

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, September 15, 2024

10 am: "What Shall We Have?"

Matthew 19:25-30

Matthew Series | Lesson 72

Bill Parker

11 am: "Unto Good Works"

Ephesians 2:10

Bill Parker

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

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“They Followed Jesus”

Men by nature, because of self-love and self-righteousness, love to argue over words and gather a following unto themselves. God’s preachers love to preach THE WORD, to preach CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED. God’s preachers are not sent to promote themselves, their ideas, or opinions, but to be preachers of righteousness which is the Gospel way of salvation by God’s grace in Christ Jesus. They point sinners, not to themselves, but to Christ Who lived, died, was buried, and rose from the dead for the salvation of His people. Their preaching is the preaching of the cross of Christ by Whose blood alone sinners are forgiven and accepted with God. Their goal and desire is expressed in the following verse – *“And the two disciples heard him [John the Baptist] speak, AND THEY FOLLOWED JESUS.” (John 1:37)*

—Pastor Bill Parker

Are We Essentially Good?

I once read a statement by a group that said, “We operate from the belief that everyone is essentially good.” I thought this a bit contradictory since it was given in a statement of policy concerning dealing with problems between individuals! If all people are “essentially good,” then why all the problems among them in the world – the wars, the crime, the conflicts between individuals, the mistrust and on and on? But what is worse, this same principle is at the core of most all religious beliefs. Yet the word of truth is clear. God who knows man far better than we know ourselves says, **“There is none good, no not one...”** The “good heart” that most claim to have is the seat of all bad, all evil according to God. **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)** The hearts of men are **“desperately wicked”** and most deceitful, deceiving us into imagining we are essentially good. Christ said, **“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:” (Matt. 15:19)** If we were essentially good instead of evil, self-deceived sinners, there would have been no need for a Savior such as Christ! Our self-righteousness is not righteousness at all in God’s sight but sin. Therefore, if we are saved, we must be “made righteous” through the imputed righteousness of Christ. Christ alone is “essentially good.” He is the only sinless, perfect and good man essentially that ever lived in this world.

The righteous we read of in Scripture are only righteous in Him! It is no wonder that false religion offers its faulty remedies and ways of salvation; it denies the true condition of man. I have often heard people deny God’s election, predestination, effectual calling, and salvation through an imputed righteousness, saying they do not believe them. The truth is, they do not believe what God says about them! If we are spiritually dead sinners with no righteousness of our own, deceived, blind, helpless and unable to save ourselves, then these precious truths are essential! A man that would have been called a “good man” by most came to Jesus and asked, **“Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.” (Mark 10:17,18)** Christ is the GodMan and essentially good and none are looked at as good but those in Him. In Christ, believers are good, perfectly righteous, in His sight – **“As He is, so are we in this world.” (1 John 4:17)** —Pastor Gary Shepard

God saves ignorant sinners, but He does not save them with ignorance but truth and knowledge. He uses means but not the means that fallen man would think. That which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination to God. —Pastor Gary Shepard

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

“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.” (Romans 6:17-18)

The one offering of Christ was a single, never to be repeated historical event. The Divine perfection is seen in the fact that it was the one acceptable sacrifice, once offered. Only on Calvary, in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus, do we see that **“Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other” (Psalm 85:10)**. Only for those who trust solely in God’s work of redemption is it true that **“the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever” (Isaiah 32:17)**. —Copied

Birthdays

Jimmie Mathis - Sept. 17th | Tony Wages - Sept. 18th

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, the mission in Malawi, Africa.

Hymns

September 15th services

-Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus - 145

-Depth of Mercy - 233

Call to Worship

(Tune – O God Our Help – p. 10)

**Christ bears the name of all His saints,
Deep on His heart engraved;
Attentive to the state and needs
Of all whom He has saved.**

**In Christ our Righteousness complete,
God's glory forth doth shine;
Where mercy, truth, and justice meet
Our Savior all Divine.**

**When justice smote our Surety's head,
Then satisfaction made;
The blood which our High Priest has shed,
A perfect ransom paid.**