

# 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 18, 2024

10 am: "No Forgiveness Without Christ" | Matthew 12:31-37  
Matthew Series | Lesson 46  
Bill Parker

11 am: "Wonders in Heaven"  
Revelation 12:1-5  
Bill Parker

## Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

-[Sermon Audio](#)

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## Contact

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## *“According to His Will”*

*“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).* This passage is often misunderstood as many people believe it teaches that if we ask the Lord for whatever we desire and ask sincerely enough and with enough faith believing that we will receive that for which we ask, God will give us our desire. But this is far from the Lord’s meaning here. This passage is a reassurance from God that He listens to His people who pray to Him on the ground of the merits of Christ obedience unto death for them (Heb. 4:14-16), and He will answer them according to His will and His divine plan to glorify Himself in the salvation of His people and in His providential care for them as they journey through this world. The Apostle John wrote of this – *“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, IF WE ASK ANY THING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1 John 5:14-15).* Whatsoever we ask that is in line with His sovereign will and good pleasure, we will have from Him. So, when we pray to our heavenly Father, let us approach His throne of grace in the name of Christ our Advocate by Whose righteousness we are accepted with God. Let us approach Him humbly desiring that His will be done in earth as it is in heaven even if we do not receive everything for which we ask. And let us endeavor to ask for things that will glorify the Lord, exalt Christ, and be used for the good of others.  
—Pastor Bill Parker

## The Conscience Purged

When the Holy Spirit shows us the necessity, the beauty, and the sufficiency of the death of Christ, we repent of our own foolish “dead works,” and we forsake every other way of substitutionary death as the only ground of our acceptance with God. Our consciences rest in the quiet assurance that Christ has satisfied God on our behalf and saved us in a way that glorifies God in all His holy character. Thus the “blood” purges our consciences of every false hope, of natural self-righteousness, and all fear and doubt!

—Pastor Gary Shepard

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***“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:3-4)***

The law of God does not produce a personal righteousness but rather death. To look at the law and determine if you are growing in righteousness or becoming a better Christian leads to self-righteousness or even worse – self-denial of sin. To think you are meeting the law’s requirements is to lower the true meaning of the law, so that blindly you build a ground you can stand upon to find a righteousness of your own. The law was put into place to reveal sin and produce death. Anyone who looks to the law to find standing ground ends up standing on sinking sand that leads to judgement and death. Righteousness and assurance of being made righteous is only found in work that Christ completed on the cross for His sheep. His sheep are made righteous not through the works of the law but through the work of Christ. Assurance of salvation is not found in law keeping but in Christ alone. A Christian is no more saved on their worst day verses their best day, but even on their best day, they are still sinful, and both days should never be separated. There are instructions written in the New Testament to the church of how they are called to live by faith, but never are they called to look at their obedience to the instruction as them growing in righteousness or having a personal righteousness. The Lord can increase our faith in Him and our love for Him and the church, but never is this to be called personal righteousness or us growing in righteousness. The only righteousness the church has is Christ’s righteousness.

—Jesse Bates

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## The Invisible and Visible Worship of God

Christ hath a kingdom in the world which is not of the world which is called the Kingdom of heaven or the Kingdom of God. Now this kingdom or dominion or rule that Christ hath and EXERCISETH IN THE HEARTS OF HIS SAINTS; therefore is it said, ***“the Kingdom of God is within you,”*** and this consists in ***“righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit,”*** the children of which Kingdom be the saints BODIES and SPIRITS, who are called the Kingdom of Heaven, for the word Kingdom signifies the subjects ruled or the rule a king hath IN HIS SUBJECTS.

—Edward Drapes (1647)

## Prayer Requests

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

## Birthdays

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Marsha McKenzie - Feb. 24th

## Hymns

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February 18th services

-My Savior's Love - 452

-Nothing But the Blood -212

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## Call to Worship

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

**To Christ the Risen Lord we sing, in Him alone we boast.  
All other hopes we now deny, and trust the Lord of hosts.**

**Praise Him by whom all things were made, to glorify His name.  
Exalt Him Who now reigns o'er all – forever more the same.**

**But we as sinners saved from sin, we praise Him most for grace:  
Who came in human flesh to die and suffer in our place.**

**We praise Him for the blood He shed, redemption's costly price;  
We praise Him for His righteousness that for us shall suffice.**

**We praise Him for His keeping love that binds our hearts to Him;  
We praise Christ Jesus, Lord of all, our Savior great and Friend.**