovered his sin of disobedience? He selfishly made himself a fig leaf covering in an attempt to hide his sin. When I think of being a servant of sin, I think of all that time before God revealed grace to me. I did not know the true and living God. I worshiped a god of my imagination, a God that would save me if I would just straighten up my act and start living right, and the “living right” standard changed according to what religion you were brought up in, or what your mother and father taught you. It says here “that ye were the servants of sin.” Then it says “but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.” This speaks of God calling His elect by the preaching of the Gospel, which is “that form of doctrine which was delivered you,” the Gospel of how God saves a sinner based on the imputed righteousness of Christ and that alone. God, in time and in each successive generation, delivers the Gospel message to that sinner, and God the Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner and causes that sinner to believe the Gospel and flee to Christ alone for all of salvation. The sinner will then and only then obey “from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.” This is when Gods elect, His sheep, all those that God the father gave to Christ in eternity, and that Christ redeemed at the cross; this is when the elect of God become free from sin in their minds, consciences, and experience. It says in Romans 6:18, “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” When God brings us from darkness to light, when He opens our blind eyes and reveals Himself to His elect, we are then free from that sin that deceived us and kept us going about to establish a righteousness of our own. We then “became the servants of righteousness.” When God performs this miraculous work of grace in the hearts of His elect, they are able to serve Him in “obedience unto righteousness.” They are then able to behold God as He is “a just God and a Savior,” a God that is right and just when He saves sinners based on the blood and righteousness of Christ. —Elder Jim Casey

It is not true faith to trust Christ only when you feel you are saved. True faith is to trust Christ at all times, whether you feel like you are saved or not, when you have a deep consciousness of your sin and when you don’t, when you have assurance of faith and when your faith is so weak you wonder if you have faith at all. A person is not saved because he feels saved nor because he is aware of his sinfulness. A person is saved as he trusts Christ – His blood for redemption and forgiveness of sin, His righteousness for acceptance with God; when he commits all to Him as the “Author and finisher of our faith.” Our feelings may change by the hour, but our salvation is not dependent on our feelings; it is dependent solely on Him Who never changes – “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever!” —Copied

“Blessed is the man whom Thou choolest, and causet to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple.” (Psalm 65:4)

Birthdays

Jack Cox - Jan. 5th | Jordan Drake - 5th | Carolyn Hayes - Jan. 9th

From the Pastor

The Lord willing, Debbie and will be back for next week's service, Sunday, January 12. We will serve THE LORD'S SUPPER then. There will be no church dinner following the service.

Hymns

January 5th services

- The Great Physician - 59
- Praise the Savior - 51

Prayer Requests

Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Kathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Leon Drake, Sue Parker, Judy Fletcher, David Tennyson, Monica Hayes, Mike Loosier, Patsy Parr, Phyllis Payne, the mission in Malawi, Africa..

Call to Worship

(Tune – Doxology)

**Head of Thy church and Lord of all,
Hear from Thy throne our earnest call;
We come Thy promised grace to seek;
We come, O Lord, to hear Thee speak.**

**Without Thy presence, King of saints,
Our purpose fails, our spirits faint;
Thou must our wavering faith renew,
Ere we can yield Thee worship true.**

**“Lo, I am with you” – That sweet word,
Lord Jesus, grant it to be heard;
Give exercise to faith and love,
And send Thy blessings from above.**

**Lord, send a message from Thy word,
That will great joy and peace afford;
May Thy blest Spirit now impart
Thy grace and love in every heart!**