

# 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, August 20, 2023

10 am: "To Judge or Not to Judge" | Matthew Series  
Lesson 22 | Matthew 7:1-4  
Bill Parker

11 am: "The Persecuted Church"  
Revelation 2:8-11  
Bill Parker

## Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

-[Sermon Audio](#)

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*“The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;” (Psalm 20:1-2)*

*“By the grace of God I am what I am!” (1 Corinthians 15:10)*

The true Christian is sensible and mindful of indwelling sin. He confesses that in everything he comes exceedingly short, and that his best services are not only defective but defiled. He accounts himself as an unprofitable servant and is abased in his own eyes. He knows that all that distinguishes him from the vilest of men is the free grace of God! He derives all his hope and comfort, as well as his strength from Jesus, Whom he has known, received and loved, and to Whom he has committed his soul. He renounces all confidence in the flesh and esteems all things as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ his Lord, for Whose sake he has lost all things considering them rubbish, that he may gain Christ!

—John Newton

***“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2)***

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***“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).***

Down through history, many people have suffered persecution and even death for a lost and false religious cause. God’s Word speaks of suffering ***“for righteousness’ sake” (1 Pet. 3:14)***, and in the verse above, the Apostle Paul spoke of the persecution that comes only to those ***“that will live godly in Christ Jesus.”*** The question we must ask, then, is what is it to ***“live godly in Christ Jesus”?*** The answer is found in God’s Word. True godliness is the gift of God to His people through Jesus Christ our Lord – ***“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim. 3:16).*** True godliness is to believe, rest in, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ for all righteousness, salvation, and eternal life. True godliness, then, is to identify with Christ in doctrine and practice and to remain separate from the world – ***“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2).***

This godliness brings persecution because as we identify with the Lord in doctrine and practice, and as we seek not to be conformed to the world, we shine forth with the light of God’s truth that not only sets forth the right way of salvation – God’s free and sovereign grace by the merits of Christ’s obedience unto death as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer – but also exposes that all other ways are evil and death – ***“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19).*** This Gospel light wherein Christ is revealed as the one and only righteousness that justifies sinners, the one and only way of salvation, is the ***“offence of the cross” (Gal. 5:11)*** that brings on ***“persecution for the cross of Christ” (Gal. 6:12).***

—Pastor Bill Parker

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***“If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).*** The Son makes us free, not ourselves. Suppose we were in debt and had naught to pay the debt and a kind friend were to come and pay it for us, we should justly be free. And so it is with Christ. He paid our enormous debt and set us free. He is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. And thus is the law magnified more than if Adam had fully obeyed its commands, inasmuch as it has the obedience of God and man. By faith we realize this great truth and are made free. God grant us the enjoyment of this freedom and we shall then be free indeed.

—William Gadsby

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Believers are sanctified through the one offering of Christ (***Heb. 10:10-14***). They are holy brethren, partakers of the Heavenly calling, sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ, once for all. This is the Foundation of their conformity to God. The more they are under the teaching of the Spirit, the more they know of the things that are freely given to them of God. The more are they renewed in the spirit of their mind (***Eph. 4:23; Rom. 12:2***), the better they understand that they are complete in Christ and that He is made of God unto them Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption (***1 Cor. 1:30***).

—James Haldane

## Prayer Requests

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

## Sympathy

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We extend our prayers and sincere sympathies to Bill Bryan and his family. His wife, Carol Bryan passed away this week. Bill is a brother of Edith Ann Tennyson. May the Lord bless them with comfort as only He can give.

## Hymns

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August 20th services

Only a Sinner Saved by Grace - 474

I Need Thee Every Hour - 318

## Birthdays

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Mariel Moore – Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>

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## Call to Worship

(Tune – My Faith Has Found a Resting Place – p. 228)

Jesus, the Lord, my Saviour is,  
My Shepherd, and my God;  
My light, my strength, my joy, my bliss,  
I in His grace rejoice.  
What'er I need in Jesus dwells,  
And there it dwells for me;  
'Tis Christ my earthen vessel fills  
With treasures rich and free.

Mercy and truth and righteousness,  
And peace, most richly meet;  
In Jesus Christ, the King of grace,  
In whom I stand complete.  
"Worthy the Lamb" shall be my song,  
For He, for me was slain;  
And with me all the heavenly throng  
Shall join and say Amen!