

PRELUDE

QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

The following Reflection Quotes are provided to catalyze thought, and are therefore not always representative of the views of Grace Church.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:21-23

The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands.

Martin Luther

To be Christians under the law of grace does not mean to wander unbridled outside the law, but to be engrafted in Christ, by whose grace we are free from the curse of the law, and by whose Spirit we have the law engraved upon our hearts.

John Calvin

As many as Christ died for, are for ever free from the curse of the law; for when the law cometh to curse a man who believeth in Christ, he saith, "What have I to do with thee, O law? Thou sayest, 'I will curse thee,' but I reply, 'Thou hast cursed Christ instead of me. Canst thou curse twice for one offence?'" Behold how the law is silenced!

CH Spurgeon

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Liturgist: Rev. Steven Chitty

ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

Arise shine for your light has come
and the glory of God is on you.

Arise see when the earth grows dark
that the Lord will arise upon you,
that the Lord will arise upon you.

Nations will come to your light;
lift up your eyes and see.

We'll gather together and come to you
and your love will be all that we know.
Yes, your love will be all that we know.

Arise come to the open gates
for the Father is welcoming you.
Fear not for the Lord brings peace
and redemption to all who believe,
and redemption to all who believe.

The sun will not shine
cause you'll be all the light that we need,
and violence will end
all the wars that we wage will cease.

We will glorify your name,
We will glorify your name.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
**that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
**for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you!

The earth has yielded its increase;

God, our God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us;

let all the ends of the earth fear him!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Concluded by the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who is in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

LET US LOVE & SING & WONDER

Let us love and sing and wonder,
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood,
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by his grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation,
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice,
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is,
Justice smiles and asks no more
He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood
He, Who washed us with His blood,
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus,
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us,
Now their praises fill the sky
You have washed us with Your blood,
You have washed us with Your blood
You have washed us with Your blood,
You are worthy Lamb of God.

Words: John Newton, 1774. Music: Laura Taylor, 2001. CCLI #1937987

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Holy God,

For those times we have chosen death over life for ourselves,

Forgive us.

For those times we have chosen death over life for others,

Forgive us.

For those times we have chosen not to receive your blessings,

Forgive us.

For those times we have prevented others from receiving your
blessings,

Forgive us.

For each time we have made the easy choice of law
over the hard choice of love,

Forgive us.

O God of mercy,

Hear our prayers.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYST'RY

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry

In the dawning of the King

He the theme of heaven's praises

Robed in frail humanity

In our longing in our darkness

Now the light of life has come

Look to Christ who condescended

Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suff'ring
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

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PASSING THE PEACE

Please use this time, when we would normally greet each other and pass the peace, to reach out via text or email to others in the congregation, maybe someone who you frequently sit near or someone in your community group, and let others know that you are worshipping with them.

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 3:7-22

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.

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

¹⁵ To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified.¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came four hundred and thirty 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, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

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.

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This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

United In Need- Rev. Bob Crossland

Have questions about this sermon you'd like to hear answered on the podcast? Ask them here:

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OFFERING

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HOW LONG (LOVE CONSTRAINING TO OBEDIENCE)

To see the Law by Christ fulfilled,
To hear His pardoning voice,
Can change a slave into a child
And duty into choice.

No strength of nature can suffice
To serve the Lord aright
And what she has, she misapplies,
For want of clearer light.

How long, how long beneath the Law I lay
How long, how long, I struggled to obey

Then to abstain from outward sin
Was more than I could do
Now if I feel its power within
I feel I hate it too.

Then all my servile works were done,
A righteousness to raise
Now, freely chosen in the Son,
I freely choose His ways.

How long, how long beneath the law I lay
How long, how long I struggled to obey
How long, how long in bondage and distress
How long, how long I tried without success

Words: William Cowper

Music: Pacific Gold 2012

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ruling Elder Matt Cabot

THE SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Words: Edward Mote. Tune: William B. Bradbury

BENEDICTION

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Amen.

CHARGE

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!