

Irresistible Grace

Saul of Tarsus, a sworn enemy of the Christian faith, was enroute to Damascus to break up the church. As he drew near to the city a strange thing happened. The risen Christ appeared to him in person. Saul fell to the ground. The Lord said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He parried the question with a question: "Who are you, Lord?" And Christ said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Thus did Saul, the self-righteous moralistic Pharisee, turn into Paul, the fully accredited apostle and champion of the very movement he had detested. He never forgot that experience. "It is God that said, Light shall shine out of darkness, who shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ," he wrote.

Note the details of his awakening. The Lord did not come to him and say, "Now Saul, let's sit down at a summit conference and work out the details of your salvation"; or, "Saul, do the best you can, try to keep my law, and I will take up the slack and together we will be mutually reconciled"; or, "Saul, you carry out the golden rule and my grace will complement your effort and thus we will enjoy sweet fellowship."

These are travesties of the gospel of free grace and eternal love. After Damascus the apostle could say, "By the grace of God I am what I am." Grace, in his vocabulary, meant divine, sovereign, irresistible favor to the sinner who merits the miseries of this life, death itself, and the pains of hell forever.

R. B. Kuiper used to say, that the spirit of God does not believe for us. It is equally true that the spirit of God, in the operation of grace, "convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of the truth, and renewing our wills, does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel."

*All that the Father
gives me will come to
me, and whoever
comes to me I will
never cast out.*

John 6:37

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 76

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 716

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good.

Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 78

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 255

“O Jesus, We Adore Thee”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 50:4-11, pew Bible p. 611

Sermon

THE OPEN-EARED SERVANT

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation - Insert

“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee”

Celebrating the Supper

Hymn of Response # 263

“Lift High the Cross”

Congregation remains seated as an offering for the Deacons

Fund will be received during the singing of this hymn.

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Prayer Meeting. Church doors will open at 10:00am for gathering and sharing prayer requests. Prayer will begin at 10:15am.

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of hymn 263, following the Lord's Supper. Please remain seated for the singing of the hymn and then stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri and pronouncement of the Lord's Benediction.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

There is no Tuesday Bible Study this week. The Bible study resumes on Tuesday, July 14.

Saturday, July 11, 2:00pm. A memorial service for Eric Verby will be held in the church. Eric entered into the presence of his Lord on June 2. We rejoice that he is now at rest with Christ.