

**July 21, 2019**

# Cut to the Heart

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

### Christianity is Christ.

Ajith Fernando  
NT scholar and

National Director of Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka

This sermon is not a piece of arid theology, of interest merely to ivory-tower theologians. On the contrary, this is news driven home to the hearts of men and women insisting that what is at stake is a matter of life and death. There is a sense of urgency. Something needs to be done and done right away!

Derek Thomas  
Welsh Presbyterian pastor

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...

**Ephesians 5:18**

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**John 16:7-8, 13-14**

John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

**Luke 3:16**

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

**Acts 5:31**

Genuine repentance is provoked when the excuses and rationalizations go and the self-applause is silenced, and we say, "Oh God, my God, what have I done?"

R.C. Sproul  
20<sup>th</sup> century Presbyterian theologian and pastor

Repentance is a whole-souled turning away from sin to God and to the things that please God. Repentance flows 'out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of [one's] sins'.

Guy Prentiss Waters  
Professor of New Testament  
at Reformed Theological Seminary

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalms 95

**People:** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

**People:** Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

## We bow down before the Lord, our Maker

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

1 All cre - a - tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
 2 Thou ru - shing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n a -  
 3 Thou flo - wing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for thy Lord to  
 4 And all ye men of ten - der heart, for - gi - ving o - thers, take your  
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou bur - ning sun with gol - den  
 long, O\_\_ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ri - sing morn in praise re -  
 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and  
 part, O\_\_ sing ye, Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row  
 ness, O\_\_ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

beam, thou sil - ver moon with sof - ter gleam, O\_\_ praise him, O\_\_  
 joice, ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O\_\_ praise him, O\_\_  
 bright, that giv - est man both warmth and light, O\_\_ praise him, O\_\_  
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O\_\_ praise him, O\_\_  
 Son and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One, O\_\_ praise him, O\_\_

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

As God reminds us of who he is, we hear what he requires from us—our worship. The fear of God is recognizing both his awesome power and the wonder of his love for us.

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

1. Al-le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, his the throne. Al - le -  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the Lord of lords we own; Al - le -  
 5 lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone. Hark! The  
 lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heav'n thy throne. Al - le -  
 9 songs of peace-ful Zi - on thun-der like a might-y flood; Je - sus  
 lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our food and stay! Al - le -  
 13 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood. Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Here the sin - ful flee to thee from day to day. Al - le -  
 17 lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now. Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scept - er, his the throne. Al - le -  
 21 lu - ia! He is near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques-tions how.  
 lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone.

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

## God declares the reality of our sin and calls us to return to him

"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."

Romans 3  
Joel 2

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

## We repent and return to God, coming to him through Jesus Christ "Jesus, I Come"



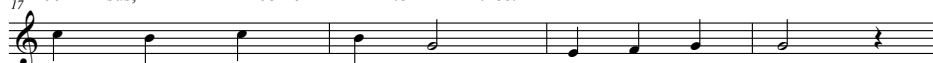
1. Out of my bon - dage, sor - row, and night, Je - sus, I come;  
 2. Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je - sus, I come;  
 3. Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je - sus, I come;  
 4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je - sus, I come;



Je - sus, I come. In - to thy free - dom, glad - ness, and light,  
 Je - sus, I come. In - to the glo - rious gain of thy cross,  
 Je - sus, I come. In - to thy bless - ed will to a - bide,  
 Je - sus, I come. In - to the joy and light of thy home,



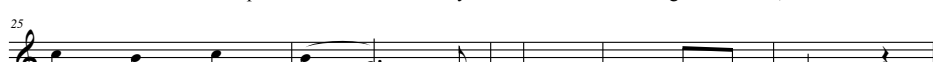
Je - sus, I come to thee.  
 Je - sus, I come to thee.  
 Je - sus, I come to thee.  
 Je - sus, I come to thee.



Out of my sick - ness in - to thy health,  
 Out of earth's sor - rows in - to thy balm,  
 Out of my self to dwell in thy love,  
 Out of the depths of ru - in un - told,



out of my want - ing and in - to thy wealth,  
 out of life's storms in - to thy calm,  
 out of de - spair, in - to rap - tures a - bove,  
 in - to the peace of thy shel - ter - ing fold,



out of my sin and in - to thy - self,  
 out of dis - tress in - to jub - i - lant psalm,  
 up - ward for - ev - er on wings like a dove,  
 ev - er thy glo - - - rious face to be - hold,



Je - sus, I come to thee.  
 Je - sus, I come to thee.  
 Je - sus, I come to thee.  
 Je - sus, I come to thee.

To the world, repentance is looking backwards in shame, remorse, and regret at what our sin and failures cost us. For the Christian, repentance is looking forward to the one who took all that as his own and gave us himself instead. To the world repentance is about sorrow; to the Christian it is about joy.

## God proclaims that it is through Jesus Christ that we have forgiveness of sins

“And when they had carried out all that was written of [Jesus Christ], they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead... Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.”

Acts 13

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11

## We hear the gracious call of Jesus Christ to come to him and we respond, resting in the joy of who he is

“Jesus, I am Resting, Resting”



1. Je - sus, I am rest - ing, rest - ting, in the joy of what thou art;  
 2. O, how great thy lov - ing kind - ness: vast - er, broad - er than the sea!  
 3. Sim - ply trust - ing thee, Lord Je - sus, I be - hold thee as thou art,  
 4. Ev - er lift thy face up - on me, as I work and wait for thee;



I am find - ing out the great - ness of thy lov - ing heart.  
 O, how mar - ve - lous thy good - ness, lav - ished all on me!  
 and thy love, so pure, so change - less, sat - is - fies my heart.  
 rest - ing 'neath thy smile, Lord Je - sus, earth's dark sha - dows flee.



Thou hast bid me gaze up - on thee as thy beau - ty fills my soul,  
 Yes, I rest in thee, be - lov - ed, know what wealth of grace is thine;  
 Sat - is - fies its deep - est long - ings, meets, sup - plies its ev - 'ry need;  
 Bright - ness of my Fa - ther's glo - ry, sun - shine of my Fa - ther's face,



for by thy trans - form - ing po - wer, thou hast made me whole.  
 know thy cer - tain - ty of prom - ise, and have made it mine.  
 com - pass - ion me round with bless - ings; thine is love in - deed!  
 keep me ev - er trust - ing, rest - ing; fill me with thy grace.



Je - sus, I am rest - ing, rest - ing in the joy of what thou art; I am



find - ing out the great - ness of thy lov - ing heart.

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

Acts 2:14–41

<sup>17</sup>“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup>even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

<sup>20</sup>the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

<sup>21</sup>And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

<sup>22</sup>“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup>God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, <sup>31</sup>he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of

In Scripture we not only hear the Word of God, we also find the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. So we fill our worship and our lives with his Word that we would constantly be drawn to God through Jesus Christ.

that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup>Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,  
<sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies your footstool.”

<sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**Sermon**

Rev. Per Almquist

## **Cut to the Heart**

The Church that God Built

Christian  
preaching begins  
with the name of  
Jesus.  
C.K. Barrett



## We repent and come to the one who is both Lord and Christ "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"



1. Je - sus, lo - ver of my soul, let me to thy bo - som fly,  
2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none, I help - less hang on thee;  
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; here more than all I find;  
4. Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;



while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high:  
leave, oh leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me!  
raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in:



hide me, O my Sa - vior, hide, 'till life's storm is past;  
All my trust on thee is stayed, all help from thee I bring;  
Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - right - eous - ness;  
thou of life the foun - tain art, let me take of thee;



safe in - to the ha - ven guide, re - cieve my soul at last.  
cov - er my de - fense - less head in the shad - ow of thy wing.  
false and full of sin I am, thou art full of truth and grace.  
spring thou up with - in my heart, for all e - ter - ni - ty.

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8

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# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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The sacraments... are signs given the force of God's own promise, so that our participation in them is not an exercise in fantasy nor in transformation of consciousness. The sacraments certify reality for us, by the assurance of God's own Word.  
Edmund Clowney

## **We celebrate the Lord's Supper, repenting of our sin and proclaiming that Jesus is both Lord and Christ**

*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.*

## **We acknowledge Jesus as both Lord and Christ as we give our tithes and offerings to God**

*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 come to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus, that our lives would be lived proclaiming him both Lord and 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.*

# GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

## We respond to the one who is both Lord and Christ in worship

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pro - strate fall; bring  
2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall, hail  
3. Let ev - 'ry kind - red, ev - 'ry tribe on this ter - res - trial ball, to  
4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall; we'll

6  
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all; bring  
him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all; hail  
him all maj - es - ty a - scribe, and crown him Lord of all; to  
join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all; we'll

11  
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.  
him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.  
him all maj - es - ty a - scribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
Philippians 2

## God declares his promise in Jesus Christ, a promise that is for us, for our children, and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself

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.*

Galatians 3



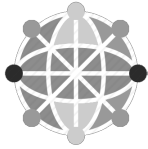




## Welcome to Free Grace

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



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

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"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" Public Domain. Words: Edward Perronet, 1779 and John Rippon, 1787 (verses 3 and 4). Music: Oliver Holden, 1793.

What does it say about me that I respond to every imagined slight and trivial annoyance with more urgency and passion than to the One who is both Lord and Christ?

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory