

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, December 31, 2023

10 am: "Losing Life to Gain Life"

Matthew 10:34-42

Matthew Series | Lesson 39

Bill Parker

11 am: "The Fifth Trumpet"

Revelation 9:1-4

Bill Parker

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

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Growing in Grace and Knowledge

The longer I live, the more I feel that if there were one thing left undone, if the devil were not conquered, sin not expiated, justice not satisfied, the law not honored and magnified, death not overcome and every burden not carried that I should not have a ray of hope. I used to think I saw this as clear as the noon day thirty or forty years ago, but I saw it very differently then to what I see now, for I see and feel now that if one hair-breadth is left for me to do to merit Heaven or bring as a plea before God, I am undone for ever and ever. But on the Mount of Calvary, the LORD Jesus Christ undertook the cause of His people, and there is not a jot or tittle that He left undone but – *“By one offering He perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14)*. Here is complete perfection – *“Saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation” (Isaiah 45:17)*.

—John Warburton (1853)

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psalm 90:12). None of us know the number of our days on earth. God knows because He has appointed that number for each of us (***Eccl. 3:1-8; Heb. 9:27***). But we are never to take tomorrow for granted or live as if we were going to live on this earth forever. The reason we are to number our days is so that we may apply our hearts to know wisdom, and this wisdom can only come from God as He reveals Himself to us and reveals ourselves in the reality of our existence now and in eternity. The psalmist also wrote, ***“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, Thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before Thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity” (Psalm 39:4-5).*** This shows us that we all are sinners who have no hope of eternal life and glory in or of ourselves. We must turn to the Lord God for answers, and He reveals the answers in His Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Scriptures reveals that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God incarnate, is the answer for sinners seeking salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life. Christ is the very wisdom of God (***1 Cor. 1:30***). Moses wrote, ***“O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!” (Deut. 32:29).*** As for our latter end, the issue is – HOW WILL WE STAND BEFORE GOD? Will we stand as fools pleading the merits of our own works, experiences, and decisions, or will we stand as wise, pleading the merits of Christ’s obedience unto death for us? —Pastor Bill Parker

“ALTHOUGH my house be not so with God, YET He hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although He make it not to grow” (2 Samuel 23:5). Mark these two words and may God seal them home to your hearts with saving and precious power. ***“Although”*** describes what my house and I are in ourselves. ***“Yet”*** shows forth the unchanging and the unalterable love and affection of a covenant God for His people. He reveals His salvation in a well-ordered covenant, a covenant in which that salvation is performed for that people by the Son and performed in them by God the ever-blessed Spirit. —Thomas Bradbury

Righteousness Without Works

“Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.” (Romans 4:6)

This righteousness, which is here said to be without works is the obedience of Jesus Christ which is the justifying righteousness of a sinner and is so complete in itself that nothing can be added to it to make it more so. All the works of the creature since the fall are imperfect and, therefore, utterly unfit to be its justifying righteousness before God, either in whole or in part. It is impossible that imperfect obedience can make the person that performs it perfectly righteous, and such is the infinite purity of God’s nature and the strictness of His justice that He can accept nothing for righteousness that is not perfectly conformed to the rule of it in His holy law. Therefore, our obedience cannot be the whole of our righteousness before God nor can it be any part of it because that which is wholly imperfect can be no part of perfection.

—Joseph Hart (1712-1768)

“Lord, thank You for another year of great blessings, trials, and growth. Realizing that all that has been was You working all things after the counsel of Your own will (Eph. 1:11), and You working all things for good to them that love You and who are called according to Your purpose (Rom. 8:28), we are confident that Your will shall be done in this coming year. We pray You will keep us in Your mercy and keep us looking to Christ. May our lives reflect Your glory as revealed to us in the glorious Person and finished work of Christ, our Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, Intercessor, and our Preserver Who will bring us unto glory. Amen.”

Prayer Requests

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

Hymns

December 31st services

Blessed Assurance - 255

Come Thou Fount - 17

Call to Worship

(Tune – Brethren, We Have Met to Worship – p. 15)

**For Thy mercy and Thy grace, faithful through another year;
Hear our song of grateful praise; Father, and Redeemer, hear.
Lo, our sins on Thee we cast, Thee, our perfect Sacrifice;
And, forgetting all the past, press towards our glorious prize.**

**Dark the future, let Thy light, guide us, bright and morning star;
Fierce our foes, and hard the fight; arm us Savior, for the war.
Keep us faithful, keep us pure, keep us evermore Thine own;
Justified in God our Savior, in Christ’s righteousness alone.**

**Let Thy Spirit ever lead us as we walk within Thy grace;
Let us love the Lord our Savior; let us in His love embrace.
Let us grow in grace and knowledge of the glory of our Lord;
As we leave this year of blessing, let us lean upon Thy Word.**