

July 12, 2020

Plain & Simple

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

We have to be careful what we decide to make into gospel issues and not simply allow our own immediate context or admittedly important cultural struggles to be decisive.

Carl Trueman
professor of historical theology and church history
Westminster Theological Seminary

When Jesus said, 'It is finished!', he wasn't just talking about his part, but our part too. It's all of grace.

Scotty Smith
Presbyterian pastor

Y e t
we know that a
person is not justified by
works of the law but through
faith in Jesus Christ, so we also
have believed in Christ Jesus, in
order to be justified by faith in Christ
and not by works of the law,
because by works of the law no
one will be justified.

Galatians 2:16

Look: I,
Paul, say to you that if
you accept circumcision,
Christ will be of no advantage to
you. I testify again to every man who
accepts circumcision that he is obligated
to keep the whole law. You are severed
from Christ, you who would be justified by
the law; you have fallen away from grace. For
through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves
eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.
For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision
nor uncircumcision counts for
anything, but only faith working
through love.

Galatians 5:2-6

F o r
you are a people
holy to the LORD your
God, and the LORD has
chosen you to be a people for
his treasured possession, out of
all the peoples who are on the
face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 14:2

"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 11:28-30

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all,
subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly
dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

Martin Luther

16th century German monk and leader of the Reformation

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.

Hebrews 1

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.

Psalms 47

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.**

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 for 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, 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!

We do not
worship because
we feel like
worshipping. We
worship because
God has called us
to worship him.
Worship is an act
that develops our
feelings for God,
not a feeling that
we express in an
act.

"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 calls out to us to see the futility of coming to him by our deeds

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

Galatians 3

"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."... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3

We confess that we have sinned and fall short of his glory

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 good news of the gospel is that in Christ we are forgiven! Our assurance of this is based on God's words of promise in Scripture and not on our accomplishments, hopes, or desires. It is the death of Jesus Christ that gives us life.

God declares that it is finished—he has done all that we could not, everything that is needed for our salvation

As it is, Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself... And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 9, 10

We glory in the finished work of Christ

"It Is Finished"



1. Hark, the voice of love and mer - cy sounds a - loud from Cal - va - ry!
2. "It is fin - ished," o what plea - sure do these charm - ing words a - ford.
3. Fin - ished all the types and sha - dows of the cer - e - mon - ial law.
4. Tune your harps a - new, ye ser - aphs, join to sing the pleas - ing theme.



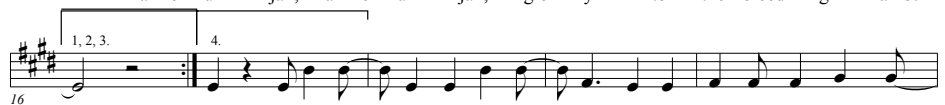
See, it rends the clouds a - sun - der, shakes the earth and veils the sky!
Heav'n - ly bless - ings with - out mea - sure flow to us from Christ the Lord.
Fin - ished all that God had pro - mised; death and hell no more shall awe.
Saints on earth, and all in hea - ven, join to praise E - man - uel's name.



"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," hear the dy - ing Sav - ior cry.
"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," saints the dy - ing words re - cord.
It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished: saints from hence your com - fort draw.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!



"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," hear the dy - ing Sav - ior cry.
"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," saints the dy - ing words re - cord.
It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished: saints from hence your com - fort draw.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
John 19

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ²And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

Acts 15:1-35

⁶The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

¹²And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶"After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;
I will rebuild its ruins,
and I will restore it,

¹⁷that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,
says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸known from of old.'

¹⁹Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹For from ancient generations Moses has had in

In Scripture Jesus cries out to us, "Come to me." We come to him, the Word made flesh (John 1), as we come to the Word of God, the Bible. It is here that he confronts us with all the glory of God.

every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

²²Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, ²³with the following letter: “The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. ²⁴Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, ²⁵it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

³⁰So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. ³¹And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. ³²And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. ³³And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them.[†] ³⁵But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

It is not enough to come to Scripture with a mind, however clear, powerful or intellectual. In the understanding and elucidation of Scripture, the spirit is very much more important even than the mind.
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

[†]Some manuscripts insert verse 34: “But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.”

Sermon

Plain & Simple
The Church that God Built

Rev. Per Almquist

God... does not
send teachers to
make the air
resound with
empty words, but
in order to work
mightily by their
voice and to bring
their words to life
by the power of
his Spirit, for the
salvation of
believers.
John Calvin

We rest in the work of Jesus Christ alone for salvation

"Not What My Hands Have Done"



1. Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - y soul;
 2. Thy work a - lone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
 3. Thy grace a - lone, O God, to me can par - don speak;
 4. I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;



not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.
 thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace with - in.
 thy pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can this sore bond - age break.
 he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.



Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
 Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee
 No oth - er work, save thine, no oth - er blood will do;
 Tis he who sav - eth me, and free - ly par - don gives;



not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load,
 can rid me of this dark un - rest, and set my spir - it free!
 no strength, save that which is di - vine, can bear me safe - ly through.
 I love be - cause he lov - eth me, I live be - cause he lives,

...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 proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ plain & simple:

Celebrating the Lord's Supper to proclaim the death of Jesus Christ as the only thing that brings us salvation

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.

For as often as you
eat this bread and
drink this cup, you
proclaim the
Lord's death until
he comes again.
1 Corinthians 11

Giving our tithes and offerings to proclaim that we are saved only by his grace through faith

But God, being rich in mercy,
because of the great love with which he loved us,
even when we were dead in our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—
and raised us up with him
and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
For 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.
For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2

Coming to God in prayer to rest in the finished work of 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 stand and declare that we live on the solid rock of Jesus Christ

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

1. My hope is built on no - thing less than
2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3. His oath, his cov - en - ant, his blood, sup -
4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; I
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in
port me in the whirl - ing flood; when
may I then in him be found; dressed

dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale, my
all a - round my soul - y gives way, he
in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name. On
an - chor holds with - in the veil.
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.

Christ, the sol - id rock I stand; all
o - ther ground is sink - ing sand, all
o - ther ground is sink - ing sand.

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.

1 Peter 2

God declares the reality of a life lived on the solid rock of Christ

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed you in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose you in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Ephesians 1, 6

People: Amen

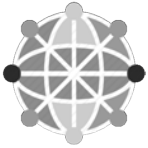
Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

*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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Shannon Van Dyke, *voice*; Sarah Clarke, *voice*; Kyle Almquist, *piano*; Beth Almquist, *violin*

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Gospel + anything = nothing

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory