

April 28, 2019

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	MAILING ADDRESS
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If you would like to receive this bulletin sent weekly
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Articles in this bulletin are by the pastor unless otherwise noted.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

10:15	am.	Bible	Class
11:00	a.m. Service:	Hymns * Scripture Reading * Message*	Hymn.
Scripture Today:	Art D	Scripture	Thurs: Ben M
Nursery Sun:	Carol D; Wendy Y	Nursery	Thurs: Lauren C
BDays:	Sarah D—2 nd ; Adam K—12 th ; Emma C—15 th ; Seanan K.—18 th ; Kimberly T—23 rd ; Jared T—29 th ; Devika I—29 th ; Faith D—29 th ; Anniversaries: Art and Cheryl D—17 th April Cleaning: Doodnath Family		



Proverbs 13: 6: Righteousness keepeth *him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.*



Divine sovereignty, total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and the certain preservation of God's elect are like salt and pepper and bread and butter on the table. Wherever the gospel feast is spread they are always on table.
Pastor Don Fortner



Believers love one another by believing on Christ, by abiding in the doctrine of Christ and by persevering unto the end doing so. The apostle John addressed his brethren as those "*whom I love in the truth...for the truth's sake*" (2 Jn 1-2). Brethren, we were once like Cain; we hated the brethren because of the truth. But now that God has made us pass from death to life, we love the brethren because of the truth.



HE IS A LIAR

1 John 4: 20: If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

John declares the certainty that God makes his child love our brethren. The apostle boldly calls men liars who say they love God who they have not seen, when they do not love God's image before their eyes, that is, believers created after God's image. Most preachers in our day are self-sent flesh-pleasers who would not dare preach with John's boldness. The self-saved they pander to are so thin-skinned they can only hear kid-glove ambiguity rather than dogmatic truth. But if ever a sinner hears God's preacher and the Spirit of God quickens him to see himself a liar, he finds that preacher has shown him true love because he preached the truth boldly to him. Thank God for giving his preachers and giving them boldness to speak the truth in unmistakable clarity. And thank God for giving his people love in our hearts for God as well as for our brethren whom we love in the truth and for the truth's sake!

PREACHING OR MEDDLING

True preaching strikes at the heart of the hearer. When Paul spoke to Felix and his wife Drusilla, he spoke of righteousness, temperance and judgment. When John the Baptist spoke to Herod, he told him it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife. Were they preaching or meddling? If we are to be honest with men and women, we must strike at their hearts, we must take the word of God and apply it to sinners where they live, which is in their hearts, *"out of the heart proceed evil thoughts..."* We cannot preach in generalities but in truth and reality. Listen to Paul. *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**"* 1Cor. 6:9-11 Yes, such were some of you and some of you still are. And it is to you who still are I say, repent and flee to Jesus Christ who can wash away all sin.

Pastor John Chapman



MARVEL NOT

Cain and Able were not only brothers physically but each *professed* to be brothers spiritually. There was no way to tell this was not the case. More than likely Cain assembled at the place of worship for many years as a *professing* believer right alongside Abel. Cain came all those years with his bloodless offering while Abel came with the blood of a lamb. But God only tells us about one day when Cain's attitude changed toward Abel. His issue with Abel festered until at last Cain could not contain his heart. He killed that one he once pretended to love. What happened? On that the day God made Cain hear the gospel. God declared that Cain's works were evil and that his brother's works were righteous. After years of feigning love God stripped away Cain's false refuge. There was nothing Cain could do to hide his carnal heart. It was enmity against God. Therefore, it was enmity against God's child.

Brethren, hear God's word! When a professing believer's attitude changes so that we become their enemy, do not marvel. Until God gave us life to love salvation by Christ, apart from our works, we had the same enmity against God in our minds. We loved the world and hated God's people. It is only by God's irresistible grace in the new birth that we have passed from death to life. Only by God giving us a heart to rejoice in God's free justification by the blood of Christ do we have love in our hearts for brethren who confess their works vanity and love the gospel of Christ our Redeemer. So do not be amazed if the world hates you. Instead, be amazed that we *do* love the brethren. We know that we have passed from death to life because nothing short of God's grace forming Christ in our hearts could make us love those who love that salvation is by God's grace alone, in Christ alone, through faith alone. *"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."* (1 Jn 3: 11-14)

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

Around thirty-five years ago this month, God made me willing to confess faith in Christ in believer's baptism. As I thought on this, several things came to mind.

One, I am amazed how quickly thirty-five years have passed; yesterday, I was that teenager being baptized; now here I am in my fiftieth year. Seek God while he may be found because this life truly is *"a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (Ja 4:14; Is 55:6-8)

Also, I am reminded of God's faithfulness. At the time God first gave me ears to hear, there were older, middle-aged and younger preachers who faithfully preached the gospel of Christ to me. All these years later, some of those preachers are with the Lord; the middle-aged and younger preachers are now the older; and Christ has raised up more under-shepherds providing his church faithful preachers as he promised (Jer 3:15; 23:4; Eph 4: 11-12). God has kept the majority of my brethren who confessed faith in Christ so that they either departed this life in faith or are still assembling, rejoicing in Christ even as we did from the beginning. Many are now sick; some even know they are dying and will be with the Lord soon; but their witness to the faithfulness of God and the sufficiency of his grace overflows my heart with gratitude, reminding me that we serve a covenant-keeping God who faithfully fulfills all his promises.

Then, I think of our victorious Redeemer. Knowing the cause of our aging, sickness and death, I am comforted to know that Christ so thoroughly saves his people from our sins that when my dear brethren drop the body of this death, they shall awake face-to-face with our Redeemer and know him even as he now knows them; our glorious Savior shall even raise their corrupt bodies incorruptible; they shall worship our Beloved uninterrupted forever and ever all because Christ Jesus our Lord is the victorious Redeemer who never loses one of his redeemed.

These days my heart aches like never before for loved ones who do not know our Savior; I pray that if it be God's will, he will draw them to cast all their care on Christ that we might rejoice together as brethren at the feet of our Savior. But at the same time, God comforts my heart as I behold young believers marrying believers and choosing to raise their children under the preaching of the gospel. I love to look out over this congregation to see young couples looking into God's word together as I preach. If you are a young believer waiting because you want to marry a believer, I commend you. Wait on the Lord!

Today, more than ever, I am grateful to God for brothers and sisters in Christ. You cannot put a price on God's gift of brethren who by God's grace are willing to suffer for Christ's sake so that they are there to defend you, comfort you and be a true friend when you need them. Brothers and sisters, God has truly blessed us with unsearchable riches in his Son. I hope these few words will cause you to join me in thanking God for the multitude of his tender mercies. After thirty-five years, the fact that I, the greatest of all sinners, still believe the same gospel of God's grace, is a testimony that truly, God's mercies are new every morning; great is the faithfulness of our God.