

October 13, 2013

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: 7:30 PM Mid-week Service

Services Broadcast Live @
www.FreeGraceMedia.com/live

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

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

10:15 a.m. Bible Class followed by short break

11:00 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message

Closing Hymn

B'Days: Alyssa L. 8th; Joshua D--9th; Urmilla I.—13th; Jacob I.—16th;
Jonathan D—21st; Ravi I.—29th; **Nursery Today:** Kris. D. **Nursery Thurs:**
Carol D.

Sermon or Prayer?

Charles Spurgeon

It is said that among Church people the prayers are the main thing, and among Dissenters the sermon. I believe that in both cases this would be a fault. Praying should not eclipse preaching; for to preach or to listen to preaching, is as true an act of worship as to pray. We never worship God better than when we hear his Word, reverently receive it, and are moved thereby to love and gratitude. To hear preaching is, in a sense, praying; since the true effect of all preaching that is worth the listening to, draws us into a spirit of devotion, and makes us ready for prayer and every other form of worship.

The Stony Ground Hearer

Pastor Scott Richardson

In the parable of the sower, our Lord said that the stony ground was people who heard the gospel and received it "IMMEDIATELY." There were no conflicts, questions nor doubts. Someone told them about Heaven, and they wanted to go there; warned them of hell, and they wanted to avoid that; told them that Jesus Christ would take them to Heaven, so they accepted Him. They received this good news that they were saved with gladness and went forth saying, "Praise the Lord!" every other breath. They sprang up and made rapid progress in religion, often wondering why older Christians did not match their enthusiasm.

Then came the trials, outward trials, inward trials; for faith will be tried! Untried faith is no faith at all. Persecution arose because of the Word. The true doctrines of God's Word were encountered. The shallow vessel was taken into deep waters of sorrow, temptation, personal sacrifice, and it fell apart. "IMMEDIATELY THEY WERE OFFENDED". They took their religion hot from the oven and dropped it just as quickly. Somebody cried, "Believe, Believe!" and they were excited and believed. Now somebody else said, "Do not believe" and they have gone that way. They did not stop to count the cost and determine why they should believe, and now they do not count the cost of departing from their profession. The preacher was anxious to take them in at the front door. Now they are offended and slip out the back door. Their sudden house built on sand has been washed away.

This is the error of rushing men and women into a profession of religion. However real Christ is to us, He must make Himself real to them!

RICHES OF GOD'S GRACE

Ephesians 2: 1-7

We delight in the gospel of our Redeemer because through the gospel God shows his child our sin and shows the believer "the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." We can never appreciate the riches of God's grace until we know the depths of our sins. Truly in proportion as we see how great a sinner we are the more we will value the riches of God's grace.

Riches of Grace Even When We Were Dead

The text describes all men as we are born the first time as "dead." "Dead" says it all. We were not hurt, we were dead; not wounded dead; not paralyzed, dead; not almost but completely dead! When you see life go out of a body so that there is no pulse, no heartbeat, not a spark, or twitch, just a cold lifeless corpse—that is dead. That is the spiritual condition of every natural born child. We are born with no ability to save ourselves from this condition for we are as spiritually lifeless as a corpse in a coffin. Dead men are not looked to or depended upon for anything. Such is the case with ever sinner as we are born the first time, God's elect included. But here are the riches of God's grace, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead..."

Riches of Grace Even When We Were Dead in Sins

Yet, our condition was worse than dead. If being spiritually dead was on a scale with dead being "0", our text says we were further backwards into the minus direction. We were "dead in trespasses and sins." A dead carcass is bad enough. But it is worse when a dead carcass is covered in ants and maggots and rot. Our condition was not only spiritual death we were also covered over in corruption, crawling with the filth of our trespasses and sins. Sin is an abomination to God—a stench, a thing abhorred by God. When we come upon a dead animal in the woods covered with maggots just the stench and the vileness of it forces us to turn and go the other way. Could you love something like that? But here are the riches of God's grace, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins."

Riches of Grace Even When We Were Swept Away

Still, our natural condition was worse. We were swept away with the current of this world like a rip tide sweeps you away in the ocean. And we were backwards even further because we were also under the dominion of the devil. Some of these lusts and desires were the obvious polluting pleasures of the flesh. Others had a form of godliness or intellectualism. But our natural heart was enmity against God, deserving of the wrath of God like every other sinner. But here are the riches of God's grace, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins."

Riches of Grace in his Kindness Toward us through Christ Jesus

Brethren, why was God so longsuffering toward us? God put his elect in Christ before the foundation of the world purely by his sovereign grace. (Eph 1: 3-4) God accepted us in Christ our Surety before the foundation of the world purely by grace. (Eph 1: 6) So while we were dead, and worse than dead, God suffered long until the appointed hour when he quickened us together with Christ. The mercy and love of God is never at the expense of justice. He never loves us in our sin but in Christ who stood as our Surety who would make us righteous by his obedience unto the death of the cross. (Rom 5: 6-11) Christ Jesus is our Salvation. He is the One Holy and Righteous Man of God. He fulfilled his own law for us, justified us, purged all our sins and because this Faithful Man is God the Son, everything he accomplished for us is eternal. Nothing can be added to it, nothing can be taken from it, not now, not ever. Oh, thank God for "the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."