



Our God of Grace: The One Who Frees

"Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus"

(Roms 6.8,11)

Call to Worship

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this we greatly rejoice!

**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
forever and ever. Amen!**

(1 Pet 1:3-5; Rev 5:12-13)

Let us pray.

**Sovereign Lord, our Heavenly Father,
it is our heart's desire, our deepest longing,
to know you, to love you, and to worship you.
It is our greatest pleasure,
our highest privilege, our chief delight,
to meet with you, the one true and living God,
and experience your grace and favour.
Grant us power by your Holy Spirit
to worship you now, in spirit and in truth.
Amen.**

(Valley of Vision)

Psalm 96

Sing unto the Lord a new song,
Sing to Him, O all the earth!
Bless the name of God forever;
Sing salvation's wondrous worth.
Tell His glory to the nations;
Of His wonders, anthems raise.
He is Lord of all creation,
Great, and greatly to be praised.

Other gods fade as a vapor;
There is none beside the Lord.
In His dwelling, strength, and splendor,
God exalted and adored.
Give Him glory, all ye people;
Give Him glory due His name.
In His temple, as an off'ring,
All His pow'r and might proclaim.

Worship God in holy beauty;
Bow before His throne in fear.
Now proclaim among the nations
His dominion, ever near.
By His word, the earth was founded,
That it never may be moved;
In His word is justice grounded,
That He righteous may be proved.

Let the heavens shout, rejoicing,
And the earth in joy aflame;
Let the sea in thunder praise Him,
Field and forest now acclaim.
For the Lord, the Lord is coming;
Let the earth resound again!
To His people, He is coming
In His righteousness to reign!

© 2017 by David P. Regier.

Confession and Assurance

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or remain seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful God,
We confess to you that we are by nature
sinful and unclean,
And that we have sinned against You
in thought, word, and deed;
Not only in outward transgressions,
But also in secret thoughts and desires
that we are not able to understand,
But which are all known to You.
For this reason,
we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,
Seeking and imploring Your grace
for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin." (Ps 32:3-5)

Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
You are a hiding place for me; you

preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, age after age. Amen!

God Speaks to us through His Word

First Reading: Genesis 12.1-9 - The Call of Abram

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 5:18-6:14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Our God of Grace: The One Who Frees (Mark Payne)

Response to God's Word

Creed (Heidelberg Catechism)

Believer, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,
am not my own, but belong to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ,
who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins,
and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;
and so preserves me that without the will of my Father in heaven
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.
Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

My heart is filled with thankfulness

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness,
And clothed me with His light,
And wrote His law of righteousness
With power upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow Him.

© 2004 Thankyou Music

Benediction and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Sermon Notes

Today we continue in our series entitled "Our God of Grace" with our fourth sermon, "The One Who Frees". Our goal in the series is to reflect on how God in love and grace, through Christ, rescues us for Himself, shields and protects us, and how this grace continues to pour out into our daily lives, equipping us for our daily walk with the Lord in all circumstances.

Our God of Grace

1. The One Who Loves
2. The One Who Reconciles
3. The One Who Shields
- 4. The One Who Frees**
5. The Great Shepherd

Please pray that as we look to God to know more of His grace, that He would build our confidence in His sovereign power, mercy and grace to sustain us through these challenging times, and that any fears or anxieties we may have would be dissolved by the peace of God which passes understanding (Phil 4:4-7).

The series concludes three Sundays from now as Mark and Sarah are taking time during the next two weeks for their house move and other matters.