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, October 15, 2023 10 am: "Christ's Power to Forgive Sins" | Matthew 9:1-8 Matthew Series | Lesson 30 Bill Parker

11 am: "The Lion, the Root, and the Lamb (1)" | Revelation 5 Bill Parker

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m. -<u>Sermon Audio</u> -<u>Facebook</u> -<u>YouTube</u>

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We should all pray, "God give us grace to walk honestly and sincerely before You first and foremost." And we realize that true godly honesty and sincerity can only come as God reveals Himself to us as He is both a just God and a Savior in and by the Lord Jesus Christ in the glory of His Person and the power of His finished work as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. Guile (hypocrisy and dishonesty) can only be removed by seeing our sinfulness and depravity in the light of God's holiness and justice. It is then that we see how that if God were to charge us with our sins, we would rightfully be damned forever (Psa. 130:3; Rom. 3:10-20). It is then that we see the blessedness of the man to whom the Lord does not impute (charge) sin but has Christ's righteousness imputed to him (Psa. 32:1-2; Rom. 4:6-8). Then, and only then, can we be honest before God, honest with ourselves, and honest with others. Then, and only then, is our sincerity accepted with God as we come before God pleading only the merits of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Rom. *10:1-10*). -Pastor Bill Parker

The Liberty of Grace

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

The liberty of grace in Christ is not freedom to sin. It is freedom for obedience, love, and service to God and to one another. Christ set us free when He died on Calvary; when He redeemed us by His precious blood and justified us by His righteousness imputed. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and calls us to faith in Christ, He calls us into the liberty of God's grace in Christ. This works within us a love for Christ and His people and a desire to follow Him. Any who use the liberty of grace as an excuse to promote sin show a lack of grace within the heart. Just as faith works by love *(Galatians 5:6)*, liberty works by love. When God the Holy Spirit gives spiritual life, knowledge, and grace to a sinner, that sinner, for the first time in his life, is free to obey, to love, and to serve God acceptably in Christ.

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Nothing In Us

There is nothing in us, or done by us, that we can plead before the LORD for His blessing. We, in the matter of our justification before God renounce everything but the person, blood and righteousness of Christ, so, in our approaches to the Majesty of heaven, we must renounce everything but the name, the blood, and righteousness of Jesus, who for our comfort said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you." (John 16:23)*.

We come before God, and look to ourselves, we tremble, and wonder the LORD does not cut us down, as cucumbers of the ground. When by living faith we are enabled to look to Christ, we feel something of that humble boldness Paul speaks of – "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter in the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh" (Hebrews 10:19-20). This new and living way which is Christ and Him crucified is the only ground upon which we can plead the promises of God, and look to Him for blessing; and Christ and Him crucified is the only ground upon which a just and holy God can meet and bless such guilty sinners as we are; for in Christ, "mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other." — John Kershaw (1834)

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). This is seldom considered, even by the wise! But in the light of the fact that "the days of our years" are passing away so quickly, wouldn't we be wise to so think of and measure our time that we may apply our hearts to Jesus Christ, who is true wisdom? "For whoso findeth Me findeth life and shall obtain favor of the Lord" (Prov. 8:35). —Copied

Ah, my reader, if you are one of God's elect, expect not a smooth and easy path down here, but be prepared for varying circumstances and drastic changes. The Christian's resting place is not in this world, for *"here have we no continuing city" (Hebrews 13:14)*. The Christian is a "pilgrim," on a journey; he is a "soldier," called on to fight the good fight of faith. The more this is realized, the less keen will be the disappointment when our ease is disturbed and our outward peace rudely broken in upon.

—Arthur Pink

Birthdays

Jim Fuller - Oct. 15th | Richard O'Connor - Oct. 20th

Prayer Requests

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

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Hymns

October 15th services Why? - 122 Look to the Lamb of God - 216

Call to Worship

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

Now gracious God, Thine arm reveal, And make Thy glory known; Now let us all Thy presence feel, And soften hearts of stone.

Help us to venture near Thy throne, And plead our Savior's name; For all that we can call our own, Is vanity and shame.

From all the guilt of wretched sin, May mercy set us free; And let the week we now begin, Begin and end with Thee.

Send down Thy Spirit from above, That we may love Thee more; And others now may learn to love, Who never loved before.