

# 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 23, 2020

10 am: "Herein is Love"

Song of Sol. Series | Lesson 17

Song of Solomon 7:10-13

Bill Parker

11 am: "The Manner of True

Prayer (3)" | Matthew 6:5-15

Bill Parker

## Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

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*"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." (John 12:32)* This language refers not only to the fact of Christ's death on the cross but also the very nature of His substitutionary death. His death accomplished redemption and all that it includes according to God's promise of salvation conditioned on Him alone. All the following are vitally connected as the sure and certain effects of His death for God's elect. Christ must be lifted up:

(1) On the cross to satisfy law and justice for His sheep and to establish the only righteousness whereby God could be just to justify the ungodly, and thereby destroy the works of the Devil.

(2) From the grave to ascend on high in order that He might give eternal life to as many as the Father had given Him.

(3) In the preaching of the Gospel as the One sent of the Father to fulfill all the conditions of our salvation, and as the Lord our Righteousness to reveal the only ground of justification and life.

(4) In the sinner's heart by the Holy Spirit in regeneration and conversion (the new birth) that the sinner might by faith in Christ be delivered out of darkness into the light of the knowledge of Him as revealed in the Gospel.

—Pastor Bill Parker

## Our Lord Hears the Prayers of the Righteous

*“The LORD is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous” (Proverbs 15:29).* It is undeniable that the Lord is omnipresent in His power, providence and purpose. It is also true that the Lord is completely aware of all things that happen throughout His vast creation. However, as far as having respect to, concern and regard for unbelievers and their prayers, He is said to be *“far from the wicked.”* He is far from them to hear their prayers and help them in their time of need. No person, work or prayer is ever received by the Lord except through the appointed Mediator and even then, solely upon the basis of His satisfaction of divine justice in laying down His life in the stead of undeserving sinners. *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me,”* is what our Master said (John 14:6). God will not receive the wicked now, for there can be no fellowship with a fallen rebel and the Holy God except through Christ. In addition, let it be understood that the Lord will not permit the wicked to abide in His presence in that eternal day. His holiness will not allow it; His justice will not permit it. A vile and sinful soul cannot abide in the presence of our impeccable Lord. The Lord and the wicked are separated by sin and therefore all who die without Christ must be put away from the Lord forever.

The righteous, however, that is, those who are made the righteousness of God in Christ (2 *Corinthians 5:21*), may freely draw near to the Lord in prayer, even as He draws near to them in grace. Think of this privilege, *“He heareth the prayer of the righteous.”* All who come to the Lord by His Son, Jesus Christ, will be heard and welcomed into His presence. What an honor it is for the Lord to hear us when we pray. David said, *“The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry” (Psalm 34:15).* Our heavenly Father is not like the gods of the heathen of whom it is written, *“they have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths” (Psalm 135:17).* Our God hears the prayers of the righteous and we may rest assured that He listens with undivided attention and answers according to His good and perfect will. *“Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear” (Isaiah 59:1).* The ear of the Lord is not *“heavy,”* that is, God is not dull, insensitive or unresponsive to His children. He hears with Fatherly affection, interest and concern. Well then, since the Lord is ready to hear us when we pray and since we have a Great High Priest who has entered into the heavens having accomplished eternal redemption for us and thereby opening an entrance for us into the presence of God, *“let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).* We draw near to God and He draws near to us through the Lord Jesus Christ.

—Pastor Jim Byrd

**Hymns 8.23.20**

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Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide - 169

Hallelujah, What a Savior! - 127

## Call To Worship

(Tune – Take My Life and Let It Be – p. 393)

Brethren, let us join to bless  
 Christ our Peace and Righteousness;  
 Let our praise to Him be given,  
 High at God's right hand in heaven. (Repeat)

Son of God, to Thee we bow,  
 Thou art Lord, and only Thou;  
 Thou the woman's promised seed,  
 Thou, who didst for sinners bleed. (Repeat)

Thou hast the glad tidings brought  
 Of salvation fully wrought;  
 Wrought, O Lord alone by Thee,  
 Wrought to set Thy people free. (Repeat)

Thee, our Lord, would we adore,  
 Serve and follow more and more;  
 Praise and bless Thy matchless love,  
 Till we join Thy saints above. (Repeat)

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“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Christ the Lord) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins. And by Him (by His power) all that believe (literally, are persuaded) are (not will be, but are already) justified (declared legally righteous according to God's Law and Justice) from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:38-39).

From the last part of this verse we see that justification cannot be obtained by personal obedience to the law. Therefore, the ground of justification (being declared legally righteous before God) cannot be personal obedience, sincerity of religion (the Jews had a “*zeal for God*”), or even faith. The **ONLY** ground, hope, and cause of JUSTIFICATION is Christ's finished work of redemption at Calvary – “*Being justified* (declared legally righteous) *freely* (as a gift) *by His grace* (unmerited favor) **THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS**” (Rom.3:24). The ground of justification is the work of redemption performed solely by Christ alone through His substitutionary death at Calvary. This work of redemption JUSTIFIED all the elect, ONCE FOR ALL, on Calvary (Heb. 10:10). To God be all the praise, glory and honor for His glorious grace.

—Pastor Richard Warmack