

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, May 15, 2022

10am: "Christ is Our Shepherd"

Christ in the Old Testament

Lesson 79 | Psalm 23

Bill Parker

11am: "What Manner of Man Am I?"

James 1:22-25

Bill Parker

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

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Assurance in Christ Alone The Gift of Faith

The Spirit of the Lord must first reveal the gracious mind of the Lord to our spirits. He must give to us faith to receive that testimony of the Spirit, and to sit down as satisfied with His testimony before ever any work of sanctification can possibly give any evidence. But when the testimony of the Spirit of the Lord is received by faith, and the soul sits down satisfied with that testimony of the Lord, then also all the gifts of God's Spirit do bear witness together with the Spirit of the Lord, and the faith of a believer.

—Tobias Crisp

Be Loving and Kind, But Tell the Truth

It is very important that we as true believers and as witnesses of Christ in this world conduct and express ourselves in a loving and kind way. But love and kindness are never expressed when we fail to tell lost sinners the truth about salvation. The greatest love and kindness we can show to lost sinners is to tell them of God's love, grace, and mercy that can only be found in the glorious Person and finished work of righteousness in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is truly loving and kind to tell lost sinners that outside of Christ, there is no love for sinners from God but only hatred and wrath. It is truly loving and kind to tell lost sinners that Christ died for His sheep, and that His sheep will hear His voice in the Gospel message and be brought to faith in Him and repentance of dead works. It is loving and kind to tell lost sinners that without Christ all their deeds are evil, dead works, and acts of idolatry. It is loving and kind to tell lost sinners that there is salvation and hope in Christ as He is identified and distinguished in the Gospel message revealed by God in His Word. One may argue that lost sinners may not see this as loving and kind. It is true that the natural man (unregenerated and spiritually dead) will not view this as loving and kind because it is aimed at destroying all of his self-righteous refuges and hopes in himself. It exposes his deeds as being evil (*John 3:19-20*). But the Holy Spirit uses this very truth – salvation by the grace of God based solely upon Christ and His righteousness imputed – to bring lost sinners to salvation (*John 3:21*). ***“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).***

—Pastor Bill Parker



Hymns

May 15th services

Look Ye Saints - 141

Sun of My Soul - 77

Prayer Requests

Winston and Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Frank Dell, Cathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Leonard Qualls, Cassie Broxton, James Mwali and the mission in Malawi, Africa.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and our prayers to Patricia Pannell and family. Patricia's sister, Elizabeth Davis, passed away last Tuesday.

By Pastor Gary Shepard

EVERYTHING God does, He does for a purpose. There are no accidents. There are no contingency plans, and He is NEVER taken by surprise.

Call To Worship

(Tune – O For a Thousand Tongues – p. 46)

**Dear Lord, into Thy faithful hands
My welfare I commit;
And to Thy righteousness alone,
For safety I retreat.**

**Sorrows and agonies and death,
Thou didst endure for me,
When all the sins of God's elect
Were made to meet on Thee.**

**Though worthy in myself of hell
And everlasting shame;
I cannot dread the frown divine,
Accepted in the Lamb.**

**Still on Thy merit, gracious Lord,
Enable me to lean;
Ever in Thee may I be found,
My hiding place from sin.**

The justification of God's people, sinners saved by grace, is free on God's part, and without any condition at all on our part. If faith were a condition of our justification, then it is not free. Justification is an act of God in His eternal counsel and purpose before the world began (*Rom. 8:29-34*). If faith were a condition thereof, then we are justified for some foreseen grace in us and not freely by His grace. Now faith is neither a means, nor yet any condition of justification, but rather an evidence or demonstration thereof (*Rom. 11:5,6*), for true faith is that whereby we close with God in the promise of life and salvation in and by Jesus Christ (*Rom. 4:19-20; John 6:44-47*). Now this faith is not in us by nature. It is wrought in the heart by the manifestation of God in the soul. When the Lord is pleased to reveal Christ in the soul, and to discover to the same, that He is well pleased with him in Christ, and that He hath freely forgiven all his sins, merely for the merit and righteousness of His Son, and that now He accepts of him as righteous, in His beloved son; and that in Christ He has adopted him to Himself, to be His son; now when the soul apprehends this, then it is thereby enabled to believe it (*Rom. 4:21*) and rests upon it. And, thus, true faith does not act in the works of justification, but only believes it when it is revealed in the soul; and then believing, hath peace with God, and can look upon Him with comfort, and can joy in Him in all tribulations (*Rom. 5:1,2*). Now no man can believe in Jesus Christ, until He be revealed unto him by the Father (*John 6:44*), and according to the measure or degrees whereby God is pleased to discover Himself to any man, so he can believe or confide in Him more or less; so that it is plain, that faith is no means or condition of our justification; but by faith we believe it, and rest confidently assured of it when it is revealed, and so have joy and peace in believing.

—William Mason