

July 14, 2019

Delusions, Meet Grace
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Tepid and complacent Christianity *nauseates*
Jesus Christ.

Joseph (Skip) Ryan
Presbyterian pastor

Jesus Christ would prefer us to boil
or freeze, rather than that we
should simmer down into a
tasteless tepidity.

John Stott
British Anglican pastor and theologian

"I do
not ask for these
only, but also for those
who will believe in me
through their word, that they
may all be one, just as you,
Father, are in me, and I in you,
that they also may be in us, so
that the world may believe
that you have sent me."
John 17:20–21

"For God so loved the
world, that he gave his only
Son, that whoever believes in
him should not perish but
have eternal life."
John 3:16

What is the effect of salvation? He simply has
put a small, deeply disturbing fire in the fabric
of my being that cannot be extinguished or
modulated...In simple terms, I am possessed
by a God who will tolerate neither tepid
indifference nor lukewarm piety. He wants my
heart, and in fact he has it.

Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III
counselor and OT scholar

I slept,
but my heart was awake.
A sound! My beloved is knocking.
"Open to me, my sister, my love, my
dove, my perfect one, for my head is
wet with dew, my locks with the
drops of the night."
Song of Solomon 5:2

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Leader: What is man's primary purpose?

People: To glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Leader: So shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.

People: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

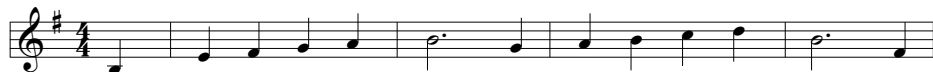
Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

People: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues to all generations.

Westminster Shorter
Catechism #1
Psalm 100

We enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise

"The God of Abraham Praise"



1. The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove, An -
2. The God of A-braham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand from
3. He by him - self has sworn, I on his oath de - pend; I
4. The whole tri - um - phant host gives thanks to God on high; "Hail



5
cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love. Je -
earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand. I
shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend. I
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry. Hail



9
ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed; I
all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r, and
shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore, and
Ab - braham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays; all



13
bow and bless the sa - cred name, for - ev - er blest.
him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er more.
might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

What a great thing for the world, for society, that one day out of seven people are called to leave the busy cares of merely material and worldly interests and to come up to the house of God where they are brought to think of things spiritual and eternal—where the thought of God, of right, of things that are true, just, pure, lovely, and of good report are brought to their attention and impressed upon their hearts and minds. Without it, what would become of us?
Francis Grimké

GOD CLEANSSES US IN HIS SON

Revelation 2

God declares our sin, our rejection of him, and calls us to repent

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

So often Christians act as if they no longer sin. The reality Scripture teaches is that those in Christ are free from slavery to sin. We no longer face death as the price of our sin because Jesus Christ took our sin on himself. And yet we continue to sin. So we cry out to God through Jesus Christ to be at work in us. We confess our failings and ask that we would live in the strength of Christ's death and resurrection.

We repent, turning back from our sin to God

Leader: Lord, you said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

People: Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.

Leader: Lord, you said, "You may ask for anything in my name."

People: Forgive us when we think we need to solve our own problems.

Leader: Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

People: We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.

Leader: Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

People: Forgive us our barren lives, Lord.

Leader: Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me."

People: We confess, Lord, that we have too often been silent.

Leader: Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

People: Forgive us that our lukewarm love for you finds its expression in our lack of love for each other.

Leader: Lord, you said that the wages of sin is death, but your gift, O God, is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

People: Father, thank you for the great depth of your love for us that would lead you to give your Son for our sin. May our lives boast, not in ourselves, our gifts, our powers, our wisdom, but only in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection. Thank you that by your love his wounds have paid our ransom. Amen.

God declares his love for us in Jesus Christ

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls...For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 Peter 2
John 3

We wonder at the God who ransoms us with his own Son

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”



1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how
 2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my
 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing: no



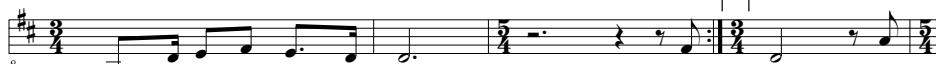
2 vast be - yond all meas - ure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
 sin up - on his shoul - ders; a - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
 gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



4 make a wretch his treas - ure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss; the
 out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there un -
 death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward? I



6 Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the cho - sen One bring
 til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has brought me life; I
 can - not give an an - swer; but this I know with all my heart: his



8 man - y sons to glo - ry.
 know that it is fin - ished. som. Why
 wounds have paid my ran -



12 should I gain from his re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer; but



14 this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Sermon

Rev. Ryan Anderson

Delusions, Meet Grace

preached at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America

Rev. Ryan Anderson has been serving as the campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. He has recently accepted a call to Covenant Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN.

We respond to his call rejoicing in his love that is never lukewarm

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"



1. O Love that will not let me go, I
2. O Light that fol - low'st all my way, I
3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I
4. O Cross that lift - est up my head, I



rest my wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the
yield my flick - 'ring torch to thee; my heart re - stores its
can - not close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow
dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust, life's



life I owe, that in thine o - cean depths its flow may
bor - rowed ray, that in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may
through the rain, and feel the prom - ise is not vain that
glo - ry dead, and from the ground there blos - soms red life



rich - er, full - er be.
bright - er, fair - er be.
morn shall tear - less be.
that shall end - less be.

I have loved you
with an everlasting
love; therefore I
have continued
my faithfulness to
you.
Jeremiah 31

God offers us his grace giving us himself in Jesus Christ. Our response is to acknowledge this by offering ourselves to him. The money we give is but an expression of a larger reality: our giving our whole selves to him.

We respond to God's words of honesty and hope, giving ourselves to him as we give 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.

We answer his invitation by coming to him in prayer

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.

Our lukewarm love and lives are transformed as we hear God's words of hope and taste the feast that is ours in Christ in the celebration of 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.

"How Sweet and Awesome is the Place"

1. How sweet and awe - some is the place
 2. While all our hearts and all our songs
 3. "Why was I made to hear your voice,
 4. 'Twas the same love that spread the feast

with Christ with - in the doors, while ev - er - last - ing
 join to ad - mire the feast, each of us cries, with
 and en - ter while there's room, when thou - sands make a
 that sweet - ly drew us in; else we had still re -

love dis - plays the choic - est of her stores.
 thank - ful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?
 wretch - ed choice, and rath - er starve than come?"
 fused to taste, and per - ished in our sin.

Let us consider, then, that this sacrament is a singular medicine for all poor sick creatures, a comfortable help to weak souls, and that our Lord requires no other worthiness on our part, but that we unfeignedly acknowledge our naughtiness and imperfection.
 John Calvin

"Here is Love"

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 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



1. Here is love, vast as the o - cean, lov - ing kind - ness as the
2. On the mount of cru - ci - fix - ion foun - tains o - pened deep and
3. Bond and pledge of sweet com - mun - ion, all Christ's be - ne - fits di -



4 flood, when the Prince of life, our ran - som, shed for us his pre - cious blood. Who his
wide; through the flood - gates of God's mer - cy flowed a vast and gra - cious tide. Grace and
vine, here, ye saints, is of - fered free - ly in the bread and in the wine. Here is



9 love will not re - mem - ber? Who can cease to sing his praise? He will
love, like migh - ty riv - ers, poured in - ces - sant from a - bove; heav - en's
love, dis - played in splen - dor, bo - dy bro - ken, blood out - poured; signs and

1, 2



13 ne - ver be for - got - ten through - out heav'n's e - ter - nal days.
peace and per - fect jus - tice kissed a guilt - y world in love.
seals of mer - cy of - fered at the ta - ble of the



20 Lord. Here is love, dis - played in splen - dor, bo - dy bro - ken, blood out - poured; signs and



25 seals of mer - cy of - fered at the ta - ble of the Lord.

GOD COMMISSIONS US WITH HIS BLESSING

We answer his knock, hearing his words of hope, and giving ourselves utterly to him

"All for Jesus"

1. All for Je - sus, all for Je - sus,
 2. Let my hands per - form his bid - ding,
 3. World - lings prize their gems of beau - ty,
 4. Since my eyes were fixed on Je - sus,
 5. O what won - der! how a - ma - zing!

3 all my be - ing's ran - somed pow'rs,
 let my feet run in his ways;
 cling to gold - ed toys of dust,
 I've lost sight of all be - side;
 Je - sus, glo - rious King of kings,

5 all my thoughts and words and do - ings,
 let my eyes see Je - sus on - ly,
 boast of wealth and fame and plea - sure;
 so deigns to - chained my spi - rit's vi - sion,
 to call me his be - lov - ed,

7 all my days and all my hours.
 let my lips speak forth his praise.
 on - ly Je - sus will I trust.
 look - ing at rest the cru - ci - fied.
 lets me rest be - neath his wings.

You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body
 1 Corinthians 6

God blesses his people with his love

Leader: Now may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

People: Amen

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

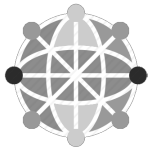
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



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
Ken Morris



Credits

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Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Sarah Clarke, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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The Christian life is heading towards one big celebration where plate and cup overflow with all the richest fare that God has, secured by Jesus' death and resurrection.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory