

January 13, 2013



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

WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2nd floor
 150 Washington Street
 Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

MAILING ADDRESS

7 Birch Street
 Pennington, NJ 08534
 Clay Curtis, pastor

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. Articles in this bulletin are by the pastor unless otherwise noted.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

11:00 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message

Closing Hymn

Nursery Today: Denise C.; **Nursery Thursday:** Carol D; **January Bdays:** Mary Ann L--17th; Vincent D-18th; John K-27th;
Anniversary: Scott and Christine K—2nd

A Personal Story by William Gadsby

Whenever it comes to this, poor child of God, whenever you begin to swell with your great *I*, what *I* will do and what *I* will not do, depend upon it, death is at the door; there will be something that will bring the sentence of death upon all your comfortable feelings and enjoyments...

I was a youth between 17 and 18 years of age, and very moderate in my living; and I looked upon anyone that conducted himself with any degree of immoderation as proving that they had not vital godliness. Two old men I cut off entirely; one for going to sleep in prayer, and the other because he told me that he should not wonder if I became intoxicated that week...“What! *I* get intoxicated, when God has been so gracious as to stop me in my mad career, and give me pardon, and a sweet, conscious enjoyment of it!” I could not believe it; and I could not believe he had the life of God in his heart, because he could think it possible.

And so I went singing on. But before the week was out, there was poor *I*, intoxicated!...I did not take anything you would think was drinking to excess; for I had only had one three-halfpenny worth of stuff. But there, all my comfort was gone and enjoyment gone. Then I thought, one night, I would put out my light and go upon my knees by my bedside, and never cease praying all that night until God pardoned me. You see there was a little *I* still. So on my knees I went with a determination to pray all night. Sometime in the morning I awoke, and found I had been asleep on my knees; and so there was poor *I*, who had cut off one poor old man for going to sleep in prayer and another for saying he should not wonder if I got intoxicated, actually getting intoxicated, and going to sleep in prayer myself into the bargain.

There was the sentence of death upon all my joy and all my comfort; and for several months after that, I walked in the very depth of agony and distress, such as I could never describe; so much so that if any child of God came into my company who knew the preciousness of Christ, I believed they would see...that I should go wandering about like Cain with a mark upon

me; and so I kept out of their company. And then the enemy of souls would come in: “Where is your peace with God *now*? Where is your power in prayer *now*? Where is your meekness, your humility, and your tenderness of conscience *now*? Where is your hope in the Lord *now*? Where is your trust in the God of Israel *now*? And where are *you*?” “Ah! Lord,” I was obliged to say, “I do not know where I am, nor what I am, nor what the end will be.” The sentence of death was passed upon the whole.

And, perhaps, here is some poor soul who really has had the sentence of death upon all he has had and all he has enjoyed, upon all he has done and all he thought he was capable of doing. “Well,” say you, “that is just my case.” Then if you have passed through this path and had your hopes of a religious nature (as far as they have been formed in flesh) all cut off, and the sentence of death has come upon you and mowed you down and rooted you up, and made you feel as dry as the bones in Ezekiel's vision, I believe he will come in his own blessed time, and that the sentence of death is found upon you that you may not trust in yourself, but be brought feelingly and spiritually to trust in the living God.

Christ Heals Through the Gospel John 4: 43-54

It is for the honor of Christ Jesus the Lord and him alone that it pleased God to save by the means of preaching. Christ Jesus is the Word. Christ Jesus is the Prophet. In our text, Christ the Prophet came preaching the word about the Word—Christ gathers us to literally to hear the word about Christ the Word from Christ our Prophet.

Christ Uses All Things to Bring us to See Our own Sickness

Where Christ has sent his gospel, Christ uses all things in his providence to gather those he will save through his word. The nobleman was drawn to Christ by God giving him a sick son. Is there any reading this with loved ones who are sick?—sin sick? It could be that the Master is doing for you what he was doing for this nobleman. The nobleman only thought his son was sick but did not know he was. May every parent come to Christ carrying our little ones for mercy, but may we first learn something of our own need. There are times when I am sure the Lord uses our loved ones to draw us personally to him. We think the problem is only with them but I wonder how often there may be a worse problem in our own hearts. Instead of first asking our children to acknowledge what the Lord may be teaching them, we would do better to first ask ourselves that question.

Christ Heals by Speaking to the Heart

Oh, to find someone as wise as this nobleman. He heard that Jesus was come. Have you heard that Jesus has come? Have you gone to him? But there was something amiss in what the nobleman asked the Lord—*He besought him to come down*. Christ Jesus must have preeminence; we are the ones who must come down. The Lord said, “Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.” Until Christ speaks the word, until the Holy Spirit enters within us, giving life and faith to truly believe Christ, we will not believe Christ heals by his word and we will instead insist on outward signs. But notice it is the nobleman's unbelief that was healed by the Lord's word—“Jesus SAITH unto HIM, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the MAN BELIEVED THE WORD THAT JESUS HAD SPOKEN UNTO HIM, and he went his way.” The sign and miracle of God's grace is that sinners are healed inwardly and made to believe one way—by Christ the Prophet and Word speaking the word into our hearts.

Christ Heals through a Messenger

The nobleman had thought Christ must be present bodily to heal. Christ healed the nobleman of that by speaking his word. Then when the nobleman's servants came telling him his son was healed the day before at that very time, the nobleman told them the gospel of what Christ had done by his word, “and his whole house [believed].” Christ worked this miracle of grace the same as the other. Our Prophet is doing the same now from heavens glory without being present in body using those he has already made to believe. It is through his gospel that Christ the Prophet and the Word makes true noblemen. (1 Thess 1:5; Mk 13:10; 16:15; 2 Thess 2:14; 1 Cor 14: 22; Rom 10: 17)

Relevant or Irrelevant? By Todd Nibert

Many churches advertise themselves as being able to make the Bible relevant for practical living for today. The moment a man or church does that, they become truly irrelevant. We make no attempt to make the truth culturally relevant or package it in a way to make it more easily or readily received. The Word of God does not need our help. We preach God's Word in its naked simplicity, knowing that it is through His Word that life is begotten. *“Of His own will beget He us with the Word of Truth” (James 1:18)*. If we really believe that, His Word is all we will preach.