

March 4, 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 ADDRESSES

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:
www.FreeGraceMedia.com | www.FreeGraceRadio.com

WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2nd floor
150 Washington St., Rocky Hill, NJ
08553

MAILING ADDRESS

7 Birch Street
Pennington, NJ 08534

Phone: 615-513-4464 | Email: clay@freegracemedia.com

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

March B-Day—Jaime Santamaria—3rd

WHERE ARE YOU?

Genesis 3:9

This is first question asked a fallen sinner by God. Have you heard the Voice of the LORD God call unto you, personally? Has the LORD God said to you, “Where *art* thou?” Every sinner whom God saves will be saved through the Voice of the LORD, through the Truth of the gospel, which shall bring his child from the death of our sin into the Life of his Son.

Characteristics of the Call (Genesis 3:8-9)

First, it is THE VOICE OF GOD. THE VOICE is the Word which was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1-18). God in sovereign power sends forth pastors after his own heart just as he did John to announce the arrival of Christ (1 Col 1:21). But make no mistake it is THE VOICE of the LORD by whom a man is called in irresistible grace (Jn 1:23; Is 52:6-8). Secondly, this call of grace is particular. There were two calls in the garden. At first Adam heard the voice and hid—a general call goes out to all. Then God called Adam and Eve particularly. True, they were the only two sinners in the world. But God comes to each of his elect as particularly as if you were the only sinner in the world (Jn 10:3). Thirdly, the call of God is effectual; it gets the job done! As soon as God called, Adam answered (Jn 5:25). Fourthly, this call brings the sinner to confess his sin to God. You and I cannot hide our sin from God (Ps 139:7-12). If we ever stand before the just Judge of heaven and earth, no excuses will do, the only words the just Judge hears are those three little words—*I did eat*—guilty!

Good News of the Call (Genesis 3:14-15)

The good news of the gospel is that the Judge is also the Advocate. Do not misunderstand, Adam sinned and death passed upon all men because all have sinned. Between the time Adam sinned and God came calling, we see an example of how our sin has separated us from God. Adam would not have sought God had God not sought Adam. After this, Adam and Eve were told how they each would suffer in their body, how the ground was cursed for Adam's sake, and they were driven out of the garden—showing the condemnation upon all men born under the curse of the law because of Adam's transgression (Romans 3:23; 5:12, 17, 19). But when God called Adam and Eve personally, made them confess their sin, God declared what he declares in the hearts of those he calls. He pronounced the serpent cursed and gave our first parents the promised Seed—Christ Jesus. God provided his own Son who bore the justice of God in place of his children. Satan bruised Christ's heel, but Christ's obedience unto death crushed the serpent's head (Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 2:14-18). In Christ, God is a Just God AND a Savior. He is the only One who has made justice and mercy meet in perfect harmony (Ps 85:10; Is 45:21; Rom 3:24-26). The good news to those whom come confessing their sin to God, is that God delights to show mercy for Christ's sake.

Gift Given by the Call (Genesis 3:20)

Adam heard the word of God's promise that his righteousness was in Christ alone—the Seed of Woman. Adam believed God. The fruit of his faith was that Adam named Eve according to the promise of THE LIVING—Christ the Resurrection and the Life. Christ the Life in whom all the elect of God are preserved alive from the fall; Christ the Living One by whose stripes all the elect of God are justified and made the righteousness of God; Christ the Life in whom all the elect of God are called to Life. We see that Eve believed the promise because she thought she had given birth to the promised Seed when she gave birth to Cain (Gen 4:1). The good news of the gospel of Christ is the very call by which God gives faith and Christ is the substance of that faith.

Covering of the Call (Genesis 3:21)

We see in Adam and Eve, the same as with Abraham and all who believe. They believed God and it was counted unto them for righteousness, not by their works, but by the grace of God (Ro 4:3-5).

Adam was first stripped of his own righteousness, made willing to put all trust in Christ Jesus the Promised Seed who God slew in place of his people (2 Cor 5:21) and the Lord God robed them both in the righteousness of Christ their Surety (Is 61:10). Sinner, where are you? Are you trying to hide yourself with your own bloodless, leafy robe? Where do you want to be found? (Phil 3:9) Where do you want to be hidden? (Col 3:3)

The Day of Small Things – Zechariah 4:10

God delivered a nation from 400 years of bondage with a shepherd's staff. He slew a giant and saved that nation with a sling and a stone. He turned the world upside down with eleven simple, plain men – and the illustrations that “Little is great when God is in it” are numberless, but we must not just apply this truth to the instrument God uses, but should apply it also to the task. It is true that God uses humble men to perform great works for His glory – but God also uses His servants to teach the little children, to pastor the small assembly, to witness to one Ethiopian, to offer a prayer, to provide an unrecognized and often an unknown service! Most of us are willing to be “humble men” doing great works, but how many of us “great men” are willing to do humble work?

It is most doubtful that our Lord will trust us with any great responsibility until it has been proven that we are faithful in few things! It has been my understanding from the Scriptures that those whom God trusted with great responsibility were content with where they were and with what they were doing. Examples: Moses, David and Joseph. It would be refreshing, instead of hearing what one used to do or what one plans to do and be, to see one dedicated to being what he is and doing with joy and zeal what is at hand! Christ may come today and I could die today, but I'm not sure that He would accept my explanation that I was preparing myself for great things and would have been a teacher if there had been an opening, or a pastor if there had been a church available, or a martyr if men had still been dying, a deacon, an elder, or a church leader after I had aged a bit. Would He? Or would He ask, “What servant chooses his own task? His own place of labor? His own time of service?” Does not the faithful servant ask, “Lord, what would you have me to do?” Everybody wants to take the floor, few care to sweep it. The returning prodigal did not labor as a hired servant, but he was willing.

-- Henry Mahan