



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.

[See back of bulletin for sermon quotes]

October 17th, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #40

Question: What should we pray?

Answer: The whole Word of God directs and inspires us in what we should pray, including the prayer Jesus himself taught us.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 9:9-14; Exodus 20:1-17

[Ch 1: Creation, Neh. 9:6]

[Ch 2: Covenant, 9:7-8]

[Ch 3: Exodus]

⁹And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, ¹⁰and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day. ¹¹And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters. ¹²By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go.

[Ch 4: Law]

¹³You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments, ¹⁴and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant.

Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying,

²"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³"You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ...

⁷"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³"You shall not murder.

¹⁴"You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵"You shall not steal.

¹⁶"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

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

Sermon: *As Part of the Grand Story, the Law is Good*

Outline:

1. The Law is a Chapter in the Grand Gospel Story: a Good Gift to Us Flowing from the Exodus
2. Living in the Identity, Purpose, Protection of Creation, Covenant, and Exodus, We Walk in the Path of God's Law
 - a. Work: Our Story Includes Capacity and Purpose, But We Need Sabbath
 - b. Sexuality: Our Story Includes the Goodness of the body, But We Need Sexual Purity and Fidelity. Intimacy with God comes through Covenant, so too with human relationships.
 - c. Words: Our Story Includes God's True Words to Us; We are to be People of True Words
3. Law Helps Us Pray
 - a. Thank You Lord Jesus You gave us intimate relationship with God through Covenant.
 - b. Thank you Lord that You have given me the good gift of the paths of Your law.
 - c. I confess that I want to create my own laws rather than follow Your good laws.
 - d. I confess that I try to "be in the right" by keeping your law and calling others to live by it.
 - e. Help me to always live in the house of Your covenant and walk on the path of Your Law.
 - f. Give me a new heart that trusts and knows that Your law is good and that You are enabling us to walk in all its paths.
 - g. Bring Your bounty of goodness upon me, my family but also my neighbor and our land.

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God we often get the law chapter in Your grand true story wrong. We say, "I will be righteous by keeping Your law and by calling others to keep it." But Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. But we also say, "God's law is unnecessary; I will be my own law." But the blessed person meditates on Your law day and night. Forgive us.

Father, Your law is not the first chapter in what is now our story, but it is a good chapter. You have created us in goodness, covenanted in love, and rescued with power; we are Your beloved, precious people. Having been created, restored, rescued, we want to walk with You on Your paths. Spirit, enable us to see the goodness of Your commands. Give us capacity and desire to walk in them by faith.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

... God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. ~Rom. 3:30-31

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.

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)

Quotes:

This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. ¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made ... ²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ~Galatians 3:17-22

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. I Cor. 6:12

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ~Ps 1:1-3

Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ... ²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.' Acts 3:22-26 (Peter preaching in Jerusalem; Jesus fulfills Moses words in Deut. 18:15.)

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ~Matthew 5:17-20 (Entrance to Kingdom by Jesus fulfilling Covenant; walking by Jesus fulfilling law.)

Announcements:

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **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

