

GRACE CHURCH BULLETIN | September 27, 2020

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome and Exhortation

Glory

Reading: Psalm 117:1-2

Before The Throne

Show Us Christ

Sermon : Worldly Wisdom and Unbreakable Promises| Genesis 20

Show Us Christ

You Are The Way

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Generation 2 generation (G2g) - Our Family Discipleship ministry begins this Sunday. We start with a meal at 5:30 where you can bring dinner or sign up to order pizza. The program begins at 6 and runs to 7:30. Contact pastormike@gracewyoing.com with questions or more information.

Women's Prayer - Join us Saturday, October 3rd at 7am for prayer. We'll meet at the church. Questions contact laurengilkerson@gmail.com.

Pastor Mike on Vacation - The Maruskas will be on vacation from Sep. 28th-Oct. 12th. If you need anything while he is away, please contact Pastor Dave. Otherwise he will respond when he returns.

Service Opportunity at Options for Women-The Options for Women center in North Branch, a pregnancy resource center we support, is having their annual fundraiser banquet and are looking for volunteers. They are having the banquet over two evenings, so they need double the help this year. Please see News & Notes for all the details.

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 SONGS

Glory

Verse 1

The mountains standing in Your strength
The oceans roaring out Your praise
All creation glorifies Your name
The angels bow before Your throne
The heavens shine for You alone
All creation glorifies Your name
All creation glorifies Your name
Singing...

Chorus

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord
Almighty, Worthy, All the earth is filled
With Your glory, glory
We give You glory, glory

Verse 2

In Your hand You hold the universe
At Your feet the nations of the earth
All creation glorifies Your name
All creation glorifies Your name
Singing...

Bridge

Blessing honor
Glory power
All our praise is
Yours forever

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 117:1-2

[Leader] 1 Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

[All] 2 For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord!

WORSHIP SONG

Before The Throne

Verse 1

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
A great High Priest,
whose name is Love,
Whoever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in
heaven he stands
No tongue can bid
me thence depart
No tongue can bid
me thence depart.

Verse 2

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Chorus

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the One,
Risen Son of God!

Verse 3

Behold him there,

the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless
righteousness,
The great unchangeable I am,
The King of glory and of grace!

One in himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by his blood
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my
God
With Christ, my Savior and my
God

Show Us Christ

Verse 1

Prepare our hearts, O God
Help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground
Help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us
Cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear
Lead us in Your truth

Chorus

Show us Christ, show us Christ
O God, reveal Your glory
Through the preaching of Your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Verse 2

Your Word is living light
Upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through tempta - tions
Makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones
Freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul
Come speak to us today

Verse 3

Where else can we go, Lord
Where else can we go
You have the words of eternal life
Where else can we go, Lord
Where else can we go
You have the words of eternal life

SERMON TEXT Genesis 20

¹ From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. ² And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." ⁴ Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people?" ⁵ Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." ⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷ Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you, and all who are yours."

⁸ So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. ⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done." ¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?" ¹¹ Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹² Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. ¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.'"

¹⁴ Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. ¹⁵ And Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you." ¹⁶ To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated." ¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. ¹⁸ For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

SERMON OUTLINE Genesis 20

Worldly Wisdom and an Unbreakable Promise | David VanAcker

ABRAHAM CONTINUES TO WANDER

Wandering Geographically (1)

Wandering Morally (2)

God Speaks to Abimelech (3-7)

God's Condemnation and Warning (3)

Abimelech's Defense (4-5)

God's Intervention (6-7)

ABIMELECH REPENTS

Abimelech Fears the LORD (8)

Abimelech Reports His Offense (8)

Abimelech Makes Restitution with Abraham (14-15)

Abimelech Makes Restitution with Sarah (16)

Abraham and God Accept Abimelech's Repentance (17-18)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The main points that I want to draw your attention to in all of this are that (1) living by worldly wisdom is always foolish, (2) living according to God's design is always wise, and (3) God's promises, by God's grace will never fail. Let's pray that God would be pleased to grant us true understanding and true transformation as we engage this text.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What do you think is the most number of times you've ever committed the same sin? What does that tell you? Is there anything about it that you can learn from Abraham's repeat offense?
3. Which of the "vital lessons" do you most need to learn? Lessons on the nature of worldly wisdom, God's unbreakable promises, ultimate and immediate justice, God's design for prayer in the life of the faithful, or repentance?
4. How easy is it for you to forget that this world is not your home? In that way are you living in a tent or a house?
5. Have you ever chosen comfort over faithfulness? Is there anything you've learned from Abraham's choice?
6. Have you ever considered the difference between ultimate and temporal justice? Had you ever considered that God is concerned with both? Which type of justice most concerns you?
7. How does the fact that pagan Abimelech acted more honorably than covenant Abraham relate to the gospel?
8. What practical difference does/should it make that all sin is first against God?
9. Which of the three "steps of repentance" is most difficult for you--fearing God, confessing your sin as sin, or making restitution? Why do you think that is?
10. What did you learn about prayer from this passage? How has that changed your prayer life?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. Identify any sins in your life that you have not yet repented of and repent.
12. Consider any ways that you could be working for temporal justice on earth in light of the ultimate Justice of heaven.
13. Husbands, look for specific ways to protect and love your wife well.
14. Name one specific thing that you mean to do differently by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for His unwavering commitment to His gospel promises to you.
16. Confession. Confess any sins that this sermon has drawn to mind. Ask God for the grace of repentance.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God that your salvation is based on His grace and not your goodness. Thank God for this tremendous insight into prayer and repentance.
18. Supplication. Pray in earnest for God to rescue the non-Christians in your life. Ask God to make you more spiritually sensitive. Ask God to work temporal justice in you and through you.

WORSHIP SONGS

Sovereign Over Us

Verse 1

There is strength within the sorrow
There is Beauty in our tears
And you meet us in our mourning
With a love that cast out fears.

You are working in our waiting
Sanctifying us
And beyond our understanding
You are teaching us to trust

Chorus

Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're Faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are Sovereign Over us

Verse 2

You are wisdom unimagined,
Who could understand your ways
Reigning high above the heavens,
Reaching down in endless grace

You're the Lifter of the lowly,
Compassionate and kind
You surround and You uphold me,
And your promises are my delight

Bridge

Even what the enemy means for evil
You meant it for our good
You meant it for our good
and for your glory

Even in the valley you are faithful
You're working for our good
You're working for our good
and for your glory

You Are The Way

Verse 1

Dead in transgressions and sins
Without God,
without hope in this world
Then the glorious light
Of Your gospel broke in
The Father stood up
from His throne
Opened His arms as
He called out my name
Grace irresistible drew me
Opened my eyes to see

Chorus

You are the way
You are the truth
You are the life, Jesus
The only way
The only truth
You are my life, Jesus

Verse 2

You are the source of new life
The giver of every good thing
Withholding nothing
You lavish Your kindness on me
You emptied Yourself,
became poor
Humbled and poured out to death
Now highly exalted above all
Your name alone can save

BENEDICTION

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 - May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.