

October 7, 2012



**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class  
 11:00 AM Morning Service  
 Thursday: 7:30 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**

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**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

10:15 am Bible Class followed by short break

11:00 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message

Closing Hymn

**October Birthdays:** Alyssa L.—8<sup>th</sup>; Joshua D—9<sup>th</sup>; Jonathan D—21<sup>st</sup>; David S—24<sup>th</sup>; Joe Z—27<sup>th</sup>.

One of the main objectives of the ministry of the Gospel is to convince sinners of their sin and misery without Christ. Men will not come to Christ Jesus until they are so convinced. "The WELL do not need a physician." If you love your soul, seriously meditate upon this fact and do not allow pride to rob you of the TROUBLING but PLEASANT realization that YOU ARE A SINNER! Christ is the friend of sinners.  
 Pastor Henry Mahan

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**THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST**

Isaiah 52: 13-53: 12

In order to understand some degree of the depth of our iniquities, as well as our complete redemption from sin, we must in some degree behold the depths of Christ's suffering and the height of his exaltation.

**Enmity and Love**

Isaiah 52: 13-15

We see the enmity of man's heart against God in the despising of Christ and the torture inflicted upon Christ Jesus at the hands of men. (Is 52: 14; Mt 27: 27-44) Yet, we see the love of Christ in that he suffered all of this willingly for his great love for the Father and his great love for the elect of God—"I GAVE my back to the smiters, and my cheek to those who plucked off the hair!"

**We Did Esteem Him Stricken, Smitten of God and Afflicted**

Isaiah 53: 4-5

In verse 14, of Isaiah 52, we read that many were “astonied at Christ, his visage was so marred more than any other man and his form more than the sons of men.” Then Isaiah 53: 4 says it was because “he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.” The Holy Spirit connects this with Christ healing bodily sickness. (Mt 8: 17) Our Substitute bore in his own body the sin of the elect which causes bodily diseases, deterioration, and death. Although men’s hands had indeed marred his body, Isaiah 53: 4 says, “YET we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” The Vulgate Latin version reads, “we esteemed him as a leprous person.” These words “stricken, smitten and afflicted” are expressions used in scripture when God visited a man with severe and sudden sickness. (2 Kings 15: 5; Job 19: 20-21) Many passages which typify Christ’s suffering on the tree describe it just this way (Ps 22: 14-15; 32: 3; 38: 7; 102: 3-5; Lam 3: 1-4; Job 16: 8) I do not know what happened to Christ’s visage and form on the cross but by these words “yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted” it appears that those who passed by saw something, other than what man’s hands had done, which caused them to esteem Christ to be a special object of Divine wrath. They assumed it was for sin Christ had committed himself, but Christ did no sin. It was because “he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him...the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all...for the transgression of my people was he stricken.” (Is 53: 5, 6, 9) Brethren, in order for Christ to say to elect lepers “I will, be thou clean” cost our Substitute far more than we realize.

### **Iniquity Laid Upon Him**

Isaiah 53: 6

In scripture, iniquity means both sin (Lev16:21) and punishment for sin. (Lev 20: 17) In order for God to be righteous in executing justice upon Christ, who knew no sin, the LORD first laid the iniquity of our sin upon Christ then the LORD laid the iniquity of punishment for our sin upon Christ. (2 Cor 5: 21; 1 Pet 2: 24)

### **The Bitter Cup for the Cup of Communion**

Isaiah 53: 8

The cup of wine we drink at the Lord’s Table symbolizes the believer’s communion with God accomplished by Christ’s shed blood. How amazing that we have friendship with holy God and enjoy the blessings of grace such as righteousness, peace, and forgiveness! But never forget, brethren, in order for his children to drink of this cup of communion our Head had to drink that bitter cup of wrath dry. (Zec 13: 7; Ps 22: 1-3) In the total darkness of the cross, there could be no communion with the Father for our Substitute until he had suffered all the consequences of sin to the full satisfaction of divine justice. Whips fell not only upon his body, but upon his very soul. (Romans 8: 32; Lam 1: 12; Zec 12: 10; Is 53: 8) But by making satisfaction, Christ took that bitter cup out of our hands and gave us this sweet cup of communion.

### **Christ’s Victory over Sin**

Isaiah 53: 10-12

In direct proportion to the profound depths our Savior suffered on the cross so Christ highly exalted the righteous God and so God has highly exalted and extolled Christ very high. (Php 2: 9-11) Christ arose from the grave because he fully satisfied the justice of God for each and every elect child given him before the foundation of the world! (Acts 13:37; Rom 4:25) God is so pleased with Christ who so fully completed the payment for the debt his people owed that those for whom Christ died as a Substitute can no more be damned again than Christ himself can be. The honor of God, the faithfulness of God, the integrity of God demand that every soul for whom Christ died, must be regenerated and given eternal life. *He shall see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.* For those who he draws to cast all their care on him—with *his stripes we are healed.* (Rom 8: 1, 34) Now, In light of Christ’s great gift to us is any devotion too extreme, any suffering or sacrifice too great for us for him? O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!