

March 31, 2019

Propitiation: Wrath Lovingly Satisfied
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

Propitiation is the fruit of the divine love that provided it...the ground upon which the divine love operates and the channel through which it flows in achieving its end...It shows the cost that redemptive love entails.

John Murray

20th century Presbyterian theologian

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

John 3:36

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10

...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. Selah
You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

Psalms 85:2-3

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that God's love is the source, not the consequence, of the atonement...God does not love us because Christ died for us; Christ died for us because God loved us. If it is God's wrath which needed to be propitiated, it is God's love which did the propitiating. If it may be said the the propitiation "changed" God, or that by it he changed himself, let us be clear he did not change from wrath to love, or from enmity to grace, since his character is unchanging. What the propitiation changed was his dealings with us.

John Stott

British Anglican pastor and theologian

[In the cross] we are to see not an attempt to change God's mind but the very expression of that mind.

M.A.C. Warren

20th century Irish Anglican missionary

H. Richard Niebuhr's well known and withering depiction of the gospel of liberal Christianity is very much to the point: "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross." Absent our sin and divine wrath, judgment, and redemption, it is not surprising that people came to dismiss the idea of God not because it is implausible but because it is superfluous, and, yes, boring.

Richard John Neuhaus

Lutheran minister turned Catholic writer

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung. All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar.

People: **Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable.**

Job 36
Psalm 145

Leader: For he draws up the drops of water; they distill his mist in rain, which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly. Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion?

People: **Behold, he scatters his lightning about him and covers the roots of the sea.**

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

People: **I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

We bless and praise the name of our Great God and King

"Immortal, Invisible"

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise; in
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light; nor
3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine

5
light in - ac - ces - si - ble, hid from our eyes; most
want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all

9
bles - sed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -
jus - tice like moun - tains, the high soar - ing a - bove; thy
praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'tis

13
migh - ty, vic - tor - ious, thy great name we praise!
clouds which are the foun - tains of good - ness and love.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

The goal of our worship is to glorify God. Worship is not about an experience or a feeling that I receive, but about proclaiming the mystery of the God who loves his people enough to send his Son to die for us.

"Call Jehovah Your Salvation"

Bm A G A F#m G

1. Call Je - ho - vah your sal - va - tion, rest be - neath th'Al - migh - ty's shade;
 2. From the sword at noon-day wast-ing, from the noise-some pes - ti - lence;
 3. Since, with pure and firm af - fec - tion you on God have set your love,

Bm A G A F#m Bm

in his se - cret hab - i - ta - tion dwell, and ne - ver be dis - mayed:
 in the depth of mid - night blast - ing, God shall be your sure de - fense:
 with the wings of his pro - tec - tion he will shield you from a - bove:

G D/F# A Bm G F#m A Bm

there no tu - mult shall a - larm you, you shall dread no hid - den snare:
 he shall charge his an - gel le - gions watch and ward o'er you to keep;
 you shall call on him in trou - ble, he will hear - ken, he will save;

G D/F# A G D/F# F#m Bm

guile nor vi - o - lence can harm you, in e - ter - nal safe - guard there.
 though you walk through hos - tile re - gions, though in des - ert wilds you sleep.
 here for grief re - ward you dou - ble, crown with life be - yond the grave.

He who dwells in
 the shelter of the
 Most High will
 abide in the
 shadow of the
 Almighty. I will say
 to the LORD, "My
 refuge and my
 fortress, my God,
 in whom I trust."

Psalms 91

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God proclaims who we really are in our sin

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Romans 3
Ephesians 2

We confess our sin, our struggle with it in our lives, and rest in God's provision for it: Jesus Christ

We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

The only way we are able to come before God is through Jesus Christ. The amazing love of Christ's death on the cross was the perfect sacrifice which satisfied the Father's justice. This he gives us by his free grace, completely unearned and undeserved by us.

God declares his love for us in Christ

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5

“Poor Sinner, Dejected with Fear”

1. Poor sin - ner de - ject - ed with fear, un - bos - om mind to the
2. Come just as you are with thy woe; fall down at the feet of the
3. The soul that on Je - sus re - lies, he'll nev - er, at the nev - er de -

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|-------|------|-----|-------|---|-----|------|-------|------|
| Lamb; | no | wrath | on | his | brow | - | he | does | wear, | nor |
| Lamb; | he | will | not, | he | can | - | not | say, | "Go," | but |
| ceive; | he | free | - ly | and | faith | - | ful | - ly | gives | more |

will he poor mourn - ers con - demn. His arm of om - ni - po - tent
sure - ly will take out thy stain. A foun - tain is o - pened for
bless - ings than we can con - ceive. Yea, down to old age he will

grace is a - ble and will - ing to save; a
sin, and thou - sands its vir - tues have proved; he'll
keep, nor will he for - sake us at last; he

sweet and a per - ma - nent peace he'll free - ly and
take thee and plunge thee there - in, and wash thee from
knows and is known by his sheep; they're his and he will

faith - ful - ly give.
filth _____ in his blood.
hold _____ them fast.

The Bible says that all people are sinners, fleeing from God. But in Jesus Christ we find peace and healing. In his death on the cross, he took our sin and paid the price for it. And so we come to him in faith, confessing our sin and need for him, trusting in his death alone to bring us life.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26

Sermon

Propitiation: Wrath Lovingly Satisfied
50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

Rev. Per Almquist

- perseverance**
held secure
- glorification**
the full enjoyment of God
- advent**
coming
- Immanuel**
God with us
- incarnation**
veiled in flesh the Godhead see
- Messiah/Christ**
appointed, empowered, sent
- Savior**
the great rescuer
- epiphany**
God revealed
- love**
Christ died for us
- hope**
assured confidence
- grace**
love undeserved
- sin**
not the way it's supposed to be
- redemption**
ransomed
- atonement**
setting things right

We rest in God's love for us in the death of Jesus Christ

"To See the King of Heaven Fall"



1. To see the King of — hea - ven fall in an - guish to — his knees, the
 2. To know each friend will fall a - way and hea - ven's voice be still, for
 3. What took him to this wretch - ed place; what kept him on — this road? His



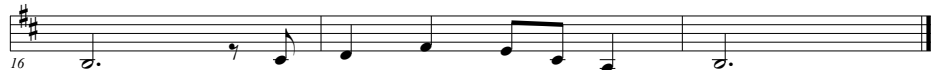
5 Light of Hope of — all the world now ov - er - whelmed with grief. What
 hell to have its — venge - ful day up - on Gol - go - tha's hill. No
 love for A - dam's curs - ed race, for ev - 'ry bro - ken soul. No



9 name - less hor - rors must he see, to cry out in the gar - den: "Oh
 words de - scribe the — Sav - ior's plight, to be by God for - sa - ken till
 sin too slight to — o - ver - look, no crime too great to — car - ry, all



13 take this cup a - way from me, yet not my will — but
 wrath and love are — sat - is - fied and ev - 'ry sin — is
 min - gled in this — poi - soned cup, and yet he drank it



16 yours, yet not my will — but yours."
 paid, and ev - 'ry sin — is paid.
 all. The Sav - ior drank it all.

Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

God guarantees that his wrath is satisfied by the death of Jesus Christ, sealing us in his love as we celebrate the Lord's Supper

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized followers of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to one of the elders after the service.

Romans 5:1–11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

In the strange mercy of God the cup of his righteous wrath is given into the hands, not of his enemies, but of his beloved Son. And he will drink it, down to the dregs until the moment comes when "I thirst" gives place to "It is finished".
Lesslie Newbigin

These vows are taken by all who join Free Grace. They are a public profession of what we believe and our commitment to the church.

1-2

We declare what we believe, the core of what it means to be a Christian.

3

We acknowledge that Christ is lord over all of our life.

We commit ourselves to living as he calls us in love for him and gratitude for his grace to us.

4

We commit ourselves to this church. We promise to be active in the life of the church and in the lives of the other members of the church.

5

We promise to submit to the care of the church, understanding that they will pursue us in love to hold us to the vows we have taken that God would be glorified in our lives.

God sent his Son to do all that was necessary for us to know and experience his love, so we respond to his great love with our love...

...welcoming new members into our local part of the family

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

...giving ourselves to him fully through our tithes and offerings

We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith, putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim, that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.

...resting in God's abiding with us as we come to him in prayer

"Abide with Me"

1. A - bidē with me: fast falls the e - ven -
2. Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst
3. I need thy pres - ence, ev - 'ry pass - ing
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing

3
tide; the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
smile, and, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean -
hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's
bless: ills have no weight, tears lose their bit - ter -
eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the

6
bide. When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts
while, thou hast not left me, though I've oft left
pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can
ness. Where is thy sting, death? Where, grave, thy vic - to -
skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows

9
flee, help of the help - less, a - bidē with me.
thee; on to the close, Lord, a - bidē with me.
be? Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bidē with me.
ry? I tri - umph still; a - bidē with me.
flee: in life, in death, Lord, a - bidē with

12
5
me; in life, in death, Lord, a - bidē with me.

Whoever keeps
his
commandments
abides in God,
and God in him.
And by this we
know that he
abides in us, by
the Spirit whom he
has given us.
1 John 3

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

Set your hope fully
on the grace that
will be brought to
you at the
revelation of Jesus
Christ.
1 Peter 1

We rejoice and rest in our only hope, in God's wrath satisfied: Jesus Christ

"In Christ Alone"

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my Light, my Strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground his bo - dy lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death: this is the pow'r of Christ in

4 Song. This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and
babe. This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones he came to
stain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the grave he rose a -
me. From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -

8 storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
save: 'til on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
gain! And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his

12 cease! My Com - for - ter, my all in all: here in the love of Christ I stand.
fied. For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.
me. For I am his, and he is mine; bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
hand. 'Til he re - turns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll _____

18 stand. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his hand. 'Til he re -

23 turns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

We live in the wonder that God put forward Jesus Christ as a propitiation for us

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.

50¢ WORDS

THE VOCABULARY OF FAITH

revelation

God spoke

inspiration

God-breathed

trinity

3-1-1

holiness

separation

righteousness

the way it should be

sovereignty

ultimate kingship

providence

kingship in action

kingdom

living the reign

salvation

ultimate rescue

election

God's choosing

predestination

the love before time

calling

lovingly summoned

regeneration

made alive with Christ

repentance

turning

faith

confident trust

justification

made right

adoption

beloved children

sanctification

making the holy holy

perseverance

held secure

glorification

the full enjoyment of God

advent

coming

Immanuel

God with us

incarnation

veiled in flesh
the Godhead see

Messiah/Christ

appointed, empowered,
sent

Savior

the great rescuer

epiphany

God revealed

love

Christ died for us

hope

assured confidence

grace

love undeserved

sin

not the way
it's supposed to be

redemption

ransomed

atonement

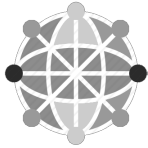
setting things right



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.

Our Connections



Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:

Rev. Per Almquist (pastor)
Kevin Kidd
Ken Morris



Credits

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Dan Crawford, *voice*; Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" Public Domain. Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867. Music: Traditional Welsh melody.

"Call Jehovah Your Salvation" ©1996 Gregory Wilbur. Words: from Psalm 91, James Montgomery, 1822. Music: Gregory Wilbur, 1996.

"Poor Sinner, Dejected with Fear" ©2001 MPJ Music/Velveten Songs. Words: William Gadsby, 1838? Music: Katy Bowser and Matthew Perryman Jones, 2001.

"To See the King of Heaven Fall (Gethsemane)" ©2009 Thankyou Music. Words & Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2009.

"Abide with Me" © 2007 Justin Smith Music. Words: Henry Lyte, 1847; alt. Music: Justin Smith, 2007.

"In Christ Alone" ©2001 Kingsway Thankyou Music. Words and Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, 2001.

The legendary “Rabbi” Duncan concentrated it all into a single unforgettable sentence, in a famous outburst to one of his classes: “D’ye know what Calvary was? what? what? what?” Then, with tears on his face—“It was *damnation*; and he took it *lovingly*.”

J.I. Packer
British Reformed theologian

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory