

October 13, 2019

The Magnificent Seven
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

All Christians without exception, being followers of him who came 'not to be served but to serve', are themselves called to ministry, indeed to give their lives in ministry.

John Stott
British Reformed Anglican pastor and theologian

The Christian's service of God, therefore, is not passive submission but willing, joyful, and cooperative obedience.

Philip Edgcumb Hughes
20th century NT scholar

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:42-45

A n d
Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:25-30

Human life is not a goal in and of itself, but is designed for service to God and neighbor. One poet put it well: Living is not life's greatest good! Life is something we receive, something we can lose, and sometimes something we may even need to give up entirely.

Jochem Douma
20th century Dutch pastor
and professor of ethics

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?... He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.
Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 18

Religion
that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
James 1:27

It's hard to see the importance of where you are serving when you serve children and teens who sometimes seem so disinterested. It is hard to believe that God is at work and much easier to just want to go someplace where it looks like He's already been working.

John Dawson
Presbyterian pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

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.

Leader: The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

People: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Psalm 145

We extol our God and King and bless his name forever and ever

"God, My King, Thy Might Confessing"



1. God, my King, thy might con-fess - ing, ev - er will I bless thy name;
2. They shall talk of all thy glo - ry, on thy might and great - ness dwell,
3. Full of kind - ness and com-pass - ion, slow to an - ger, vast in love,



5 day by day thy throne ad - dress - ing, still will I thy praise pro - claim.
speak of thy great acts the sto - ry, and thy deeds of won - der tell.
God is good to all cre - a - tion; all his works his good - ness prove.



9 Hon - or great our God be - fit - teth; who his ma - jes - ty can reach?
Nor shall fail from mem - 'ry's trea - sure works by love and mer - cy wrought:
All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; thee shall all thy saints a - dore.



13 Age to age his works trans - mit - teth; age to age his pow'r shall teach.
works of love sur - pass - ing mea - sure, works of mer - cy pass - ing thought.
King su - preme shall they con - fess thee, and pro - claim thy sov - 'reign pow'r.

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 delight in them.

"Jesus, Everlasting King"



Je - sus, ev - er - last - ing King, ac - cept the tri - bute which we bring;
 ac - cept the well - de - served re - nown and wear our prais - es as your crown.

1. O send your Spir - it to im - part
 2. The glad - ness of re - demp - tion's day;
 3. May ev - 'ry time of wor - ship see
 4. O that the months would roll a - way

rest and re - pent - ance to our hearts,
 our hearts would wish it long to stay,
 your grace re - vealed more rich and free,
 and bring the cor - o - na - tion day;

like the dear hour, when from a - bove,
 nor let our faith for - sake its hold,
 till we are raised to sing your name
 the King of grace shall fill the throne

we first re - ceived your pledge of love.
 nor com - forts sink, or love grow cold.
 at the great sup - per of the Lamb.
 with all his Fa - ther's glo - ries on.

But the LORD is
 the true God; he is
 the living God and
 the everlasting
 King.
 Jeremiah 10

We pray as Christ taught us

"Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread,
 and forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God cries out to us of our sin and his love for us that deals with it

God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one...

Psalms 53
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 come to him, rending our hearts, confessing our sin, and resting in his love in Jesus Christ

Blessed Lord Jesus,
before your cross I kneel and see the heinousness of my sin,
my iniquity that caused you to be 'made a curse',
the evil that excites the severity of divine wrath.

Show me the enormity of my guilt by the crown of thorns,
the pierced hands and feet,
the bruised body,
the dying cries.

Your blood is the blood of incarnate God,
its worth infinite,
its value beyond all thought.

Infinite must be the evil and guilt that demands such a price.

Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,
alive in my life,
strong in my character,
intermingling with my every thought.

Yet your compassions yearn over me,
your love endured my curse,
your mercy bore my deserved stripes.

Let me walk humbly in the lowest depths of humiliation,
bathed in your blood,
tender of conscience,
triumphing gloriously as an heir of salvation.

All this I ask, confident in the amazing love of your death and resurrection.
Amen.

Worship must include a recognition of our sin. Without it our worship lacks integrity. Honesty demands that when we approach God, we confess our sins that offend him.

God declares his love that endured our curse, that bore the payment for our sin

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life...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...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

John 3
1 Peter 2
Romans 5

We rest in God's love for us shown 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 SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:1-7

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

The Magnificent Seven

The Church that God Built

Our reading of Scripture in worship is a voicing of and a listening to God's Word proclaiming who he is and calling us to respond to him.

We hear God's call to ministry, to service, and respond

"We are God's People"

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
 known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
 bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
 weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
 to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
 fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
 on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
 gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Know that the
 LORD, he is God!
 It is he who made
 us, and we are his;
 we are his people,
 and the sheep of
 his pasture.

Psalm 100

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper to be strengthened for a life of discipleship serving God as his Church

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.

Matthew 11:25–30

Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

We enjoy Christ
only as we
embrace Christ
clad in his own
promises.
John Calvin

We live the life of discipleship serving God as his Church as we give our tithes and offerings to him

"All for Jesus"

Chords: B^b F/B^b Gm B^b7 E^b E^b/D E^b/C F7

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!

Chords: B^b B^b/A Gm Dm Cm F

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

Chords: F7 Bdim Cm Cm/B^b F^{sus} F

5 all let 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 call my spi - rit's vi - sion,
 his be - lov - ed,

Chords: B^b/G B^b/E^b F B^b

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

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

We cry out to God for our service to him to be empowered by his Spirit and blessed by him for his glory

*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.

Prayer involves struggle, but the struggle is not that of persuading our God. Rather, it is the struggle involved in being subdued by God, coming out of the dark and secret places in which we have been hiding the truth about ourselves, and laying the whole of our lives before him.

Sinclair Ferguson

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

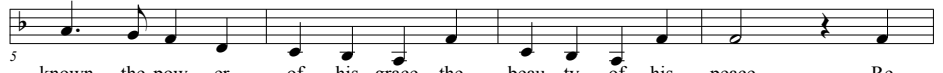
We sing out to serve: proclaiming the word and serving with love and grace

"Lift High the Name of Jesus"

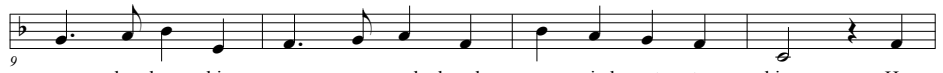
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28



1. Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our King. Make
2. Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Lord. His
3. Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Light. No



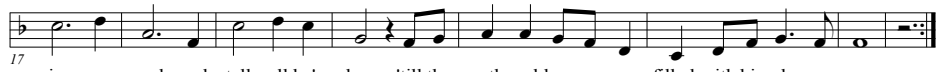
5 known the pow - er of his grace, the beau - ty of his peace. Re -
pow'r in us is great - er than, is great - er than this world. To
oth - er name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life. He



9 mem - ber how his mer - cy reached and we cried out to him. He
share the rea - son for our hope, to serve with love and grace, that
o - pens up our eyes to see the har - vest he has grown. We



13 lift - ed us to so - lid ground, to free - dom from our sin. Oh
all who see him shine through us might bring the Fa - ther praise.
la - bor in his fields of grace as he leads sin - ners home.



17 sing my soul and tell all he's done 'till the earth and heavens are filled with his glo - ry.

God promises the power by which we are able to serve

Hebrews 13

Leader: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be 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.*



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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Life's but a walking shadow, a poor
player that struts and frets his hour
upon the stage and then is heard no
more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full
of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

MacBeth

William Shakespeare

As I serve myself, I am the idiot that
tells the tale of my life, a tale full but
signifying nothing. Only by letting
God tell the tale of my life can it
signify something.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory