SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Freedom is peace with God, the cleansing of our guilty conscience through faith in Christ crucified, the unutterable joy of forgiveness, acceptance, access and sonship, the experience of mercy without merit.

John Stott

British Reformed Anglican theologian and pastor

The gospel breaks down all conceivable barriers to spiritual unity and fellowship in the church. We do not cease being Jews or Gentiles, men or women, of course. We do, however, share the same Saviour, receive the same Spirit and the same baptism, and stand as members in God's church on too light precisely the same foundation.

Guy Prentiss Waters
Presbyterian NT scholar

too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Therefore
remember that at one
time you Gentiles in the flesh,
called "the uncircumcision" by what
is called the circumcision, which is
made in the flesh by hands-remember
that you were at that time separated from
Christ, alienated from the commonwealth
of Israel and strangers to the covenants of
promise, having no hope and without
God in the world. But now in Christ
Jesus you who once were far off
have been brought near by the
blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-13

"Hear
me, all of you, and
understand: There is nothing
outside a person that by going into
him can defile him, but the things that
come out of a person are what defile
him...Do you not see that whatever goes
into a person from outside cannot defile
him, since it enters not his heart but his
stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he
declared all foods clean.) And he
said, "What comes out of a
person is what defiles him."

Mark 7:14-20

A I I

the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

Psalm 22:27-28

The essence of the Holy Spirit's ministry is...to mediate the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

J.I. Packer Reformed Anglican theologian

In other words, the Spirit is sent to make Christ real to people and to show us who Christ really is in his glory, so that we come to love him, trust him, obey him, and show him to the world.

Derek Thomas Welsh Presbyterian pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of

his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his

marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all

Leader: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his People: sanctuary.

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory

and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering,

and come into his courts!

Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the

earth!



In worship we are part of "the large congregation" where all the writers of Scripture address us, where hymn writers use music to express truths that touch us not only in our heads but in our hearts, where the preacher who has just lived through six days of doubt, hurt, faith and blessing with the worshipers speaks the truth of

Scripture in the language of the congregation's

present

experience.

Eugene Peterson

Psalm 96

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

Isaiah 59

When we hear what God requires of us we are faced with the fact that we have not done and can not do what he requires. So for our worship to be honest it must acknowledge our failure. This leaves us no other hope but his grace and mercy.

God declares that our sin separates us from him

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear... But the Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins, declares the Lord.

We repent of our sin, confessing it and turning from it to God

Leader: Gracious and merciful God, you have said that:

You bless those who are poor in spirit, acknowledging their need of you,

giving them the kingdom of heaven.

People: But we have been proud in spirit, inflated with pride in our own strength;

we have forgotten how much we need you.

Leader: You have said that you bless those who mourn for their sin, for you will

comfort them.

People: But we have not mourned over our sins, instead we have hardened ourselves so that we are unaware of the sin in our own lives and the grief it

causes you.

Leader: You have said that you bless those who are gentle and lowly, for you will

give them the whole earth.

People: But we have valued toughness over gentleness. We have too often chosen to be concerned with ourselves rather than with our brothers and sisters and neighbors. Like the prodigal son, we want to satisfy ourselves rather

than you, our Father in heaven.

Leader: You have said that you bless those who hunger and thirst for you, for you

will satisfy them.

People: But we have hungered after the pleasures, prestige, and possessions of this

world. We have turned from you by choosing to satisfy our desires instead

of seeking you.

Leader: Lord, you have said that the wages of sin is death, but your gift is eternal life

in Christ Jesus.

People: And so we rejoice that it is not what our hands have done, but your grace and power displayed in Jesus' death that saves us, that brings us sweet and

permanent peace with you. May we stand in your grace in Jesus Christ and rejoice in the hope of your glory. Amen.

God declares that we have peace with him through the Redeemer who came

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God

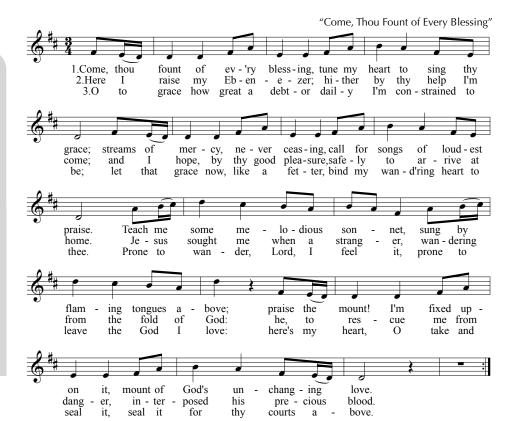
Colossians 1

Romans 5

We rest in the sweet and permanent peace that is ours in Christ Jesus



The Bible says that all people are sinners, fleeing from God. But in Jesus Christ we find peace and healing. In his death on the cross, he took our sin and paid the price for it. And so we come to him in faith, confessing our sin and need for him, trusting in his death alone to bring us life.



For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ²a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." ⁴And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." ¬When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ³and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance ¹¹and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹²In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." ¹⁵And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

¹⁷Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate ¹⁸and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. ¹⁹And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them." ²¹And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?" ²²And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." ²³So he invited them in to be his guests.

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." ²⁷And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for

Acts 10

Scripture is the ongoing rapport between heaven and earth, between Christ and his church, between God and his children. It does not just tie us to the past; it binds us to the living Lord in the heavens. It is the living voice God.

a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ²⁹So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me."

³⁰And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³²Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' ³³So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

What do the Scriptures principally teach?

The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

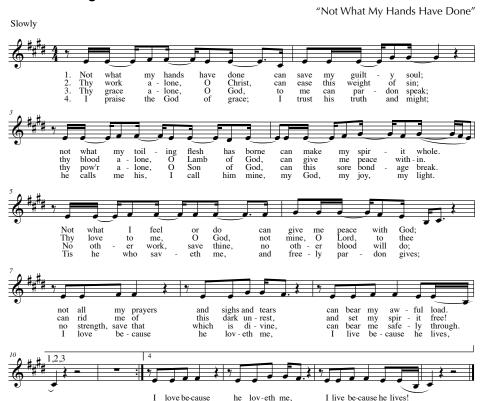
Question 3

Gospel Confrontation (2)

The Church that God Built

It is not the Bible itself, but the Bible in the hands of the Holy Spirit that manifests the power of God. The Holy Spirit displays the power of God in his Word through the human agency of Scripture explained.

We praise God that, though nothing we do can bring us peace with God, Christ's work has brought an end to our alienation from God



...by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We come to God and experience peace with him through Jesus Christ 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.



In the Lord's
Supper the
believer is
strengthened and
fed. In keeping the
sacrament as a
sign, we gain from
it a strengthened
faith; as a seal of
God's covenant
we gain increased
assurance of
salvation and
communion with
God.

As we give our offerings to God, we respond to his word to us in the reading and preaching of Scripture by offering ourselves to God again with renewed faith, love, gratitude, and commitment.

We celebrate our peace with God and our bond together as we give him our tithes and offerings

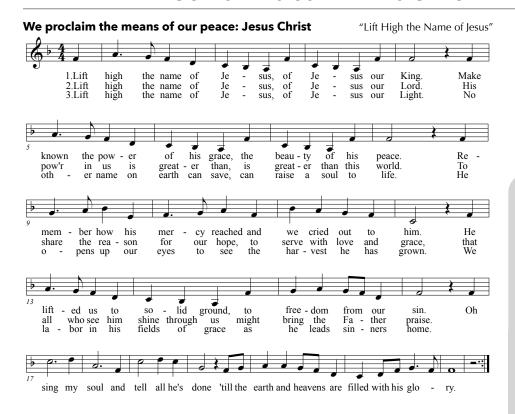
We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith, putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim, that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.

We come to God in prayer asking that he would be work in us by his Spirit to experience his peace in all of life and proclaim it to others

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



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

God promises his peace through Jesus Christ

Leader: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion 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.

Revelation 1



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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God offers peace with him: a relationship in which I am loved by the God of the universe. Why then am I willing to be content merely with a quiet life to do as I please?

broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory