

March 1, 2020

Standing in God's Way
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Turning to Christ involved a radical reorientation of allegiance and devotion... not simply repentance of particular sins, but a rejection of everything that hinders the reception of salvation through faith in Christ is meant.

David Peterson
Australian NT scholar

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:1-10

Guidance is Scripture-based rather than emotion-based. All our inclinations and sense of direction in any given circumstance must be tested by God's Word.

Derek Thomas
Welsh Presbyterian pastor

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
Romans 15:7

The terms on which God accepts sinners in Jesus Christ must shape and determine the terms of their fellowship one with another.

Guy Prentiss Waters
Presbyterian NT scholar

"So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!"
Acts 5:38-39

In practical terms, this narrative challenges Christians to be wary of allowing any cultural, social, or inherited religious barriers to hinder the acceptance of new converts into the church. At the same time, it is an encouragement to recognize when a work of God's Spirit is taking place—perhaps in unexpected ways, in unexpected quarters—and a warning not to be found opposing that work.

David Peterson
Australian NT scholar

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.

Psalms 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,



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.



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.



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 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.

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

"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.

We pray as Christ taught us

Matthew 6

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.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

Jesus declares that he came to call sinners to himself

And as Jesus reclined at table in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2

We confess that we are sinners called into relationship with God through Jesus

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 only way we are able to come before God is through Jesus Christ. The amazing love of Christ's death on the cross was the perfect sacrifice which satisfied the Father's justice. This he gives us by his free grace, completely unearned and undeserved by us.

God declares our hope and salvation: that we sinners can come to him as his children through Jesus Christ

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot... when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

1 Peter 1
Galatians 4

We answer the call to come, trusting in Jesus Christ alone

"Come, Ye Sinners"

"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."

Matthew 11



1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and wretch - ed,
2. Come, ye need - y, come and wel - come,
3. Come, ye wea - ry, hea - vy la - den,
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger,
5. Lo! the in - car - nate God, a - scend - ed,



weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;
God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
bruised and bro - ken by the fall;
nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;
pleads the mer - it of his blood;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you,
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
all the fit - ness he re - qui - res
ven - ture on him, ven - ture whol - ly,



full of pi - ty joined with power.
ev - r'y grace that brings you nigh.
you will ne - ver come at all.
is to feel your need of him.
let no oth - er trust in - trude.



He is a - ble, he is a - ble,
With - out mon - ey, with - out mon - ey,
Not the righ - teous, not the righ - teous;
This he gives you, this he gives you,
None but Je - sus, none but Je - sus



he is will - ing; doubt no more.
come to Je - sus Christ and buy.
sin - ners Je - sus came to call.
'tis the Spir - it's ris - ing beam.
can do help - less sin - ners good.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Acts 11:1-18

The God who speaks in Scripture speaks to us now. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present in the sermon offering grace and calling for obedience.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Standing in God's Way

The Church that God Built

Preaching is not
about eloquence
or entertainment.
Preaching is letting
God's Word loose,
so that by its
power it changes
our lives.

We listen to hear God speak that we may join in his work

“Speak, O Lord”



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you, to re - ceive the food of your
 2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly re - ver - ence, true hu -
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your



ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
 mi - li - ty. Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us. Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us in your like - ness. That the light of Christ might be
 ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your



seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
 prom - is - es; and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all your
 Words of pow'r that can ne - ver fail; let their
 Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the



pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 earth is filled with your glo - ry.

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. 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.
 Hebrews 1

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

The Lord's Supper sets before us Christ crucified, who in the sacrament conveys to our faith all the blessings contained in the giving of his life for those who believe.

By faith in Jesus Christ we experience the gift of God, his Holy Spirit at work within us, 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.

"Here is Love"



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

3.



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.

We offer ourselves to God for his work wherever, however, whatever it might be as we give him our tithes and offerings "Take My Life and Let It Be"

C F F/A G Am Am/G

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways, on - ly,
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
 5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no
 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its

F G sus G C F F/A G

7 Lord to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be
 for my king. Take my lips, and let them be
 I with - hold Take my in - tel - lect, and use
 lon - ger mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;
 trea - sure store. Take my self, and I will be

Am Am/G F G

14 let them flow in cease - less praise,
 swift and beau - ti - ful for thee,
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee,
 ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,
 it shall be thy roy - al throne,
 e - ver, on - ly, all for thee,

Am Am/G F G sus G

let them flow in cease - less praise.
 swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 it shall be thy roy - al throne.
 e - ver, on - ly, all for thee!

2, 4, 6. G Am G F Em F/D G sus G

23 Take my life, all I am; take my life and make it thine.

We come to God in prayer asking to see his hand at work that we may join in what he is doing with all that we are

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.

In your prayer, beware above everything of limiting God, not only by unbelief but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do... and expect great things.

Andrew Murray

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

Pray then like this:
 "Our Father in
 heaven, hallowed
 be your name. Your
 kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in
 heaven."
 Matthew 6

We cry out that we would not only not stand in God's way, but that he would use us for his glory "Let Your Kingdom Come"

1. Your glo-rious cause, O God, en - ga - ges our hearts.
 2. Give us your strength, O God, and cour-age to speak.

5 May Je - sus Christ be known where - ev - er we are.
 Per - form your won - drous deeds through those who are weak.

9 We ask not for our - selves, but for your re - nown.
 Lord, use us as you want, what - ev - er the test.

13 The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your king - dom come."
 By grace we'll preach your gos - pel 'till our dy - ing breath.

18 Let your king - dom come, — let your will be done. — so that ev - 'ry - one

24 — might know your Name. — Let your song be heard — ev - 'ry - where on earth,

30 — 'till your sov - 'reign work — on earth is done: — let your king - dom come! —

God promises to work in us that which is pleasing to him

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
Paul Martin
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke

Credits

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Jesus came to call sinners and tax collectors—fallen, broken people cast out and given up on by religion. He calls his Church to join him in eating with them, having relationship with them. Who is he eating with today through you?

