

**FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
(Tune – Doxology)

**With broken heart and contrite sigh,  
A trembling sinner, Lord, I cry;  
Thy pard'ning grace is rich and free,  
O God, be merciful to me.**

**I smite upon my troubled breast,  
With deep and conscious guilt oppressed;  
Christ and His cross my only plea,  
O God, be merciful to me.**

**Nor works nor deeds that I have done  
Can for a single sin atone;  
To Christ, the Lord, alone I flee,  
O God, be merciful to me.**

**And when redeemed from sin and hell,  
With all the ransomed throng I dwell;  
My raptured song shall ever be,  
God has been merciful to me.**

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**TODAY'S SERVICES – Messages by Pastor Bill Parker**

**BIBLE CLASS – 10:00 a.m. –**

**The Blessed and the Evil Servant – Matthew 24:46-51**

**MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 a.m. –**

**OPENING – Psalm 130:7-8**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (above)**

**HYMN – Come Thou Fount – p. 17**

**READING – Galatians 6:11-18**

**MESSAGE – The Israel of God – Galatians 6:14-16**

**CLOSING HYMN – Praise the Savior – p. 51**

**Birthdays:** Neil Jackson - Feb. 12th | Andrea Pannell - Feb. 15th

**PRAYER REQUESTS** – Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Kathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Leon Drake, Judy Fletcher, David Tennyson, Monica Hayes, Mike Loosier, Patsy Parr, Phyllis Payne, the mission in Malawi.

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### **WHO ARE GOD'S ELECT?**

They are those whom the Lord God chose to save and gave to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Whom He made to be their Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer and by Whom He freely gives the whole of salvation and eternal life (*Ephesians 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 1:9-10*).

They are those who are justified in God's sight based on the obedience unto death of the Lord Jesus Christ Who redeemed them by His blood and in Whom they stand righteous having Christ's righteousness imputed to them (*Romans 4:6-8; 8:33-34; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21*).

They are those whom God gives life and calls to Christ by the Holy Spirit under the preaching of the Gospel of His free and sovereign grace wherein the Spirit reveals the glorious Person of Christ and the powerful accomplishment of Christ to secure the salvation of all for whom He died and arose (*Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 4:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7*).

They are those whom God in Christ preserves unto glory by His grace and power and keeps them safe within His spiritual family and kingdom unto final glory to live forever and ever with Him (*John 10:27-30; 6:37-45; 2 Timothy 1:12; Jude 24-25*).

—Pastor Bill Parker

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### **UNCONDITIONAL REDEMPTION**

The notion that Christ's death is conditionally sufficient for all mankind, if all mankind were to believe, leads the sinner at once to the performance of some duty which he imagines will give efficacy to the death of Christ, and render it available to him. By this means he is led to draw comfort from his duties, instead of the finished salvation of Christ. This error is the fruitful cause of the disquieting fears and legal bondage of many professors. They are constantly in fear lest they have not performed the requisite condition, and, utter the complaint, "What lack I yet?" They have no notion that the work of Christ alone, made manifest to the heart by the Holy Spirit, is sufficient to give joy unspeakable, without the performance of some duty on their part; and, therefore, they are in constant perplexity lest this important duty should not have been performed.

– William Rushton (1831)

## DESPISED BUT JUSTIFIED

Christ spoke the parable in *Luke 18* to the Pharisees who *“trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others.”* (vs. 9) What we say about others and how we treat them often reveals more about us than it does them. Sad as it is, all people, even believers, are by nature like these Pharisees. Self-righteousness plagues us all our days. Often we manifest this self-righteous spirit in our attitude toward others. Christ said they believed themselves to be righteous and *“despised others.”* Christ illustrates this in the parable of two men that went up to the temple to pray. *“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.”* His prayer was really about his superiority over others. Listen to how he speaks of the man: *“this Publican.”* His speech betrayed contempt for a man he probably didn’t even know. He probably put the man in this class based upon what someone had told him about him. They both had come as worshippers but only one of them was really righteous, the man that God said was righteous! That man was not looking at or talking about others; he was concerned about his own state and condition! He smote himself upon his breast and cried out to God saying, *“God be merciful to me THE SINNER.”*

How can a sinner saved by God’s mercy and grace alone in Christ despise any other sinner? When Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up he cried, *“Woe is me!”* When Job saw what he was before the thrice holy God he cried, *“I abhor MYSELF!”* Those who see themselves as miserable sinners saved only by sovereign mercy cry, *“I am undone!”* Like Daniel they confess, *“my comeliness was turned in me into corruption.”* Paul said, *“O wretched man that I AM!”* In reality, we ARE just like other men BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD! He alone makes us to differ! Furthermore, the man the Pharisee was talking about was one of God’s elect. Better to have a millstone tied around your neck and be cast into the sea than to offend one of Christ’s little ones. Christ said he *“went down to his house JUSTIFIED”* – Declared righteousness before God through the righteousness of Christ! What the Pharisee said about him didn’t change what he was before God one bit, and I am so thankful that the same is true for all God’s people! The worst they can say might be true, but only what God says of me in Christ counts. I might be “despised” but I’m “justified.”

-- Pastor Gary Shepard

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*That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*  
-- Romans 5:21

### WORSHIP SERVICES:

SUNDAY – 10:00 A.M.  
– 11:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY – 7:00 P.M.

TV BROADCAST:  
Sunday mornings on  
NBC - WALB-TV @ 9 a.m.  
Mediacom – channel 10

### WEBSITES:

[www.rofgrace.com](http://www.rofgrace.com)  
[www.sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/reignofgrace)  
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