

GRACE CHURCH BULLETIN | September 13, 2020

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted - Orphan Sunday is November 8. Would you like to help to plan and prepare for this focus? If you are interested in helping please talk to Krista Gillette or Gerri VanAcker. We will be meeting September 20th at 12:15 in the fellowship hall to work on the details. Please bring a lunch and join us as we plan to serve these children.

Mark Michalski Is a Deacon - At our recent picnic/business meeting we voted unanimously to call Mark as a deacon. Would you please take a minute to pray for Mark, Anna, and their kids as they begin to serve us in this way? And would you please take a minute to let Mark, Anna, and the kids know that you are thankful for their service. They are a gift to us.

Moms and More - This Thursday is our Moms & More fall kick off! Join us from 10-11:30am for an amusement park theme. If you've never come before, this is the perfect time to join us! Along with fun for the kids, we will be offering a short Bible study on the book of Colossians each month. Childcare will be provided during this time. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the contact list please reach out to Chloe Stiner @ (651)341-0999. See News & Notes for more details.

Generation 2 generation (G2g) Scavenger Hunt - Sunday night, September 20th, we will start the year with a car scavenger hunt. More details to come, but all are welcome to join the hunt. We will finish at Grace to hear more about the year ahead for our family discipleship ministry.

As always, News & Notes contains everything you need to stay current with all that is happening at Grace Church. Please notify an elder if you, or someone you know would like to be added to our digital newsletter.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Leader) Insofar as you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of your sins know that your sins have already been forgiven. *(All) Thanks be to God.*

(Leader) Know also that by the blood of Jesus you are welcomed into the presence of God as his beloved sons and daughters. *(All) Praise be to God.*

(Leader) Lift up your hearts. *(All) We lift them up to the Lord.*

WORSHIP SONG

Look and See

Verse 1

To Him be the glory for all He has done
Praise to the Father who gave us His Son
A ransom for many, He bled and died
Then rose in victory, enthroned on high

Verse 2

To Him be the glory in heaven and earth
All of creation is shouting His worth
The saints and the angels all live to proclaim
The wonderful story, the glorious Name

Chorus

Oh look and see our God and celebrate
The power of the cross and the empty grave
And now we're free, let the redeemed lift up your
heads
Oh look and see our God

Verse 3

To Him be the glory, He's coming again
And all of the sadness will come to an end
Oh what a reunion, the Bride and her King
Forever we'll praise Him, forever we'll sing

Bridge

Glory, glory, to our God
Glory, glory, to our God

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 98:1-6

[Leader] 1 Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. 2 The Lord has made known His salvation; he has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

[All] 4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! 5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

WORSHIP SONGS

Come Thou Fount

Verse 1

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the Name! I'm fixed upon it,
Name of Thy redeeming love.

Verse 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer.
Hither by thy help I've come
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger,
Bought me with His precious blood.

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm
constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Verse 4

Oh that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Full arrayed in blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with you at last.

His Mercy Is More

Verse 1

What love could remember
no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Verse 3

What riches of kindness he lavished on us
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

SERMON TEXT Genesis 18:16-33

Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷ The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰ Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³ And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

SERMON OUTLINE Genesis 18:16-33

God's Judgment Is Always Just | David VanAcker

GOD PREPARES TO LEAVE (16-21)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

ABRAHAM PLEADS WITH GOD TO BE JUST (22-33)

Believing Yourself to Be Righteous and Actually Being Righteous Are Two Very Different Things

We Don't Want Justice

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The main point of this passage is that God's judgment is always just. Let's pray that God would help us to see His perfect holiness, our sinfulness, and the just judgment that flows from the mingling of those two things. Let's pray also that God would freshly impress us with His patience, mercy, and grace for those who hope in Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. How bad does someone need to be before it's fair for God to send them to hell? How do you know that?
3. Has it ever seemed to you that God acted unfairly? Talk about that situation. Do you see it the same way today?
4. Have you ever considered Genesis 18:17-19 as a window into the thought process of God? What's your reaction to this? What's your reaction to the fact that God contemplates His actions toward you like that?
5. Does the reality that God chose you before you chose Him bring you comfort or frustration? Why?
6. Is it easy for you to see all of your blessings as means of blessing others?
7. Did your parents work to impart justice and righteousness to you? Do you see that as your role to your kids?
8. Are there any areas of your life in which you believed yourself to be righteous only to find out later that you weren't? How does that shape your view of your righteousness today?
9. What do you think about the fact that if God were fair to you, you'd be in hell? Does that knowledge shape the way you feel toward or treat others?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Identify one area in which you could help build a culture of justice in your family, home, or community. Similarly, find a way to grow in and promote righteousness. Find someone to partner with in these things.
11. For a second week, commit to showing gospel-hospitality to someone this week.
12. Pick three specific ways to turn your abundance into a blessing for someone else this week.
13. Kids, ask your parents to help you "keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice."
14. Come to one of Grace's corporate prayer times this week. Make a prayer list for each day of this coming week.
15. Name one specific thing that you mean to do differently by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER POINTS

16. Adoration. Praise God for His perfect justice. Worship Him for being both just and justifier in Jesus!
17. Confession. Confess your lack of hospitality, justice, righteousness, and heart for the lost.
18. Thanksgiving. Thank God for holding back so much evil in this world. Thank Him for revealing His mind and promises to us. Thank Him for making you righteous in Jesus.
19. Supplication. Ask God to bring justice to the oppressed; especially the oppressed Christians around the world. Ask God to help our church grow in our understanding of His mind, in order that we'd better be able to do His will. Ask God to be merciful to the unbelievers in your life. Ask God to help you see where you are wrongly thinking of yourself as righteous.

WORSHIP SONGS

Nothing But Your Blood

Verse 1

Your blood speaks a better word
Than all the empty claims
That spread upon this earth
Speaks righteousness for us
And stands in our defense
Jesus it's Your blood

Chorus

What can wash away our sins?
What can make us whole again?
Nothing but the blood
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

What can wash us pure as snow?
Welcomed as the friends of God
Nothing but Your blood
Nothing but Your blood King Jesu

Verse 2

Your cross testifies in grace
Tells of the Father's heart

To make a way for us
Now boldly we approach
No earthly confidence
It's only by Your blood

Verse 3

Our thoughts and actions bare before
God's wrath is just and pure
But Christ is judged instead
Joy conquers our dread
Life in lieu of death
Washed in the Savior's blood

Verse 4

Then all worship Your great Name
Oh, promise-keeping God
Our souls have kept by grace
Through faith we have endured
Eternally secured
Accomplished by Your blood

Behold Our God

Verse 1

Who has held the oceans in His hand?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him!

Verse 2

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?

Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Verse 3

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

Verse 4

Who is seated over kings of earth?
Who can summon angels with a word?
God in flesh, Messiah came to save
Servant-king, our ransom he has paid

BENEDICTION

Psalms 29:11 - May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!