

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, February 16, 2025

10 am: "Prepare to Meet the Lord" | Matthew 25:1-13
Matthew Series | Lesson 92
Bill Parker

11 am: "God's Counsel, Promise, and Oath" | Hebrews 6:17-19
Bill Parker

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

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Unchanging Love

“Having loved His Own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end” (John 13:1). A mother’s love is, of all human-love, the most unchangeable. A boy leaves home, he crosses the seas, he labors beneath a foreign sky. He comes back and finds his aged mother changed, her hair is grey, her brow is furrowed with age; still he feels while she hugs him to her bosom, that her heart of love is the same. But ah! Far more unchanging is the love of God to us in Christ. ***“I am the LORD, I change not” (Malachi 3:6).*** The Father’s love has no variableness ***(James 1:17).*** Jesus, Who loved us ***“the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).*** How can that love change? It flowed before the world was; it will flow when the world has passed away.

If you are in Christ, that love shines on you: ***“I have loved thee with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).*** ***“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor death, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).***

—Robert Murray M’Cheyne

Christ-Based Assurance

The problem with works-based assurance of salvation is the same as the problem with works-based salvation. It is the product of unbelief and the poison of self-righteous legalism. It denies the glory of God as revealed in the glorious Person and finished work of Christ for His people. Whatever gives us assurance of salvation, it can only glorify God and exalt Christ if it meets the requirement of perfection. Although it is true that God's people should always try to do their best to obey the Lord and work towards conformity to Christ in our attitude, character, and conduct, the truth is that perfection cannot truly be found in our works of obedience. The perfection that brings true GODLY assurance can only be found in the perfect obedience unto death of the Lord Jesus Christ as our Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, and Mediator. True GODLY assurance, then, can only come by ***"looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2)***, not by looking inwardly at our works. True GODLY assurance can only come by that which is incorruptible and unchangeable. True GODLY assurance can only come by resting our whole salvation in ***"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8)***, ***"Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" (Heb. 7:26)***; and to God ***"the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17)***. True GODLY assurance can only come from one who is willing and ***"able to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25)***. What is our confidence when we stand before God at Judgment? Is it our own abilities and works? If it is, we are no better than the false preachers the Lord described in ***Matthew 7:21-23*** who plead their works for salvation. We must, like the apostle, place our confidence in Christ and His righteousness alone – ***which I have committed unto Him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12)***. —Pastor Bill Parker

It is imperative to be on guard for our natural proclivity towards self-righteousness. What I mean by that is most of us after being exposed to false teaching in the past, have to, by grace, deprogram ourselves about having to do more, try harder all the while examining our efforts to see if we measure up. This morbid introspection is actually self-righteousness. We are to point our desire to Christ's perfect works. For it is He Who works in us both to will and do for God's good pleasure. God has established and preordained good works for us to walk in. —Kenneth Halloran

How dangerous it is to join anything of our own to the righteousness of Christ, in pursuit of justification before God. Jesus Christ will never endure this; it reflects upon His work dishonourably. He will be all, or none, in our justification. If He has finished the work, what need is there of our additions? And if not, to what purpose are they? Can we finish that which Christ Himself could not complete? Did He finish the work, and will He ever divide the glory and praise of it with us? No, no, Christ is no half-savior! It is a hard thing to bring proud hearts to rest upon Christ for righteousness. God humbles the proud by calling sinners wholly from their own righteousness to Christ for their justification. —John Flavel

Birthdays

Tony Jones – Feb. 16th | Jarrett McKenzie – Feb. 16th | Sylvia Casey – Feb. 17th

Hymns

February 16th services

-Standing on the Promises - 175

-Holy, Holy, Holy - 70

Prayer Requests

Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Kathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Leon Drake, Judy Fletcher, David Tennyson, Monica Hayes, Mike Loosier, Patsy Parr, Phyllis Payne, the mission in Malawi, Africa.

Call to Worship

(Tune – Majestic Sweetness – p. 52)

**How rich the depths of love Divine
Of bliss a boundless store;
Dear Saviour let me call Thee mine,
I could not wish for more – I could not wish for more.**

**On Thee alone my hope relies
Beneath Thy cross I fall;
My Lord, my life, my sacrifice,
My Saviour and my all – My Saviour and my all.**

**How great Thy wisdom, power and grace
That in redemption shine;
The heavenly hosts with joy confess
The work is all Divine – The work is all Divine.**

**Before His face they cast their crowns
Those crowns which Jesus gave,
And with ten thousand, thousand tongues
Proclaim His power to save – Proclaim His power to save.**