



Grace Hill Church

The Vision of Grace Hill Is to Nourish and Grow the Family of Christ.

...but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular. Tacitus, *Annals*, 15

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. *1 Timothy 4:4-5*

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. *1 Timothy 6:6-10*

September 8, 2024

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

(During the prelude, the first song at 10:00 am, please use the music to prepare your hearts for worship.)

Declaring What We Believe: The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 1: What is the chief end of man?

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

Revelation 17

¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." ³ And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵ And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." ⁶ And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. ⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. ⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; ¹⁰ they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. ¹¹ As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. ¹² And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

¹⁵ And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. ¹⁶ And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, ¹⁷ for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸ And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Series: Revelation: Christ Calls Us to Worship As We See His Glory

Sermon: Babylon, a Different Type of Assault

1. Who Is Babylon?
2. Where Is Babylon?
3. What Do We Marvel at?

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.

Recognizing Our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, we confess we struggle to resist the subtle and treacherous works of Satan. We grieve as he empowers Babylon in every age to oppose God and attack us, His people, not directly, but with cunning, seduction, and deceit. We long for a mind of wisdom (v.9) because we recognize our limitations in discerning God's good creation from Babylon's distortion.

Father, We marvel at You! Open our eyes to behold Your incredible glory. May we find growing contentment in You and deep gratitude for Your gifts. Grant us spiritual wisdom and steadfast conviction in following Jesus. The Lamb will conquer; He is our hope and confidence. Make us His called, chosen, and faithful ones (v.14), free from Babylon and victorious in Him.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. *Romans 8:28-30*

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Lord Almighty, you gave food and drink to humans for their enjoyment, that they might give thanks to you, but you have blessed us with spiritual food and drink and eternal light through your Child. To you be glory forever. Remember, Lord, your Church, to deliver it from all evil and to make it perfect in your love, and gather it together in its holiness from the four winds to your kingdom which you have prepared for it. For yours is the power and the glory forever. Let grace come and let this world pass away. Hosannah to the God of David. If anyone is holy, let him come! if anyone is not, let him repent: Maranatha, Amen." Didache, 10. (language updated and edited)

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.

*Juice is in the outer rings; wine is in the inner rings. Gluten-free crackers are in the small cups.

Prayer for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup, for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. 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 your truth that is captivating and convincing—lead me to 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. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

Additional sermon quote

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. *1 John 2:15*

- **QR Link:** Please share your prayer requests, needs, feedback, new ideas, etc.
- **CORE Classes** follow the worship service, 11:15 am-noon. Zoom code: 989209
- **Women's Bible Study** begins this Wednesday, September 11, 9:30-11:30am at Grace Hill. The Beatitudes study guide is available in the lobby.
- **Hillsborough Hog Day(s)**, Sept. 13/14, see Thursday email for info and sign-up.
- **Worship in Offering.** Three ways to worship the Lord in giving: Bank BillPay system, physical check, mobile: giving.servantkeeper.com/grace-hill-church



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.

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