



Grace Hill Church

The Mission of Grace Hill Is to Gather People to the Table of Christ, Who Is the Bread of Life, to Be Transformed by His Grace, Renewed in His Truth, and Sent on His Mission.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ~Genesis 12:1-3

So the word righteousness is very often used in Scripture for his covenant faithfulness; so 'tis in *Nehemiah 9:8*, "Thou hast performed thy words for thou art righteous." And so we are very often to understand righteousness and covenant mercy [to] be the same thing, as ... *Daniel 9:16*, "O Lord, according to thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away." Jonathan Edwards, *History of the Work of Redemption*, 9:114-5.

The covenant in Christ is the same substance as the covenant made with Abraham. ~Sinclair Ferguson
God does nothing outside of himself without doing it in a covenantal fashion. ~Sinclair Ferguson

You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness. ~Acts 3:25-26

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ~Galatians 3:7-9

September 26th, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #37

Question: How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Nehemiah 9:6-8, Genesis 3:11-13, 24, Gen. 15:5-7, 18*

Nehemiah 9:6-8

"You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

⁷ You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. ⁸ You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.

Genesis 3:11-13, 24

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 15:5-7, 18

And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷ And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ...

¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates..."

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Series: God's Story Helps Us Pray: Nehemiah 9 and Acts 4

Sermon: *Covenant Helps Us Pray*

Outline:

1. We Don't Worship as We Ought, v. 6 (end)
2. We Don't Worship as We Ought, So God Makes Covenants With Us, v. 7-8
 - a. Covenant enables: Belonging, Security, Direction, Risk, Confession
3. God's Covenants Help Us to Pray
 - a. Helps Us Praise/Thank: "You hold me so firmly; love me so dearly; how could this be?."
 - b. Helps Us Confess: "Have mercy on me a poor sinner," Ps. 38, 41, 51, 69
 - c. For Heart and Will: "Heart, you belong and are secure because of His covenant."

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God we confess that we have sinned and we cannot recreate our relationship with You. But You can! You did just that through the covenant started with Abraham and fulfilled in Christ. But forgive us for not valuing this, grabbing hold of all its implications. Forgive us for living like orphans, in fear and panic, in arrogance and pride.

Father, You brought us out of the darkness country of sin and into the land of light of Your Christ-fulfilled-covenant. You are holding on to us. Grow our faith in your promises. Faith in Your covenant yields to us capacity of heart-felt worship, eternal belonging, the quieting of fear, the confidence of boldness, and the sweetness of Your face. Help us to experience all You have given us in Christ and to know how secure we are in it.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ~Eph. 3:11-12

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

We are currently celebrating the Lord's Supper by remaining seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

*Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup (Prayer for Those Searching for Truth)

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and let me know the reality of your love and glory. Give me an understanding of you that is captivating, convincing—that leads to You Yourself and the life You promise. Amen.

Responding to the Lord with Worship

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13.20–21)

Core Questions:

1. **How is the Holy Spirit whispering or shouting to you from this passage? What stands out for you?**
2. **How does the text intersect or engage your life?**
3. **Where do you find gospel conviction and gospel comfort in this passage? (Gospel = the specific act of Jesus taking your sin and sharing with you his victory.)**

*Sinclair Ferguson on Covenant and Baptism: <https://ipc.church/project/baptism/>

Announcements:

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Women's Bible Study:** Join the Grace Hill women's Bible study this fall as they embark on a 9-week study on the Old Testament and how it relates to the Christian faith. Meetings are on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am. Please come and invite friends! For more information, contact cathywoodurham@gmail.com or kaylynfernandez@hotmail.com.
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
 - Use your bank's BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
 - Send a physical check
 - Use our mobile giving option (either as a guest or by setting up an account):
 - <https://faithlife.com/grace-hill-church/give> or text the word "Give" to 919 296 1330.



Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14–18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached at ross@gracehillnc.org or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, daniel@gracehillnc.org. Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc