

*January 29, 2012*

**SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Of Princeton, New Jersey*

**Jesus Christ**

For by Him were all things created,  
that are in heaven, and that are in earth,  
visible and invisible ...

And He is before all things,  
and by Him all things consist.  
- Colossians 1:16-17

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class  
11:00 AM Morning Service  
Thursday: 7:00 PM Mid-week Service

**WEB ADDRESS**

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:  
[www.FreeGraceMedia.com](http://www.FreeGraceMedia.com)

**WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION**

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
150 Washington Street  
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

**MAILING ADDRESS**

7 Birch Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534

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If you would like to receive this bulletin sent weekly to your email  
then send a note to the email address above.

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**10:15 a.m.**      **Bible Study:** “Total Ruin” *Genesis 3:1-8:22*

**Short Break**

**11:00 a.m.**      **Service:** “You Do Well To Take Heed” *1 Peter 1:19-21*

**Opening Hymns**

**Scripture Reading**

**Message**

**Closing Hymns**

**Proverbs 13:20: He that walketh with wise men, shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.**

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To complain of the second cause is about as sensible as the conduct of the dog, which bites the stick with which it is beaten. It owes no anger to the stick, but to the person who uses it. Is there evil in the city and the Lord hath not done it? Whoever is the instrument, the Lord overrules. In our heart of hearts our rebellion is against the Lord himself. We have not quite honesty enough to rail against God openly and avowedly, and so we hypocritically cover up our repining against him by murmuring against some person, occasion, or event. “If I had not happened to go out on such an occasion I might not have had that cold and been laid aside.” Thus we blame an accidental circumstance, as if it were not part of the divine arrangement. Is this complaining of the second cause better than railing against God? I trow not, for, in very deed, it is railing against God.

C.H. Spurgeon

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Children of God, the paths of our lives are well ordered; for they are ordered by our heavenly Father, who is too wise to err, too strong to fail, and too good to do wrong.

Don Fortner

## **SUBSTITUTION**

Matthew 27:15-26

The gospel is good news because it is the truth of how notably guilty sinners go free because a Substitute died in their place. If you ever find yourself to be the sinner on God's death row then you will no longer kick against God's free grace but go out with rejoicing.

### **A Notable Prisoner (Matthew 27:15-16)**

In your mind are there certain names in history that are synonymous with horrible crimes? What about your own? Barabbas was a notable prisoner, bound, unable to break the chains and bars that held him. That is where every sinner is as we are born in our flesh (Mat 5:21-22, 15:19; Jer 13:23; Gal 3:10, 22-23). Does that describe you? A sinner never knows the love of God in Christ, the joy of justice satisfied by Christ, until we know ourselves to be the notable prisoner.

### **Christ the Just Man (Matthew 27:15-19)**

Jesus is the Christ; God come in human flesh. Jesus is the Savior "for he shall save his people from their sins". Jesus took the nature of his children to honor the law, satisfy justice, and set his elect free by laying down his life in their place. All the charges against Barabbas were true but all the charges against Christ were false (Mat 3:17; Heb 7:26). Why was it a must that the One who would die in the place of his people have no sin? Only one without sin could willingly be made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (2 Cor 5:21).

### **The Spirit of Anti-Christ (Matthew 27:20)**

The chief priests and elders hated God and loved their vain show of religion so much that they would rather change the truth into a lie, set a guilty criminal free and crucify the Prince of life. The spirit of antichrist would rather make sinners gods, set them free to their own will and destroy Truth rather than for God to be God. Declaring Christ died for all men and that sinners make his blood effectual by an act of their will or that sinners add something by their works is as much a desire to destroy the Prince of life as those whose own muscles moved the hammer to drive the nails. This delusion which reduces God's love to insignificant, ineffectual nothingness is proof that depravity is not merely a doctrine but the very heart of enmity

that prevents a sinner from submitting to the word of God. But this dark desire to attribute to ourselves the glory of God is the wicked heart from which God the Holy Spirit irresistibly, invincibly, successfully saves Christ's redeemed. It is the very sin of every heart from which God-given repentance turns. Be honest right now, are you abased to rejoice that salvation is of the Lord or are you screaming to defend your will and destroy the Prince of Life? Know this, the absolute sovereign God of glory is able to make even the wrath of man praise him! In their rebellion the man-exalting spirits of antichrist who screamed for Christ's destruction only did exactly what God determined before to be done (Is 53:9-10).

### **Christ Died in Place of His People (Matthew 27:21-26)**

Put your place in that cell with Barabbas. He hears his name shouted by the crowd. Then he hears, "Crucify him, crucify him!" He is convinced he is a dead man walking. The jailor opens the door to his cell. But instead of dragging him to the cross, the jailor unlocks Barabbas' shackles announcing that Christ Jesus has taken his place on the cross; therefore, Barabbas is a free man. That is the good news of substitution! Every chosen child for whom the Son of God shed his blood at Calvary shall be set free by the Spirit of regeneration through the key of the gospel of the free grace of God. It is not possible for the law to punish the Substitute and punish those for whom he died. The truth of the successful particular redemption of chosen sinners is the gospel which manifests the righteousness of God—all others are not another. He has seen the travail of his soul and is satisfied. Is this news good to you or do you scream unfair? Do you think Barabbas screamed unfair? Do you think he argued that there was something yet that he must do? Do you think he had to be persuaded out of that jail cell? Many convicts have had to be hog-tied to get them in a prison cell, not one pardoned prisoner has had to be coerced to go free. Has the Spirit of God entered into your heart with this gospel, unlocked your bars of spiritual death with life, unshackled your chains of unbelief with the gift of faith? When death-row sinners behold the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus it is the Light of the open door on the eternal day of blessed pardon. Picture Barabbas dancing and singing, "Redeemed! Redeemed! Free! Free!" Oh, may God have mercy today and make us sing that joyful song!