

GRACE CHURCH BULLETIN | April 11, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome

Exhortation and Assurance of Pardon

By Faith

Reading: Psalm 34:6-9

Taste and See

O Great God

Sermon: Do Whatever God Says | Genesis 31

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Build My Life

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moms and More - Our next meeting is Thursday, April 15th. Join us from 10-11:30am in the fellowship hall. Moms will continue their study time in Colossians. The play theme will be "Leaps and Bounds." We hope you can come! Contact Chloe Stiner if you have any questions (651) 341-0999.

Business Meeting - We'll have our next quarterly business meeting on Sunday, April 25th immediately after church. We'll have some snacks to tide everyone over, but it should be pretty short (less than an hour) as the agenda only consists of voting on a few new members and a few brief updates. Please mark your calendars. Your participation is important.

G2g Older Kids Summer Retreat - We are trying to gauge interest in an older kids retreat this Summer. We would look at a Thursday night to Saturday night over a weekend in July, probably at Oak Forest Retreat Center in Luck, WI. We'd like to get a rough idea of interest before we make further plans. Please let pastormike@gracewyoing.com know if you have interest.

Ed McDonough Memorial Service - On Saturday, May 1st we will be hosting a memorial service for Ed McDonough. We'll have a time of visitation from 10-11:00am. The funeral service will be from 11:00am-noon. And then we'll have lunch from noon-1:00pm. Please save the date and be in prayer for the family as they continue to mourn Ed's passing. More details and information in News & Notes.

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 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

By Faith

Verse 1

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand
design
In the lives of those who prove His
faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 2

By faith our fathers roamed the
earth
With the power of His promise in
their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own
hand
A place where peace and justice
reign

Chorus

We will stand as children of the
promise

We will fix our eyes on Him our
soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work
is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 3

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would
appear
With the power to break the chains
of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

Verse 4

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach
good news

In every corner of the earth

Verse 5

By faith this mountain shall be
moved
And the power of the gospel shall
prevail
For we know in Christ all things are
possible
For all who call upon His name

End Chorus

We will stand as children of the
promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our
soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work
is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 118:8-9

[Leader] 6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them

[All] 8 Oh taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9 Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints for those who fear him have no lack!

WORSHIP SONGS

Taste and See

Verse 1

I sought the Lord
And He answered me
And delivered me
From every fear
Those who look on Him
Are radiant
They'll never be ashamed
They'll never be ashamed

Verse 2

This poor man cried
And the Lord heard me
And saved me from
My enemies
The Son of God
Surrounds His saints
He will deliver them
He will deliver them

Chorus

Magnify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name together
Glorify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name forever

Verse 3

Oh, taste and see
That the Lord is good
Oh, blessed is he
Who hides in Him
Oh, fear the Lord
Oh, oh all you saints
He'll give you everything
He'll give you everything

Bridge

Let us bless the Lord
Every day and night
Never ending praise
May our incense rise
2X

Ending Tag

Oh taste and see
That the Lord is good
O blessed is he
Who hides in him

O Great God

Verse 1

O great God of highest heaven
Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme
Conquer every rebel power
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me
Make me Yours forevermore

Verse 2

I was blinded by my sin
Had no ears to hear Your voice
Did not know Your love within
Had no taste for heaven's joys
Then Your Spirit gave me life
Opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son
Gave me endless hope and peace

Verse 3

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven
Glorify Your Name through me

You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven
Glorify Your Name through me

SERMON TEXT Genesis 31

¹ Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth." ² And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. ³ Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you."

⁴ So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was ⁵ and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶ You know that I have served your father with all my strength, ⁷ yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me. ⁸ If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. ⁹ Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰ In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. ¹¹ Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' ¹² And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.' " ¹⁴ Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? ¹⁵ Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. ¹⁶ All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do."

¹⁷ So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. ¹⁸ He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. ¹⁹ Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods. ²⁰ And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. ²¹ He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

²² When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, ²³ he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. ²⁴ But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

²⁵ And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. ²⁶ And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? ²⁷ Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? ²⁸ And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. ²⁹ It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.' ³⁰ And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?" ³¹ Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. ³² Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

³³ So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's. ³⁴ Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. ³⁵ And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods.

³⁶ Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? ³⁷ For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. ³⁸ These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. ³⁹ What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to

you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. ⁴⁰ There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. ⁴¹ These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. ⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

⁴³ Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne? ⁴⁴ Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me." ⁴⁵ So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. ⁴⁶ And Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷ Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. ⁴⁸ Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he named it Galeed, ⁴⁹ and Mizpah, for he said, "The Lord watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight. ⁵⁰ If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me."

⁵¹ Then Laban said to Jacob, "See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. ⁵² This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. ⁵³ The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, ⁵⁴ and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.

⁵⁵ Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.

SERMON OUTLINE Genesis 31

Do Whatever God Says | David VanAcker

LABAN BECOMES JEALOUS (1-16)

JACOB FLEAS (17-21)

LABAN PURSUES JACOB (22-24)

LABAN CONFRONTS JACOB (25-35)

JACOB IS "VINDICATED" BEFORE LABAN (36-42)

THE COVENANT BETWEEN JACOB AND LABAN (43-55)

MAIN POINT

This chapter is meant to do three main things. It is meant to provide a contrast and bookend to chapter 29—where Jacob arrived in Laban's country. This is the close of the Laban portion of the story. Second, as we have seen, it is meant to help us see that to walk blindly into God's plans is infinitely safer than walking into our own plans with eyes wide open. And third, it is to move the story of God's people and plan of redemption along as we inch closer and closer to the coming of One through whom all of God's promises would come fully true.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Genesis is largely the story of God setting His favor on undeserving people. Have you settled in your own mind why that is? Why does God do that? Why does He remain faithful to Jacob even when Jacob acts faithlessly?
3. Can you share an example of walking willingly, but blindly, into God's will? What happened?
4. Can you share an example of walking with your eyes wide open into your will? What happened?
5. Have you ever been blessed by someone else's blessing from God? What was that like? Have you ever been jealous of someone else's blessing from God? Why?
6. Can you think of a time that you desperately wanted to know God's will for your life? Can you think of a time that you knew God's will but struggled to want to do it? Can you think of a time where God stacked blessings up to "grease" the path of obedience for you? Can you think of a time when God's promise to be with you in every challenge helped you obey?
7. Have you ever charged into a situation believing you were right (like Laban), only to be held in check by God?
8. When is the last time fear kept you from doing God's will? When is the last time pride got in the way?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

9. Identify one area in which you are living according to worldly sight rather than faith in God's promises. Repent.
10. Look for evidence of God's grace in others this week. Praise God for them and encourage the people with them.
11. Commit to reading God's Word daily in order that His will for your life would become clearer. Invite someone to join you in this discipline.
12. Swallow your pride, pray, and humbly take the initiative to seek reconciliation in an area of conflict.
13. Tell one person this week about the God who saves, not because we deserve it, but because He is gracious.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for His infinite wisdom, power, and grace. Praise Him for sending His only Son in love.
16. Confession. Confess any things you've done in fear instead of faith, pride instead of humility, vengeance instead of entrusting that to the LORD, and your own wisdom rather than God's.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for the gospel. Thank God for stacking up kindnesses. Thank God for His patience.
18. Supplication. Pray for God to strengthen our church and the churches around the world who preach the gospel. Pray for God to make us increasingly people of faith in His promises. Pray for God to heal the broken hearted in your life and save the lost.

WORSHIP SONGS

Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Verse 1

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Verse 2

O how sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to trust his cleansing blood
And in simple faith to plunge me
'neath the healing cleansing flood!

Verse 3

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus
Just from sin and self to cease
Just from Jesus simply raking
Life and rest, and joy and peace

Ending Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Build My Life

Verse 1

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you

Chorus

Oh, we live for you, Holy
Holy, there is no one like you
There is none besides you
Open up our eyes in wonder
And show us who you are and fill us
With your heart and lead us
In your love to those around us

Verse 2

Jesus, the name above every other name
Jesus, the only one who could save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you

Bridge

We will build our lives, upon your Word
It is a firm foundation
We will put our trust in you alone
And we will not be shaken
2X

BENEDICTION

2 Cor. 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.