

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 23, 2021

10 am: "The Spirit of Adoption"

Romans 8:15

Jim Casey

11 am: "Sons By Election and Adoption" | Galatians 4:1-7

Jim Casey

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.

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This is Comforting

A child of God is like a person in a beautiful palace. If there is light in it, he sees the splendid objects around him and enjoys them. But if the light is removed, he is nevertheless in the palace still, and surrounded with the same splendid objects as before, though he cannot see them. So, though the believer's frames and sensible comforts may have their ebbs and flows, his state, Godward, is invariably the same.

—Augustus Toplady

Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:1-7

The Measure of All Works and Motives

Religious people have always sought to measure themselves, their works, and their motives by their own sliding scale of what they consider to be holiness and righteousness so that they can consider themselves as such. The Bible teaches us that if we want to measure how good our works and our motives for obedience are, we must measure them both as they compare to Christ's works of obedience and His motives for obedience. His works were (and are) perfect before God. His thoughts and motives were (and are) perfect before God. He is JESUS CHRIST THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS ONE! We should all do our best to obey God. We should all strive to have righteous motives (perfect love and gratitude) for our obedience. But if we dare to present our best obedience and our purest motives before God as the ground of our right standing with Him, we will perish in our sins. Why? ***"If Thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?" (Psalm 130:3).*** Why? ***"Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness BY THAT MAN WHOM HE HATH ORDAINED; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30).*** Christ is the measure of all things. How, then, can I, a sinner, measure up before God? It is only as I stand before Him in Christ, washed in HIS blood and clothed in HIS righteousness, the imputed righteousness of Christ. And my standing before God in Christ is evidenced by God-given faith in Christ. This faith works by love for Christ because He first loved us (*Gal. 5:6; 1 John 4:7-21*). But even our love for God and love for our brethren is not yet perfect. Christ's love for us, however, is perfect, and we stand before God in Him with a perfection of obedience and love that cannot be contaminated with our sin and cannot be taken away. There is no sliding scale of righteousness and holiness before God. There is only the righteousness of Christ, and He is the measure of all things.

—Pastor Bill Parker

Hymns

May 23rd services

This is My Father's World - 39
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord - 188

From the Pastor

I am preaching this Sunday in Ruston, LA, at Grace Baptist Church where Brother Richard Warmack is pastor. Brother Jim Casey is preaching here this Sunday. Please pray for us as we preach the Gospel of God's grace in Christ, and please pray for Debbie and me as we travel home Monday.

My Experience With Many Who Claim to Be Reformed

My experience with many who claim to be reformed is that they would rather see their children be moral and successful than for them to be regenerated and know the true gospel and consequently the true Christ. This makes me think that they also are trusting their own morality instead of the righteousness of Christ.

—Pastor Gary Shepard

Call To Worship

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

Great God! Thy glory and Thy love,
Our humble songs employ;
In mercy from Thy throne above,
Look down and cause our joy.

Thy presence and Thy glory, Lord,
Fill all the realms of space;
O let Thy presence, by Thy Word,
Divinely fill this place.

This hymn begins the solemn sound,
Of holy worship here;
May ev'ry saint with joy abound,
And reverential fear.

Eternal Spirit! Heav'nly Dove!
Descend and fill this place;
Reveal the Saviour's matchless love,
The wonders of His grace!

Christ Gave His Life For the Sheep

The Lord Jesus Christ stated specifically, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." (John 10:11).

Who are His sheep? They are the ones whom the Father gave Him and made Him to be their Surety before the world began (*John 6:37; 2 Tim. 1:9*). Yes! Jesus Christ appeared in this world as a Representative, Surety, and Substitute of a people given to Him by the Father before the world began. Both His life and His death were vicarious. (Vicarious according to the dictionary means something performed or endured by one person substituting for another or appearing in the place of another.)

In *Romans 8:33* His sheep are identified as "*God's elect.*" It says, "*Who shall lay anything to the charge of Gods elect? It is God that justifieth.*" All of Gods elect have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (see *Ephesians 1:3-7*). And this insures that all His sheep will HEAR HIS VOICE in the preaching of the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, and they will be preserved by God unto glory (*John 10:27-30*).

To view the death of Christ in any other way is to view His death as a vain attempt by an impotent god, who sacrificed his son for nothing. To view His death in any other way destroys the wisdom of God, violates the justice of God, and turns the love of God into a mere empty passion. Christ died for our sins according to the scripture, and according to the scriptures, His death was vicarious for His sheep.

—Copied and edited