

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 5, 2023

10am: "Christ, the Desire of All Nations" | Lesson 111 | Haggai
Christ in the Old Testament
Bill Parker

11am: "Children of Light"
Ephesians 5:8-21
Bill Parker

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

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Contact

www.rofgrace.com

www.sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace

www.facebook.com/reignofgrace

email
info@rofgrace.com

phone
229.432.6969

address
1102 Eager Drive
Albany, GA 31707



The affair of redemption by Christ is no new thing. The scheme of it was drawn up in eternity. The persons to be redeemed were fixed on. The Redeemer was appointed in the council and covenant of peace. And even the very Gospel which proclaims it was ordained before the world for our glory. A Savior was provided before sin was committed, and the method of man's recovery was settled before his ruin took place. This was done without any regard to the works and merits of men, but is wholly owing to the free and sovereign grace of God and to His everlasting love. —John Gill

Had our own righteousness any part or share in our justification, how could the righteousness of another be said to be imputed to us, or Christ be said to be the "Lord our righteousness," or be "*made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,*" (1 Cor. 1:30)? As Christ was not made sin for us by any sin inherent in Him, so neither are we made righteous by any righteousness inherent in us, but by the righteousness of Christ imputed to us.

—Benjamin Keach

“Now faith is the substance (assurance, confidence) of things hoped for, the evidence (proof, conviction) of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

To know the true nature of faith in Christ, we must understand that faith is not an entity in and of itself and cannot be understood simply in the act of believing. All who have faith in Christ do believe in Him, but the power of God unto salvation is not in their believing. It is in Christ Who is the object of their faith. The foundation of faith is the Word of God. The object of faith is the Lord Jesus Christ in the glory of His Person and the power and success of His finished work as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people whom God gave to Him before the foundation of the world. Christ is the fulfillment of the law for all who believe in Him (**Rom. 10:4**), and believing in Him is not just believing something. It is believing from the heart unto righteousness (**Rom. 10:10**).

Faith in Christ is a sovereign, powerful gift of God to His people, and it comes by revelation as God the Holy Spirit reveals the Gospel to His people (**Rom. 1:16-17**). We understand, then, that faith is not natural to sinful people. By nature, we have no capacity or desire to believe the truth as it is in Christ (**Rom. 3:10-12; 1 Cor. 2:14**). It is offensive to us (**John 3:19-20**). But God gives us a new heart to receive His truth of salvation in Christ with joy (**John 1:12-13; Rom. 15:13; Eph. 2:8-9**). The validity and power of God’s truth is not in our believing it. Our believing something does not prove it to be true. God-given faith is in the truth of Christ crucified and risen from the dead, and it is true whether we believe or not. Our believing this truth simply gives evidence that we are objects of God’s sovereign love, grace, and mercy in and by the Lord Jesus Christ. It is because of the power and the merits of Christ as the Savior of His people that all for whom He died and arose again will be given the gift of faith (**John 12:32; 16:9-11**).

—Pastor Bill Parker

Faith is not the impulsive or moving cause of justification. It is an act of pure and free grace, without any motive in the creature. Therefore, the Apostle saith, ***“being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ” (Eph. 1:7)***. But this benefit would not be of grace, but of works, if our faith was the impulsive cause of it, because faith is a work or act of ours, as we learn from the words of Christ – ***“This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent” (John 6:29)***. Salvation is not of works, in any branch of it – ***“For by grace are ye saved, through faith; that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:8-9)***. From whence it is evident that justification, which is a considerable part of salvation, cannot be by works. The grace of God eminently appears in contriving the way of our justification by Christ’s righteousness, and in sending Him into the world to work out a righteousness for us, in which we stand complete in HIS sight. Hence, we are said to be justified by His grace, that we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life (**Titus 3:7**). No other cause can be assigned why sinners are justified in the sight of God, than His free favour and sovereign pleasure, as the effect of which He determined to justify them in the righteousness of His Son.

—John Brine

In the great affair of our salvation, our God stands single and alone. In this most glorious work, there is such a display of justice, mercy, wisdom, and power, as never entered into the heart of man to conceive, and consequently, can have no parallel in the actions of mortals. ***“Who hath declared this from ancient time? Who hath told it from that time? Have not I the LORD? And there is no God else beside ME; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside ME” (Isa. 45:21)***. —William Rushton

Prayer Requests

Winston and Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Frank Dell, Cathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Cassie Broxton, Akimi Okada, Babs Baldwin, Sue Parker, the mission in Malawi, Africa.

Hymns

February 5th services

Look, Ye Saints - 141

Come Thou Fount - 17

Call To Worship

(Tune – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – p. 118)

**Christ is my all, my sure defense,
Nor shall my soul depart from thence;
He is my Rock, my Refuge too,
In spite of all my foes can do.**

**Christ is my all, and He will lead
My soul in pastures green to feed;
'Tis He supplies my every want,
And will all needful blessings grant.**

**Christ is my all! Where should I go?
Without Him I can nothing do.
Helpless and weak, a sinner great,
Yet in His righteousness complete**