

June 2, 2019

Three Things You Can Never Say To God

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will out. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
19th century essayist, poet,

God is faithful,
by whom you were
called into the
fellowship of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:9

An idol is anything in creation that man turns to in worship rather than God. Idolatry is not merely one sin among many, but the epitome of all sin, the disobedience that denies God his rightful place over his creation and our lives.

Michael Williams
Presbyterian theologian

Now I want
to remind you,
although you once fully
knew it, that Jesus, who
saved a people out of the
land of Egypt, afterward
destroyed those who
did not believe.
Jude 5

Jesus then said to
them, "Truly, truly, I say to
you, it was not Moses who gave
you the bread from heaven, but my
Father gives you the true bread from
heaven. For the bread of God is he who
comes down from heaven and gives life to
the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this
bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of
life; whoever comes to me shall not
hunger, and whoever believes in
me shall never thirst."

John 6:32-35

All idolatry is not only treacherous, but also futile. Human desire, deep and restless and seemingly unfulfillable, keeps stuffing itself with finite goods, but these cannot satisfy. If we try to fill our hearts with anything besides the God of the universe, we find that we are overfed but undernourished, and that day by day, week by week, year after year, we are thinning down to a mere outline of a human being.

Cornelius Plantinga
Reformed theologian, pastor,
and former president of Calvin Theological Seminary

They were
broken off because
of their unbelief, but
you stand fast through
faith. So do not become
proud, but fear.
Romans 11:20

I find it most true, that the greatest temptation out of hell is to live without temptations. If my waters should stand, they would rot. Faith is the better of the free air, and of the sharp winter storm in its face. Grace withereth without adversity. The devil is but God's master fencer, to teach us to handle our weapons.

Samuel Rutherford
17th century Scottish pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Elder: Remember to extol God's 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

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

People: For by these he judges peoples; he gives food in abundance. He covers his hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark. Its crashing declares his presence; the cattle also declare that he rises.

We proclaim the greatness of our God

"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 us 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 foun - tains of good - ness and love.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

We worship because it is what we were made to do. At no other time are we more human, more alive, more complete than when we approach our God in the wonder of who he is.

"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.

Because he holds
 fast to me in love, I
 will deliver him; I
 will protect him,
 because he knows
 my name. When
 he calls to me, I
 will answer him; I
 will be with him in
 trouble; I will
 rescue him and
 honor him. With
 long life I will
 satisfy him and
 show him my
 salvation.

Psalms 91

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to look no longer at the works of our hands for our salvation

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."

Hosea 14

We confess our sin, return to God, and find mercy

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.

Sin...is not simply feeling bad about ourselves. It is violating what is right in God's law and character.
David Wells

We find mercy in the cross of Jesus Christ

In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority... And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 2

We lift high the cross that triumphed over our sin

"Lift High the Cross"

1 Lift high the cross the love of Christ pro - claim,

5 'till all the world a - dore his sac - red name;

9 lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim,

13 'till all the world a - dore his sac - red name!

17 1.Come, Christ - ians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2.O Lord, once lift - ted on the glo - rious tree,
3.For thy blest cross which does for us a - tone,

21 our King vic - tor - ious, Christ, the Son of God,
as thou has prom - ised, draw men un - to thee!
cre - a - tion's prais - es rise be - fore thy throne! (Go to chorus)

25 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
Thy king - dom come that earth's des - pair may cease;

29 the hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
be - neath the sha - dow of its heal - ing peace.

"And I, when I am
lifted up from the
earth, will draw all
people to myself."

John 12

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Sermon

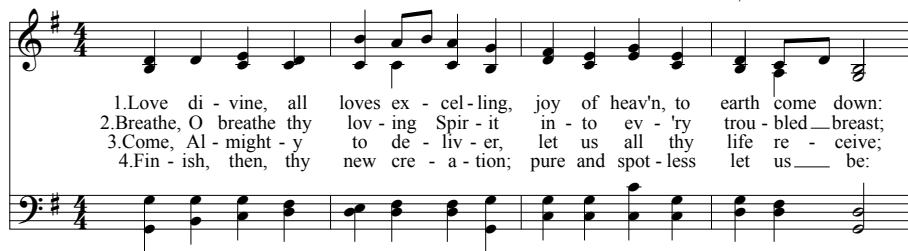
Rev. Tom Hudson

Three Things You Can Never Say To God

Rev. Tom Hudson pastors a Brazilian church plant in Quincy, MA. He and his wife, Carol, were missionaries for 30 years, of which about 20 were spent planting and revitalizing churches in Lisbon, Portugal.

We respond to God's love in Christ by crying out for his work in us

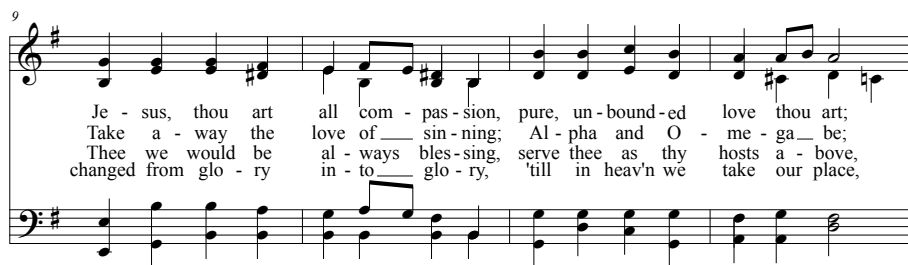
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down;
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled - breast;
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be:



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, 'till in heav'n we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its Be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.
 pray, and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glor - ry in thy per - fect love.
 'till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

John 15

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We give our tithes and offerings to God as a declaration that we are his, bought with the blood of Christ

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.

We pray to drink more deeply from the spiritual Rock that is Christ


*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace, placing our lives and our church in his hands.
We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory.*

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.

We participate in the body and blood of Christ, celebrating 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 with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge 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. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ and so we follow his example.

"Down at the Cross"



1. Down at the cross where my Sa - vior - died,
2. I am so won - drous - ly so saved from sin;
3. Come to the foun - tain, rich and sweet;

3 down where for cleans - ing from sin I cried;
Je - sus so sweet - ly a - bides with - in;
cast thy poor soul at the Sav - ior's feet;

5 there to my heart was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,
there at the cross where he took me in, sing - ing,
plunge in to - day and be made com - plete, sing - ing,

7 1.
"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."
"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."
"Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."

11 2, 3.
me." There to my hea - rt was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,
me."

15 "Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."

17 There to my hea - rt was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,

19 "Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."

In the sacraments the reality is given to us along with the sign; for when the Lord holds out a sacrament, he does not feed our eyes with an empty and unmeaning figure, but joins the truth with it, so as to testify that by means of them he acts upon us efficaciously.

John Calvin

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We rejoice that the grace of God binds our wandering hearts to him

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hi - ther by thy help I'm
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dail - y I'm con - strained to

grace; streams of mer - cy, ne - ver ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est
come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at
be; let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to

praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
home. Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering
thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to

flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the mount! I'm fixed up -
from the fold of God: he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love: here's my heart, O take and

on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dang - er, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

For from his
fullness we have
all received, grace
upon grace.

John 1

We go with the blessing of God, his presence with us in all of life

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13

People: Amen

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

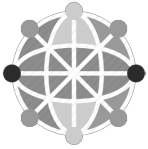
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



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)
Brian Cosgrove
Kevin Kidd
Ken Morris



Credits

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Heather Kidd, voice; Millie Kidd, voice, piano; Jake Paris, guitar

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Trying to explain God's grace is like
trying to put a river into a thimble,
or trying to describe all the artwork
in the Louvre in one sentence.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory