

February 16, 2020

Gospel Confrontation (I)

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The New Testament without the miracles would be far easier to believe. But the trouble is, it would not be worth believing...Without the miracles we should have a teacher; with the miracles we have a Saviour.

J. Gresham Machen
early 20th century Presbyterian pastor
& NT scholar

The church has experienced the victory of the kingdom of God; and yet the church is, like other men, at the mercy of the powers of this world.... This very situation creates a severe tension... The church can never be at rest or take her ease but must always be the church in struggle and conflict, often persecuted, but sure of the ultimate victory.

George Eldon Ladd
20th century Baptist pastor
and NT scholar

They shall see
the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God...
Then the eyes of the blind
shall be opened, and the ears
of the deaf unstopped; then
shall the lame man leap like
a deer, and the tongue of
the mute sing for joy.
Isaiah 35:2, 5-6

Then
he stretched himself
upon the child three times and
cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God,
let this child's life come into him again."
And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah.
And the life of the child came into him again,
and he revived. And Elijah took the child and
brought him down from the upper chamber into
the house and delivered him to his mother. And
Elijah said, "See, your son lives." And the
woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you
are a man of God, and that the word of
the LORD in your mouth is truth."
1 Kings 17:21-24

And
when the men had
come to him, they said, "John
the Baptist has sent us to you, saying,
'Are you the one who is to come, or shall
we look for another?'" In that hour he
healed many people of diseases and plagues
and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he
bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go
and tell John what you have seen and heard:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the
dead are raised up, the poor have good
news preached to them. And
blessed is the one who is not
offended by me."
Luke 7:20-23

"He
will wipe away
every tear from their
eyes, and death shall be
no more, neither shall
there be mourning, nor
crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things
have passed away."
Revelation 21:4

We suffer as much
from a consciousness
of sin as did our
ancestors without
believing in the conception
of sin. This is what makes a man
neurotic, he feels he is a sinner without the belief
for which he therefore needs a rational
explanation.

Otto Rank
20th century Austrian psychoanalyst and religious skeptic

Sin has corrupted all aspects of life—spiritual, psychological, social, and physical. The kingdom of God, however, is the renewal of every one of these areas under the power of God. Jesus' miracles were demonstrations of the coming of the kingdom...These supernatural deeds visibly demonstrated the way in which the kingdom of God restores the entire creation, and how all the effects of sin are healed under his rule.

Tim Keller
Presbyterian pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

People: He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

People: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

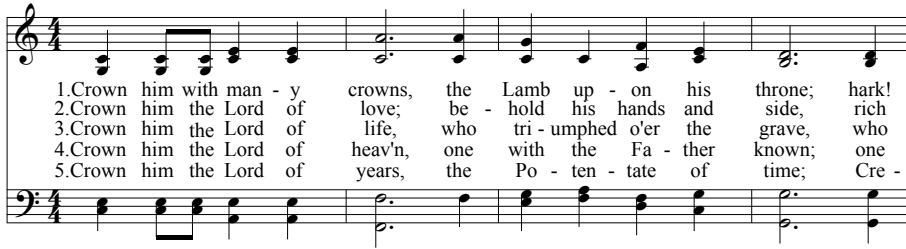
Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

People: For God is the King of all the earth.

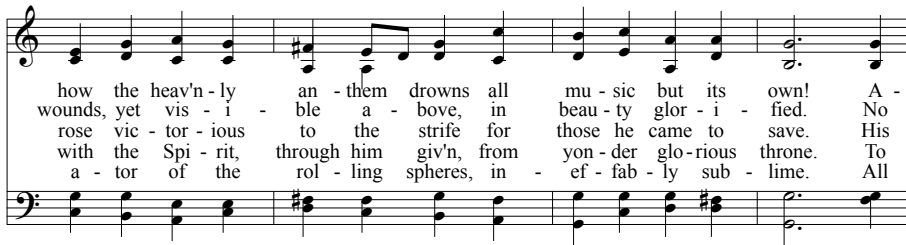
Hebrews 1
Psalm 47

We sing praises to our King

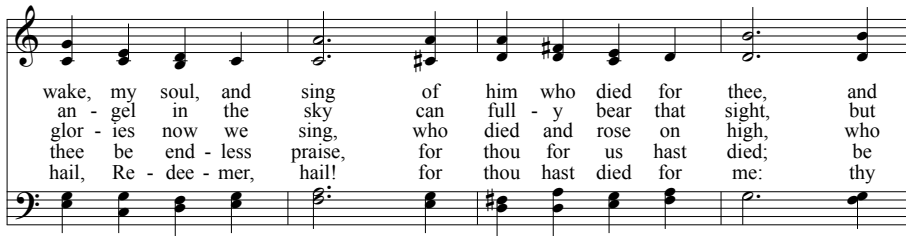
"Crown Him with Many Crowns"



1.Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!
2.Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, rich
3.Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, who
4.Crown him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Fa - ther known; one
5.Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time; Cre -



how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own! A -
wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied. No
rose vic - tor - ious to the strife for those he came to save. His
with the Spi - rit, through him giv'n, from yon - der glo - rious throne. To
a - tor of the rol - ling spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime. All



wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
an - gel in the sky can full - y bear that sight, but
glor - ies now we sing, who died and rose on high, who
thee be end - less praise, for thou for us hast died; be
hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! for thou hast died for me: thy



hail him as thy match - less King, through all e - ter - ni - ty.
down - ward bends his wond - ring eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - tern - al life to bring, and lives that death may die.
thou, O Lord, through end - less days a - dored and mag - ni - fied.
praise shall ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

Jesus Christ is the perfect display of God's grace and glory and therefore he is the ultimate call to worship.

"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."

Revelation 5

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God declares the reality of our sin and the death that it brings

Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

Romans 5

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1

We confess our sin

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 empty tomb of Easter is the assurance of our salvation. As the wages of sin is death (Romans 6), Christ's victory over death in his resurrection is our guarantee that by faith in him we find forgiveness, redemption from our sin, and eternal life in him.

God gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory?"

O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ...We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15
Romans 6

We sing out in praise of his great love that gives us victory, life, through the death of Jesus Christ

"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.
wounds have paid my ran - som. Why



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.

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

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

³²Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. ³⁴And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. ³⁵And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:32-43

³⁶Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. ³⁷In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴²And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Gospel Confrontation (1)

The Church that God Built

The first step in Christian preaching is to tell men and women that they and all their problems must always be considered in connection with God. That is the whole message of the Bible.
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

We turn to the Lord and give him glory for his victory over sin and death

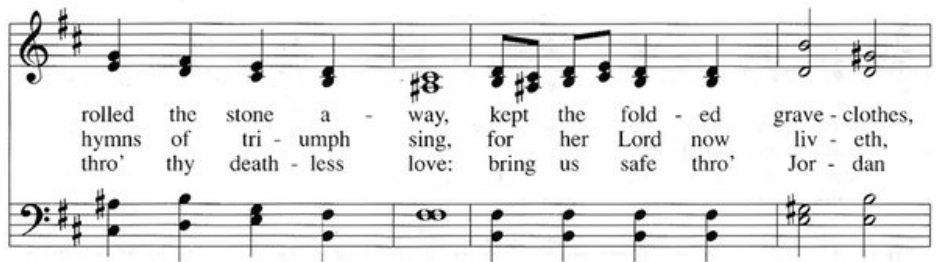
"Thine Be the Glory"



1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with -



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,
 out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,
 thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan



REFRAIN
 where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son;
 to thy home a - bove.



end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

The sting of death
 is sin, and the
 power of sin is the
 law. But thanks be
 to God, who gives
 us the victory
 through our Lord
 Jesus Christ.
 1 Corinthians 15

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

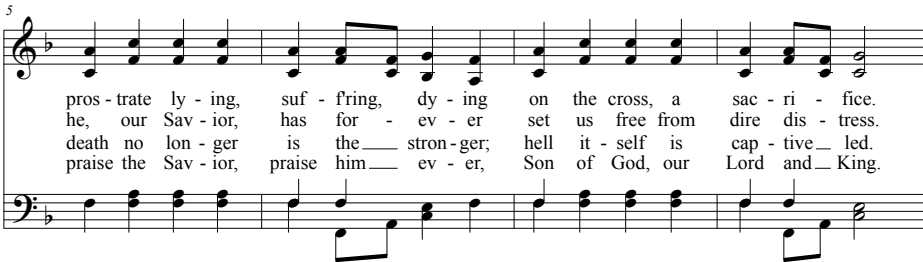
By the work of the Holy Spirit, we taste the fruits of Christ's victory over sin and death as we celebrate the Lord's Supper

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 proclaim that you are in covenant relationship with God, 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.

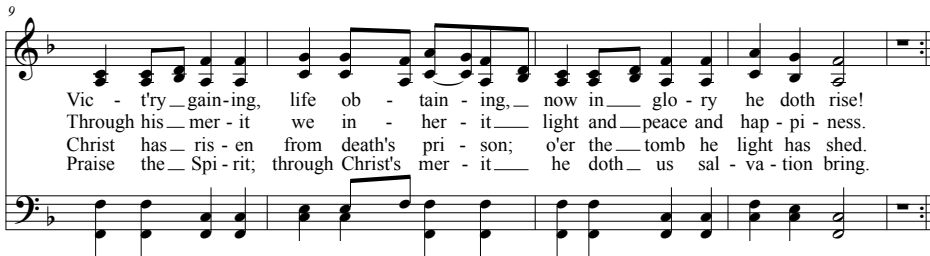
"Praise the Savior, Now and Ever"



1. Praise the Sav-ior, now and ev - er; praise him, all be - neath the skies;
2. Man's work fail-eth, Christ's a - vail - eth; he is all our righ-teous-ness;
3. Sin's bond sev-ered, we're de - liv - ered; Christ has bruised the ser-pent's head;
4. For his fa - vor, praise for - ev - er, un - to God the Fa - ther sing;



5
pros - trate ly - ing, suf - fring, dy - ing on the cross, a sac - ri - fice.
he, our Sav - ior, has for - ev - er set us free from dire dis - tress.
death no lon - ger is the stron - ger; hell it - self is cap - tive - led.
praise the Sav - ior, praise him ev - er, Son of God, our Lord and King.



9
Vic - t'ry gain-ing, life ob - tain - ing, now in glo - ry he doth rise!
Through his mer - it we in - her - it light and peace and hap - pi - ness.
Christ has ris - en from death's pri - son; o'er the tomb he light has shed.
Praise the Spi - rit; through Christ's mer - it he doth us sal - va - tion bring.

Clothed with our
flesh he
vanquished death
and sin together
that the victory
and triumph might
be ours.
John Calvin

We live our victory over sin and death through Christ proclaiming his glory as we give him 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 come to God in prayer that his glory would be proclaimed through us

"Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"



1. Je - sus, with thy church a - bid; be her Sav - ior,
 2. Keep her life and doct - rine pure; grant her pa - tience
 3. May she one in doct - rine be, one in truth and
 4. May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost un -



Lord, and guide, while on earth her faith is tried:
 to en - dure, trust - ing in thy prom - ise sure:
 char - i - ty, win - ning all to faith in thee:
 til she find, and the bro - ken - heart - ed bind:



we be - seech thee, hear us. we be - seech thee, hear us.
 we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.
 we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.
 we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.

True Christian
 prayer is always a
 preoccupation
 with God and his
 glory.
 John Stott

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We sing out, giving glory to God for victory over sin and death

"To God Be the Glory"

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done! So loved he the
2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood! To ev' - ry be -
3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our re -

6 world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for
liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be -
joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er and high - er and great - er will

12 sin. and o - pened the life - gate that we may go in. Praise the
lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus for - give - ness re - ceives.
be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

17 Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the

22 Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the

28 Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done!

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 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

Galatians 1

God promises his grace and peace poured out on us in victory

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.*

We go out from
worship in the
assurance of the
greatness of our
God, the one who
is able to do more
than we ask or
think, trusting in
his grace alone.



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
Paul Martin
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke



Credits

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I love the fact that the gospel confronts
sin and death—as long as it is my
death and someone else's sin. I am a
lot less comfortable with the gospel
confronting my sin.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory