

Worship

Sunday, October 17, 2010

... we will suppose two men; one is born without the sense of tasting, the other has it; the latter loves honey, and is greatly delighted in it, because he knows the sweet taste of it; the other loves certain sounds and colors; the love of each has many things that appertain to it, which is common; it causes both to desire and delight in the object beloved, and causes grief when it is absent, &c., but yet that idea or sensation which he who knows the taste of honey has of its excellency and sweetness, that is the foundation of his love, is entirely different from anything the other has or can have; and that delight which he has in honey is wholly diverse from anything that the other can conceive of, though they both delight in their beloved objects. (Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections*)

... so long as we are without Christ and separated from him, nothing which he suffered and did for the salvation of the human race is of the least benefit to us. To communicate to us the blessings that he received from the Father, he must become ours and dwell in us. ... And although it is true that we obtain this by faith, yet since we see that all do not indiscriminately embrace the offer of Christ which is made by the gospel, the very nature of the case teaches us to ascend higher, and inquire into the secret efficacy of the Spirit, to which it is owing that we enjoy Christ and all his blessings. ... For which reason, also, Paul, speaking of cleansing and purification, says, "but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God," (1 Cor. 6:11). The whole comes to this that the Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually binds us to himself. (Calvin, *Institutes*, 3.1.1)

In the year of Grace, 1654, On Monday, 23rd of November, ... From about half past ten in the evening until about half past twelve, FIRE God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, not of the philosophers and scholars. Certitude. Certitude. Feeling. Joy. Peace. God of Jesus Christ. "Thy God shall be my God." Forgetfulness of the world and of everything, except God. He is to be found only by the ways taught in the Gospel. Joy, joy, joy, tears of joy. (Pascal, *Pensees*)

Welcome

Prelude and Time for Reflection

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song (see sheet)

Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Apostle's Creed, 4th c.)

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to their classrooms)

Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the tear off section on the back and place it in the offering plate and we will let you know about up coming events.

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Galatians 3.1-5

3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. 2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Free to Experience God

Outline:

1. What do those who believe in Christ experience?
2. When do we most experience His work?
3. How do we continue to experience His presence

Discussion:

What questions do you have of the text or what application do you see in it?



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Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father we confess there are two ways we do not know you as you desire. We approach our faith like a philosophy, forgetting that all the rich truth of the Gospel exists to lead us to know and experience you. But we also are tempted to define you more from our internal whims and cultural pressures than from whom you have revealed yourself to be in the scriptures. Father, forgive us.

Lord, we want to know you, with all of our being, and to have true relationship with you, as you really are. Thank you that you have desired such a relationship and have made this possible in your son Jesus. Please send your Spirit in greater measure; open the eyes of our hearts to see Jesus, and to see your glory. Strengthen our faith that Jesus is our goodness and that he has taken our sin; grow our confidence that this alone is sufficient to know you now and all of our days.

Private Reflection

Words of Forgiveness

For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. (Gal 5.5)

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.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain 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 either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

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

Responding with Song

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

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17

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 open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.



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Grace Hill is a church that seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (see John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of Christ's grace and truth.

Our pastor is Ross Durham and can be reached by email at ross@gracehillchurch.net or by cell phone at 919.593.2169.

Our Worship Director is Michael Musser and our Children's Ministry Co-Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez.

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Please let us know about your visit with us! Also feel free to ask any questions about Grace Hill:

Please send your name, email address, and mailing address via txt to 919 593 2169 or email to info@gracehillchurch.net.

Or, fill out the form to the right and place in the offering basket during "Giving back to God."

Your Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____
