

March 10, 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 @  
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| <b>WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION</b>     | <b>MAILING ADDRESS</b>  |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 251 Green Lane<br>Ewing, NJ, 08638 | 7 Birch Street<br>Pennington, NJ 08534<br>Clay Curtis, pastor |

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

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>10:15</b>               | <b>am.</b>                           | <b>Bible</b>            | <b>Class</b>                                    |
| <b>11:00 a.m. Service:</b> | Hymns * Scripture Reading * Message* | Hymn.                   |   |
| <b>Scripture Today:</b>    | Ravi D                               | <b>Scripture Thurs:</b> | Rob K   |
| <b>Nursery Sun:</b>        | Melinda C; Kimberly T                | <b>Nursery Thurs:</b>   | Emma C  |
| <b>BDays:</b>              | Debra Lyn—6 <sup>th</sup> ;          | <b>Anniversary:</b>     | Greg and Martha C—31 <sup>st</sup> <b>March</b> |
| <b>Cleaning:</b>           | De Ritter Family                     |                         |   |



**Proverbs 12: 28: In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.**



### HE LEFT THEM, BUT NOT US

One of the most sobering verses for will-works religionists is found in Mark's gospel. We read "*he left them*" (Mark 8:13). They were certain they needed nothing from Christ. So rather than seeking understanding, they came with insincere questioning. They came seeking a sign, but how many signs had they already seen? They had seen a withered hand stretched forth and made whole. They witnessed a completely lame man let down through a roof forgiven of his sins, healed, rise up and carry his bed home rejoicing. They saw the blind made to see, the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak. The sick were healed, demons were cast out and a young girl was raised from the dead and returned to her parents. Even if they didn't see each one for themselves, there were often Pharisees present watching him to see what he would do that they might accuse him. They saw the works of God performed by him.

So sincerely we ask, what sign could be shown? What word spoken will make a dead sinner believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ sent of God to deliver his people? Without grace, there is none. Such is the dead, corrupt heart of man. And in Mark 8:13 we see the Lord Jesus Christ say very little to them. Instead he turned around and "*he left them*" in that dead state of unbelief. He didn't move past the Pharisees and speak to others in that land. He simply turned around and left them.

Without the grace of God, we can do nothing. We are as ignorant, dead and foolish as those vainly-wise Pharisees. But when our "*time was the time of love*" (Ezekiel 16:8), we were made alive by Christ's seed. We were washed in his blood. We were made to know our need and that he alone is the one to satisfy our need. Thank God, that Christ didn't leave us to ourselves. Thank God that Christ will never leave us now. "*For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*" (Hebrews 13:5).

Pastor Eric Lutter



## HOW IS A SINNER SAVED?

How is a sinner saved? The apostle Paul very plainly tells us how! In Ephesians 2:8 he said, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”* Salvation is a work of God’s grace. It was God’s grace that chose the sinner before the foundation of the world. It was God’s grace that sent Christ in due time to die on the cross as a substitute for all of His chosen people. And it is God’s grace that sends His Holy Spirit to each one of those particular people with the gift of faith. Faith believes totally on Christ. Faith believes His Word. Faith causes sinners to believe that The Father did all of the choosing in salvation, and The Son did all of the redeeming work in salvation. Faith causes sinners to cry: *“It is not of ourselves... it is of Christ alone!”* A truly saved sinner will know that he cannot take any credit for any part of his salvation, not even for the faith that believes. Even that is *“the gift of God”*.

Pastor Gave Stalnaker



### GREAT GAIN

#### *“Godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim 6:6)*

“Godliness” is produced in a sinner by God making us his new creation. It is Christ having all preeminence in our hearts so that we live unto him. “Contentment” is translated “sufficiency” in 2 Corinthians 9:8. This is why and how God’s child has contentment no matter what we face in this life: *“God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all **SUFFICIENCY** in all things, may abound to every good work.”* Of the sinner who looks to himself, God says *“in the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall be upon him” (Job 20:22)*. But for his elect, of his fulness, Christ provides a perfect and entire supply sufficient to meet our each and every need. Concerning our eternal needs, the Lord Jesus laid down his life freely supplying all that we need for eternal, never ending acceptance and communion with holy God. Concerning our temporal needs, our risen Redeemer is always present, never leaving nor forsaking us, fully providing for each and every need. Brethren, knowing we *“shall always have all sufficiency in all things”* because *“God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”*, every believer can truly say with the apostle Paul *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (Php 4:11)*. This is why *“Godliness with contentment is great gain.”*



No matter how it may appear to our feeble sense, there is only one place God makes his people dwell. *“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, **ONLY MAKEST ME DWELL IN SAFETY.**” (Ps 4:8)*.



## THE CONSTRAINING LOVE OF CHRIST

### 2 Corinthians 5: 14: For the love of Christ constraineth us;

When it came to believing and preaching Christ, some accused the apostle Paul of being beside himself. Others accused him of being too serious. But by the Holy Spirit of God, he answered, "*Whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. For the love of Christ constraineth us*" (2Co 5:13-14). The love of Christ toward his people constrains every believer to do all that we do for God and for our brethren.

We see Christ's love for God his Father and his brethren on the cross. "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man may down his life for his friends*" (Jn 15:13). The greatest love of all is the love of Christ manifest when he laid down his life to declare God the Father the Justifier of his elect while justifying his people. Christ's love is the love of the law that he declared to be the fulfillment of the law! When this love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Christ constrains his redeemed to believe on him and to love our brethren for whom Christ redeemed by his precious blood. Faith in Christ and love toward our brethren is lived out as we, the church and body of Christ who he has fitly framed together, assemble ourselves together under the preaching of Christ crucified. In love to our brethren we do for one another whatever our Head enables us to do so that our brethren can focus on Christ rather than the trials of life which are so distracting. At the same time, in faith to our Lord, we trust our brethren to their own Master, knowing that Christ alone is able to make them stand and shall make them stand (Rom 14: 4).

Does the love of Christ really accomplish this in his people? Did Christ's love for Paul really make him forsake will-works religion and publicly identify himself with the church of our Redeemer? Did the love of Christ really constrain Paul to never forsake assembling together with his brethren under the preaching of the gospel? Did Christ's love really constrain Paul to hazard his own life as he preached the unsearchable riches of Christ? This is not a theory to those Christ has united. It is not merely a doctrine to those in whom Christ dwells. This is a sure and certain reality that Christ's sanctified people experience from the first hour he calls us to the last. "*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him*" (1 Jn 5:1) Christ's great love for us really constrains his people to persevere in faith and love, "*endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (Eph 4:3).

Let folks say we are crazy or let them say we are too serious. We say with Paul "*the love of Christ constraineth us!*"



"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing...now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity." (1Co 12:31-13:13).