

*February 12, 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**

**Short Break**

**11:00 a.m. Service**

**Opening Hymns**

**Scripture Reading**

**Message**

**Closing Hymns**

### **TEMPTATION**

#### **Matthew 4:1-11**

Brethren, though our Savior was tempted of the devil, Christ conquered our foe (1 Jn 3:8; He 2:14-15, 18). Yet, we need to learn from Satan's tactics as well as from how our Lord resisted. Our Lord had no sin in him to tempt, but we do. John summed up our weakness in these three things, "...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 Jn 2:16). We will use these three things to outline the devil's tempting tactics.

#### **The Lust of the Flesh (Mt 4:2-4)**

Satan sought advantage at our Lord's hunger attempting to cause Christ to distrust God and be his own provider, saying, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." When he took the form of a servant for his people our Lord trusted his Father to provide for him (Mt 4:4). For instance, the Lord fed a multitude with a few loaves and fish, but the Lord Jesus did not work a miracle to feed himself. As the servant of God, the Lord Jesus trusted every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God. Brethren, in providing our basic necessities the lust of our flesh will cause us to stumble in a desire to obtain those things, and more, for ourselves. Remember brethren, God has promised to provide and more than any other bread, we need the Bread from heaven. We are born by the Word, sustained by the Word, kept by the Word and it is the Word which shall strengthen the inner man and make us to abide steadfast in the faith (Ja 1:18; 1 Pe 1:23; Ro 10:17; 1 Cor 1:21; 1 Pet 2:2; Eph 6:16-17). When the devil tempts us to provide for ourselves turn to Christ the Word, his gospel, his scriptures and trust that God shall provide all.

### **The Pride of Life (Mt 4:5-7)**

When the believer is doubted as a child of God it is pride to desire to prove ourselves otherwise. Christ knew no sin of pride, but Satan tried to tempt Christ that way, “*if thou be the Son of God...*” The believer has nothing to prove. When questioned and doubted by another, humility draws near to God. Also, it is pride to presume upon the promises of God. Satan took Christ up *to the holy city, to the pinnacle of the temple*. He used the *promises of God* attempting to make Christ jump off. Indeed, the grace of God takes us as children into the holy, heavenly city and makes us to ride upon the high places of the earth as God did Jacob. Our Father makes us stones in his holy temple in Christ our Foundation. He reveals great and precious promises in our hearts through his gospel. But where the grace of God works, it does not promote presumption upon God’s promises. God promises that his child shall not perish in the water and fire of trial because of the sure blood of Christ (Is 43:1-2). But that does not make us presume we can build a fire and jump in it! The Lord promises “their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” but that does not lift us in pride so that we presume we can run into sin. The Lord promises, “*I’ll never leave thee nor forsake thee*” but that does not make a child of God “forsake the assembly of the saints” (He 10:17, 19-23). If I ever find myself using the scriptures to prove myself or to presume upon God’s promises, I can be sure it may be the pride of my flesh but it is certainly not of God! (Ja 1:14; Mt 4:7).

### **The Lust of the Eyes (Mt 4:8-11)**

When it came to a reward whereby the devil promised to give Christ those things which the sinful eye covets, the faithful Servant ended the whole matter: “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Mt 4:10). Christ did not serve God for the things the lustful eye covets. Christ served God his Father for the reward of glorifying God and saving his children. Likewise, the believer’s reward in heaven is not the lust of the eyes but God’s glory and our Savior Jesus Christ. Brethren, we have a great, almighty Friend and Advocate in heaven. Flee to him for help. He who was tempted and conquered our adversary will also cause us to be triumphant over the tempter and our temptations, giving his angels charge to protect us (Rom 16:17 -20; 1 Thes 5:23-24).

**Sitting By**  
**Luke 5:17**  
Charles Spurgeon

There is something (every preacher has felt it) in a congregation itself which affects the preacher, even as he affects the congregation. I soon feel when godly men are praying for me, and crying, "O Lord, help him to preach!" I cannot tell you how it is, but so it is that some congregations freeze me, and others set me on fire. When the doctors of the law and the Pharisees are "sitting by," they drag us down, and we cannot do many mighty works. If my eye catches the glance of one of these ice-men; if I perceive his wretched indifference, and detect his half-concealed sneer, I am weakened by it. I fancy I hear such folks saying, "We care nothing for what you say. We do not belong to those whom you can influence. We are clad in mail against your weapons." This chills one to the marrow. Now, this is the tendency of your conduct if you are "sitting by"—you chill the preacher, and in chilling the preacher you do boundless mischief to the congregation. Don't you know that it was said even of Jesus, "He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief"? When he saw their faith he healed the sick of the palsy; and at another time, when he saw their unbelief, he looked round with indignation. It is a terrible fact that certain of you may be so acting as to hinder the salvation of others by your indifference to the sacred message. I believe that this is eminently the case with you that are very good people in all but the one thing needful. You do not fear God, and your very goodness works for evil. The example of a rank and rotten profligate will not influence certain minds; for they are disgusted by its grossness, and driven to seek something better. But when young men see an excellent person like you, so moral and amiable, without religion, they gather from your example that godliness is not absolutely needful, and take license to do without it. Thus, you who are "sitting by" may be a curse where you little suspect it: you may be encouraging others in the attempt to live without the Savior. Yet let me not finish this head without repeating the remark that we are glad to have these people "sitting by" rather than not coming at all. Being in the way, the Lord may meet with them. If you go where shots are flying you may be wounded one of these days. Better to come and hear the gospel from a low motive than not to come at all.