

August 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

Phone: 615-513-4464 | Email: [clay@freegracemedia.com](mailto: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**

11:00 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message:

Closing Hymns

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** This month's Friday night meeting will be August 24 at 7:30 pm. Remember **August 30 (Thursday)** and **September 2 (Sunday)**—no services here due to Danville Conference. I know we have one or two that cannot go due to prior obligations but if something changes let me know and I will help find you a room. If for some reason someone cannot go please do the same in case another would like to have it.

**NATURE OF GRACE**

**Isaiah 45: 8**

Christ has come, finished the work of delivering his people from our sins and ascended to the Father *that he might fill all things*. (Eph 4: 8, 10; Col 1: 19; Jn 1: 16) In this verse, we see an analogy of how the Lord gives the command, regenerating his child from death to spiritual life, creating them anew. The analogy is of the nature of rain coming down into the earth causing life to spring up thereby. (Hos 12: 10) The nature of grace includes three commands and a declaration.

**First Command: Let the Skies Pour Down Righteousness**

Dew and rain are often used as an emblem of the Word of the gospel and of the Holy Spirit's power working in the hearts of God's people. (Is 44: 3; De 32: 2) Just as all life in the earth depends upon the LORD dropping down dew and pouring down rain from heaven so all spiritual life depends upon his blessing from above. (Jn 7: 37) Each elect child of God is born into this world like a dry field without life, without anything spiritually good, without spiritual understanding. Our Sovereign Savior sends his doctrine. He sends forth the Holy Spirit. Christ Jesus, the Righteousness of his people, descends in the doctrine by the Holy Spirit and is formed in his child, "as the rain, as the latter *and* former rain unto the earth." (Hos 6:3) Like the dew and

rain, the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts through the gospel of Christ falls independent of the power and will of the creature. Spiritual life comes at the LORD's command, not man's; by God's grace, not by man's merit; from the Lord above, not from man below. He commands, "drop down ye heavens from above and let the skies pour down righteousness."

### **Second Command: Let the Earth Open**

The earth is a spiritual representation of the heart of man. (Is 45: 9) Adam was formed out of the dust hence his name is "red". Before God breathed life into Adam he was a lifeless lump of clay. So every sinner in trespasses and in sins is dead. We cry as we preach the gospel, "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD." (Jer 22: 29) Yet, sinners are as unable to bring forth life as the earth was unable of itself to bring forth life until God gave the command. But when the LORD speaks the effect follows, "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: AND IT WAS SO." (Gen 1: 11) When the Lord says "Let the earth open" immediately the heart opens just as Lydia, "whose heart the Lord opened." (Acts 16: 14) By the Spirit of God the rain of righteousness penetrates to the very roots of the soul creating life and light where there was only death and darkness. (Ps 119: 130; Rom. 9:16)

### **Third Command: Let Them Bring Forth Salvation and Let Righteousness Spring Up Together**

When Christ our Salvation enters in, from the womb of the morning a saved child springs up like a tender plant out of dry ground. Christ our Righteousness is formed in us and like parched earth drinking up the rain God causes us to drink of Christ's fullness. His rain of grace makes faith, hope and love to spring forth in life like thriving tulips spring forth in the beams of the sun after the bulb lay lifeless from fall through the dark cold of winter. Righteousness springs up together. There are two kinds of righteousness which spring up together: Christ's righteousness imputed and Christ's righteousness

imparted. Christ righteousness imputed is our justification. (Rom 4: 3-7) Christ righteousness imparted makes us born again new creatures. (Eph 4: 24) This righteousness "springing up together" is one righteousness by and in Christ alone. But it may be described as "springing up together" because now the believer is made one in righteousness together with Christ our Righteousness. This is the righteousness the Lord described when he said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 5:20; Ps 45: 13)

### **The Declaration: I the LORD Have Created It**

The Lord plucks up all the weeds of our vain boasting with this declaration—I the LORD have created it! We are his workmanship, the Lord has created us and not we ourselves. When the LORD has revealed in our heart that he is Christ our Righteousness and the great Husbandman who commanded the skies pour down righteousness, who commanded the opening of our hearts, who commanded salvation be brought forth in the conscience and righteousness spring up together in oneness with him then of God is Christ made unto us, "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption." Then those who are the planting of the Lord boast in complete agreement with God, "The Lord has created it." (Is 45: 24-25; James 5: 7)

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To be saved is to be loved and chosen by God, justified in Christ, born again by the Holy Spirit, pardoned of all wrong doing, received into the family of God, accepted in the beloved. If I am saved, I am an heir of God, joint heir with Christ. If I have salvation, I have all *wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption* in Christ.

*Milton Howard is pastor of Kitchen's Creek Baptist Church in Ball, Louisiana.*