

September 14, 2025

Without a Doubt: Why I came

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-every one-to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

God has made us His favorites. God has ingratiated us. He has made us gracious in the Son of His love. Through the blood of Christ, we are lovely and beautiful in God's eyes.

Thomas Brooks

17th century Puritan pastor and author

Ask whether after the fall, God gave up this, his splendid creation, this human race, with all its treasure of his image... in order that, casting it aside he might create something entirely new out of and for the elect. The answer is decidedly negative... God has not deserted the work of his hands.

Abraham Kuyper 19th century Dutch Reformed theologian, pastor, and statesman I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

Ezekiel 34:16

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalm 23:5

I am somebody cause God don't make no junk.

Ethel Waters 20th century American gospel singer

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Luke 22:19-20

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true words of God.'

Revelation 19:9

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

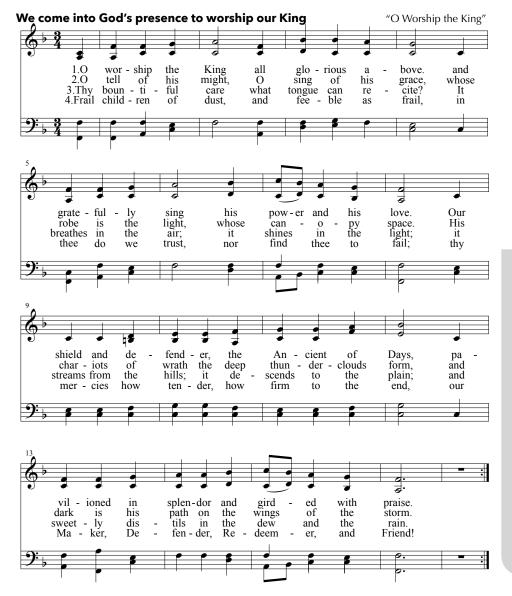
Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of

our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

People: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

People: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.



Psalm 95

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. Psalm 104

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God proclaims that our pride blinds us to our sin which needs to be healed

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

We confess our pride and thinking we do not need a physician

Father in heaven, we have not done what is right and good. We have not sought you. We have turned from you to our own ways and so fall far, far short of your glory. We need to be forgiven.

We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction.

Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed.

Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us for looking to the good you have done within us as the payment of our hands for salvation. Forgive us, not for our name's sake, but for your name's sake, that you will be glorified as your grace is made perfect in our weakness through Jesus Christ. This we ask in his name. Amen.

grace that we see our sins for what as we really are, sin-sick sinners in need of a

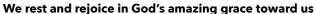
Luke 18

God declares that though we were proud and distanced, Christ brought us near

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

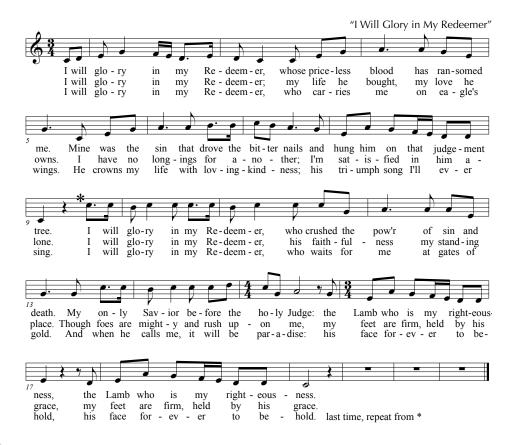
It is only by God's they are. It is only by his grace that we see ourselves physician.

Romans 8





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. Ephesians 2



redemption | ri'dempSH**ə**n |

the action of gaining or regaining possession of (something) in exchange for payment; buying back
It is God who buys back his people from the wages of their sin (death) through paying those wages in the death of Christ.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

[27] After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." [28] And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

Luke 5:27-32

[29] And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. [30] And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" [31] And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. [32] I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Rev. Adam Lee Sermon

Without a Doubt: Why I Came That You May Be Certain

Jesus came to call sinners to repentance:
1) Purposefully seeking the outcast (v27)
1) I diposeidily seeking the outcust (127)
2) Scandalously eating with sinners (vv.29–30)
3) Boldly revealing his purpose (vv .31–32)
Conclusion (v28)

We answer Christ's call, encouraging one another to come to the table of grace



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Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper satisfied by Christ's presence with us

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 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 are acknowledging 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.



You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Augustine of Hippo

We declare our dependance on Christ's work and reject our own ideas of self righteousness

Elder: 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.

Through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me...

Elder: Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until

Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus we are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of us as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. And if we are Christ's, then we are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Elder: I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

But 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 we are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So we are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

In prayer, we come to the one who has called us, asking to be strengthened to follow him where he leads

> 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.

Galatians 2 & 3

We pray because we are children. weak enough to need God's help, and also believers. wise and confident enough to ask God, our Father to help us.

GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

After dining with Jesus, we lift our voices proclaiming the richness of being in his prensence

"How Sweet and Awesome is the Place



sing

your

deem

grace.

re

Jesus Christ is the table, the feast, and the host; and when poor sinners sit down with him, they find him all in all.

Charles H. Spurgeon

God assures us He has called us by name, giving us strength to follow him

soul,

and

Leader: But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

People: Amen

voice

and

heart

Please stay and join us for a time of 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

Isaiah 41



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. Dr. Per Almquist Brian Cosgrove Rev. Adam Lee Ken Morris Ben Van Dyke

Credits

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Jake Paris, guitar; Dan Crawford, voice; Joanne Crosby, flute

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Our Daily Worship A through-the-week devotional



The following pages are provided for you with a desire to "lead you beside still waters". May they assist you in your walk with Christ through week, as you practice his presence, feed upon his word, and reflect upon how both impact your weekly life.

SUNDAY

Scripture – Luke 5:27-32

Reflection: Luke strings together a series of events, and though we cannot yet see the whole necklace, already its beauty is clear. Jesus wanted us to know without a doubt: he was willing to heal the leper — both physically and relationally. Next came the paralyzed man. Jesus was not content simply to heal his body; he made it clear: he has authority to forgive sins. And now, with Levi, we see both together: his willingness to touch the unclean and his power to forgive sins.

To the Pharisees, Levi was the lowest of the low. They could not see how the Messiah would sit with this man. They never imagined that God's Messiah would really stoop this low — either in your own life, or in the life of another?

Christ Connection: The One who cleanses the unclean and forgives the guilty came to call sinners to repentance and restore them to covenant community.

Luke 5:13 — What did Jesus say to the leper who asked to be made clean?

Luke 5:24 — What did Jesus prove when he told the paralytic to rise and walk?

Luke 5:32 — Who does Jesus say he came to call?

Consider: How does Levi embody the needs of both these men?

Where/who in your life are you tempted to think, "Surely Jesus would not stoop this low"?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you want to cleanse, that you are able to forgive, and that you came to call sinners like me. Keep me from doubting your mission of grace. Help me to take my place at your table with humility and joy. Amen.

MONDAY

Scripture: Luke 5:27a "After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth."

Reflection: Jesus did not stumble upon Levi by accident. Luke says he "went out" with purpose. The good shepherd always seeks his lost sheep. He was not afraid to fix his gaze on Levi, the outcast, and to summon him with authority. When he saw Levi sitting in the tax booth, he didn't look with disdain or turn away in disgust. And when Jesus looked at him, he did not see "junk." He saw one made in the image of God, valuable. As someone once said, "God doesn't make junk, and he doesn't junk what he makes." That same gaze and call falls on us.

Our Common Weakness: Shame convinces us that our sins make us worthless, so we hide from Christ's gaze.

Christ Connection: As the good shepherd, Jesus leaves the 99... leaving Heaven itself to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 15:4 What simple truth is stated about any good shepherd that cares for sheep?

Ezekiel 34:11, 16 What does God promise to do for his sheep who are lost or straying?

Isaiah 65:1 Who does it say does the seeking? Who does it say is not seeking?

Consider: How do these passages deepen your understanding of why Jesus "went out" to find Levi?

Embrace: What difference does it make to know that when Jesus looks at you, he sees one made in God's image and worth restoring?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you sought me when I was not seeking you. Thank you that your gaze is not one of disdain but of redeeming love. You see me as valuable because I bear your image, and you restore what sin has marred. Help me not to hide in shame, but to rise and follow you with joy, trusting that your call gives what it commands. Amen.

TUESDAY

Scripture: Luke 5:29

Reflection: Levi's first act of discipleship was to throw a feast for Jesus. He gave what he had — his house, his table, his circle of friends — to honor the One who called him. Grace overflows into celebration. Yet what Levi offered became scandal in the eyes of the Pharisees, for his guest list was filled with tax collectors and sinners. But Jesus was not ashamed to sit at that table. Just as he touched the leper, he now reclines with the outcast, showing that the joy of salvation is not private but shared.

Our Common Weakness: We often keep grace to ourselves — offering little to Jesus, or sharing it only with those who are already "clean.

Christ Connection: Jesus was not afraid to come and dwell among us. He left heaven to sit at our tables on earth. He touched the leper and he touches sinners, showing that no one is beyond his reach.

Luke 5:29 – What kind of feast does Levi make for Jesus? What do you suppose this means?

John 12:2–3 – What quality of offering does Mary offer?

Philippians 2:6–7– How does this passage describe the way Jesus humbled himself to dwell among us?

Consider: How do these passages show that grace overflows into celebration and that true worship offers Jesus what we have, no matter the cost?

Embrace: What would it look like for you to offer Jesus a "feast" from what is in your hand?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you were not ashamed to sit at Levi's table, and that you are not ashamed to dwell with sinners like me. Teach me to honor you with what I have, whether great or small. Let your grace overflow in my life as joy, and keep me from holding it back only for those who seem "clean." Help me to extend your welcome so that others may join the feast of your salvation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Luke 5:31-32

Reflection: We are all masters of self-deception. Like the Pharisees, we convince ourselves we are "well enough." But Jesus tells the truth: apart from him, every heart is desperately sick. What we need is a proper diagnosis. And it is grace that gives it — grace that uncovers the disease so we will come to the Physician. If you see yourself not as healthy but sick, take heart. That is the Spirit's work, leading you to repentance. And in that place, you can rejoice in the goodness of God, for as the Beatitudes declare: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*.

Our Common Weakness: We deceive ourselves into thinking we are righteous or well, and so we resist repentance.

Christ Connection: Jesus, the great Physician, opens our eyes to see our true condition. As we look upon his righteousness, it reveals the lack of our own. Yet the one who exposes our sickness also heals us by his grace, calling sinners to repentance and life.

Psalm 14:3 – How many are truly righteous in this verse?

Jeremiah 17:9 – How does this verse describe the ability of the human heart to properly diagnose itself?

1 Timothy 1:15 – Who did Christ Jesus come into the world to save?

Consider: What do these passages teach us about our self-deception and our need for a proper diagnosis from God's Word?

Embrace: How does it comfort you to know that as you look upon Christ's righteousness and see your lack, the very one who exposes your sin is also the one who heals you by his grace?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you came for the sick and not the well, for sinners and not the righteous. Strip away my self-deception and open my eyes to my true condition. As I look upon your righteousness and see my lack, lead me to repentance and heal me by your grace. Amen.

THURSDAY

Scritpure – Luke 5:32

Reflection: Luke has shown us a string of pearls: the leper taught us that Jesus *wills* to make us clean; the paralytic showed us that Jesus *can* forgive sins; and Levi now reveals *why* Jesus came — to call sinners to repentance. This is his mission statement. And it leaves no room for doubt: the Physician came for the sick, the Savior came for the lost. Levi spread bread and wine for his friends, but Jesus spread a table of his own, offering his body and blood for sinners. Every time we take our seat at his table, we proclaim this truth: he came for sinners, he came for me, and he will come again.

Our Common Weakness: We often stand outside with the grumblers, doubting if grace really includes us — or resenting the place Christ gives to others.

Christ Connection: Jesus not only sat at Levi's table; he spread a table of his own. By offering his body and blood, he paid the price of admission and secures our place at his feast.

*Matthew 11:28- Who does Jesus invite to the table? What does he promise to give?

Mark 1:15- According to Jesus, what must sinners do to come to this table?

1 Corinthians 11:26- Each time we eat and drink at the Lord's table, what do we declare is was the price of our admission?

Consider: What does it reveal about the heart of God that he not only invites the weary, but also calls sinners to repentance, providing for them the very price of their admission to his table?

Embrace: As one who has been invited by Christ, repented, and believed, how will you come to his table this week — with humble gratitude, joyful faith, and assurance that your place is secured by his death?

Prayer Lord Jesus, thank you that you have invited me to your table. You have called me to repent and believe, and by your death you have purchased my place. Teach me to come with humility, joy, and assurance, proclaiming your grace each time I eat and drink. Help me to live with gratitude for the price you paid and to extend your welcome to others who need your grace. Amen.

FRIDAY- CATECHISM CORNER

Q. #87 What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Reflection: When Jesus says, "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance," he is describing this very grace. Repentance is not just regret or self-repair; it is turning from sin because we see the mercy of God in Christ. Levi left everything because he found something better — the One who calls sinners to himself. He turned from one thing, to something better. This is a saving grace.

Acts 11:18- According to this verse, where does repentance come from, and what does it lead to?

Joel 2:12–13 — What does God call us to do when we repent, and how should it affect our hearts?

2 Corinthians 7:10 — What kind of grief produces true repentance, and what kind of grief does not?

Consider: What do these passages reveal about the kind of repentance God desires — not outward performance or empty regret, but a Spirit-given turning of the heart that leads to life?

Embrace: As one who has been granted repentance by God's grace, how can you practice turning from sin and turn to Christ with confidence in his mercy and new obedience?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that repentance unto life is a gift of your grace. Left to myself I would only hide or cling to regret, but you grant repentance that leads to life. Teach me to turn from sin with godly sorrow, to return to you with all my heart, and to rest in your mercy. Strengthen me to walk in new obedience, rejoicing that you came to call sinners like me. Amen.

PRAYER/PRAISES

Your elders are praying over the following matters and invite you to join us in seeking the Lord's help:

1) Pray that the Lord would raise up deacons from within our congregation.

In this season, many practical needs are being met by your elders, which can stretch the time we have for our primary calling—prayer and the ministry of the Word. We are trusting the Lord to provide co-laborers who can share in the care and service of Christ's body."

Use this space to track things you are praying for this week:

This Week In Focus:

Sunday, September 14th -

Prayer Meeting- 6:00pm at the church

Tuesday- September 23rd-

Free Grace English@ The Root Cellar- 6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday- September 17th-

Conversations in Grace- 7:00pm – At the church (bring your worship folder)

Friday, September 19th -

Men's Night - 7:00pm - Lee Family Fire Pit

Youth Group - 7:00pm – At the church

Saturday, September 27th-

Isaac Marston's Memorial Service- 11am- East Auburn Baptist Church

Saturday, October 4th-

Discussion about Ladies Discipleship Opportunities- 1:30pm at the VanDyke home. Please contact Shannon FMI about the purpose and vision of this time.

Sunday, September 21st-

Praying for Prodigals- 8:30am in the pastor's office

<u>If you do not know</u> the address of any event, or the contact information for any event, please contact either Pastor Adam at adam.lee@freegrace.us or Linda at the email address below.

If you would like to be added to our church-family email where you can keep in touch through the week, or if you would like to be added to the church directory, please email Linda at

linda.morris@freegrace.us

<u>If you are a member of Free Grace</u> and are not using the church directory app, you are missing out on a very useful tool. Please reach out to Linda to see how to download it to your phone.

Weekly Gatherings

Conversations in Grace -*Wednesday 7:00pm – At the church(conversation about the weekly devotional).*

Youth Group - Fridays, 7:00pm – At the church

Prayer Meeting - Sundays, 6:00pm – At the church

Monthly Gatherings

First Friday Fires - 1st Friday, 5:45pm - Lee Family Home

Bring a side dish, and dress appropriately for the weather.

Second Sunday Discussions - 2nd Sunday, 15 minutes after worship ends Family-style conversations on a rotating topic.

Women's Breakfast - 2nd Saturday, 9:30am – Cosgrove Family Home

Men's Night - 3rd Friday, 7:00pm - Location varies

Praying for Prodigals - 3rd Sunday, 8:30am - Church building

broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory