

# 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 May 17, 2020

10 am: "Feasting at the King's Table" | Song of Solomon Series Lesson 4  
Song of Solomon 1:14-17  
Bill Parker

11 am: "The Word of Substitution" | John 19:25-27  
Bill Parker

## Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.  
[sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace](http://sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace)

## Contact

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## News About Resuming Services

As we are all ready for this quarantine to be over, we will begin meeting at our church building on Sunday, May 17. I want to assure you that we will be taking every precaution to be safe from contracting and spreading Covid-19. We ask any of you who feel ill (fever, cough, etc.) to stay home and watch via live-stream. Any of you who are at risk, or who feel like you are at risk, and any of you who are apprehensive about being among people at this time, please stay home and watch via live-stream. Rest assured, we will not think less of you. I believe it will be a long time before all of us will feel totally safe and comfortable. We ask those of you who come to the service to be very vigilant in taking the precautions of social distancing and cleansing of hands. We will provide hand-sanitizers around the building. This will help for using it after we open doors, come into contact, etc. Some of you may want to bring your own bottle of hand-sanitizer or cleansing wipes. May the Lord bless us and keep us safe.  
—The Pastor

## Right Doctrine and Salvation

It saddens me to hear preachers who should know better demean and belittle right doctrine as it pertains to the salvation of God's people. I have heard statement such as, "It is not doctrine that saves us; it is a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ." Although it is true that it is Christ Who saves sinners by His death on the cross, it is only as God teaches us the doctrine of Christ in the Gospel that we as sinners are brought to see and believe in Christ for our salvation (**Rom. 1:16-17; 6:17-18**). I have also heard preachers say, "A person can know right doctrine without knowing Christ. Salvation is more than knowing dead, cold doctrine." I have always been troubled by those who describe the Gospel doctrine, the doctrine of Christ, as in any way being "dead, cold doctrine." It may be true that a person can "know right doctrine without knowing Christ." But we need to consider two things about this:

(1) The problem with a person knowing right doctrine without knowing Christ is not that the doctrine is dead and cold. The problem is that the heart of natural man is dead and cold (**Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Psalm 53:1-3; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19; Heb. 3:12; cf. 1 Cor. 2:14**). This is why that, along with right doctrine, we must be given a new heart and a new spirit by the grace of God (**Ezek. 36:26-27; John 3:3-7; Rom. 6:17-18**).

(2) Although it is true that a person can know doctrine without knowing Christ, it is just as true that no one knows doctrine aright unless that right doctrine is empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead him to the beauty, glory, and sufficiency of Christ. It is just as true that no man will be led by the Spirit to the true Christ without right doctrine as revealed in God's Word. Right doctrine identifies and distinguishes the true Christ from all counterfeits. True faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. The Word of God is right doctrine concerning the glorious Person and finished work of Christ as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people. By nature man neither knows God nor His Christ. If left to his own imagination he will only find a false god and a counterfeit Christ. Read the words of Holy Scripture – ***"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18)***. False doctrine always leads sinners to false saviors and false refuges. And even right doctrine without the power of the Holy Spirit in the new birth will fall on deaf ears. But there will be no true faith in Christ without right doctrine revealed by God to His people in the true Gospel.

—Pastor Bill Parker

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### Birthdays

**NICKI JONES - MAY 18TH**

**MELISSA RIGGINS - MAY 22ND**

***"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psa.11:3)***

The foundations of our trust are firm, and never can be moved. We have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken. What is the strong foundation of our trust? It is Christ. It is His glorious person, His deity and manhood indissolubly joined, His everlasting love, His finished work, His precious blood, His expiating death, His all-atoning cross, His resurrection-might, His rule at the right hand, His never-ceasing intercession, His well-ordered providence, His coming kingdom, His eternal reign. How blessed, how encouraging, are these truths! Not one can be opposed, not one can disappoint. We may rest all our weight on them. They cannot sink. If any flaw could be discerned, if any weak part showed insecurity, we might indeed despond. But building on this solid base, we may indeed reject all taunts. We have a strong city. God has appointed Salvation for walls and bulwarks.

—Henry Law

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***"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto He called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)***

God's election of us in Christ before the foundation of the world gives us the reason we are made the children of God. God's justification of us based on the righteousness of Christ imputed to us gives us the legal right to be the children of God. God's adoption of us in Christ gives us all the privileges of the children of God. God's sanctification of us by His Spirit gives us the nature of children of God. God's preservation of us by which He brings us to persevere in the faith gives us proof that we are the children of God.

—Copied

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Bees gather honey from bitter flowers, as well as sweet; so should we from bitter conditions. Crosses are Christ's servants as they come and go at His command. They are sent to do us good; all is sent in love and best for me; for God will supply all our wants with His all-sufficiency. We should not look so much at freedom from trouble as to profit by it, to enjoy God by it, and strength to bear it, looking upon all that befalls us as appointed and ordered by God in His wisdom and love for our good – ***"That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto" (I Thess. 3:3).*** – Samuel Richardson (Divine Consolations, Part One, 1649)