

EAGER AVENUE GRACE CHURCH

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, January 18, 2026

10 am: "Sanctified Vessels of Honor" | Lesson 8
2 Timothy 2:20-26
Bill Parker

11 am: "Life in the Son"
1 John 5:10-15
Bill Parker

Live Stream

Every Sunday 10 & 11 a.m.
-[Sermon Audio](#)
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No Acceptance Without Perfection

The Word of God is clear; the Lord's people are ***"accepted in the Beloved"*** (*Ephesians 1:6*). In Christ we are not merely made "acceptable" to God, but we have been from eternity, we are presently, and we evermore shall be ***"accepted in the Beloved."*** It is also clear that our holy Lord will only accept those who are perfect. ***"It shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein"*** (*Leviticus 22:21*). If the Lord's people are accepted by Him, then it stands to reason that we must be without blemish, and if we are without blemish, then we are perfect, and since there is no perfection in us, that perfection must be found ***"in the Beloved."*** The righteousness we require is in Christ which is freely and graciously imputed to us. He established that righteousness by His obedience through life and unto death. ***"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"*** (*2 Cor. 5:21*). Having Christ, we have the righteousness God not only demands, but also approves of. Only by His sacrifice could this perfection be brought in and sinners be made accepted by God. Let every true believer rejoice in Christ. ***"Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works"*** (*Ecclesiastes 9:7*). —Pastor Jim Byrd

Boxed In By God's Grace

Read the following statement – “We love our theological systems. Our five points. Our creeds. Our confessions. Our boxes. We organize God's truth into neat categories, build walls around our positions, and judge anyone who doesn't fit our formula. But what if our biggest hindrance to spiritual growth isn't false doctrine but the box we've built around true doctrine?”

This kind of wrong thinking is what gives rise to many people who justify compromising the truth by arguing against a strong stand for the truth as “trying to put God in a box,” i.e. trying to limit God or put constraints on Him. The truth is that the Lord God is not confined or “boxed in” by our human creeds and theological systems, but He is identified and distinguished according to His nature as found in His Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Lord said, ***“And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3)***. And the only way we can know God in Christ is by the revelation of Himself in truth as it is given us in His Word in the power of the Spirit. For example, if God says that He cannot lie (as in ***Titus 1:2***), it is not me trying to “put God in a box” to preach that He is truth and cannot lie. If He says that salvation is totally by grace based on the righteousness of Christ (as in ***Ephesians 2:8-10***, as well as all of Scripture), it is not me trying to “put God in a box” to preach that God does not save any other way, and all who preach any other way are false preachers.

Here is the bottom line – God puts Himself in His own box, and that box is His Word. Isaiah wrote, ***“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not ACCORDING TO THIS WORD, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20)***. Those who claim to preach Christ, the Gospel, or the way of salvation outside the limits of God's Word of truth and preach false Christs (***2 Cor. 11:4***), false gospels (***Gal. 1:6-9***), or false ways of salvation (***Matt. 7:13-14***), are preaching a message that leads sinners onto the broad road of destruction. That is a box that I don't want to be in. I would rather be boxed in by God's free and sovereign grace through Jesus Christ the Lord. —Pastor Bill Parker

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:9-10)

The principle of “love” may well be distorted by men when they speak of the love of God to men. However, the principle of justice is not quite so easily distorted. Thus, the love of God to His people is described as their “justification.” In love, God justifies His elect, declaring them righteous through Jesus Christ and His righteous death. He does this showing that His love is a just love in Christ crucified, and He is always at the same time “a just God AND (not “but”) a Savior.” His love is demonstrated by His giving Himself for us, redeeming us from all iniquity. As the hymn writer wrote: “Redeeming love has been my theme and shall be till I die.”

—Pastor Gary Shepard

Birthdays

Javon Jones - Jan. 18th | Richman Margeson - Jan. 20th | Bill Sparks - Jan 22nd

Prayer Requests

Patricia Pannell, Alex Wages, Audrey Asher, Kathy Robinson, Lori Ann Loosier, Leon Drake, Judy Fletcher, David Tennyson, Monica Hayes, Patsy Parr, Phyllis Payne, Glenn Tennyson, Mason Flynn, Banks Margeson, Jermaine Harpe, the mission in Malawi, Africa.

Hymns

-Savior, Like a Shepherd - 294
-Blessed Assurance - 255

Call to Worship

(Tune – Be Thou My Vision – p. 334)

**Jesus, my Savior, and Lord of my life,
I will exalt Thee in calm and in strife.
Thou my salvation, my comfort and stay;
Thy will be done as you guide on my way**

**Righteousness given, by grace I am free,
No condemnation for those who believe.
Source of my life and my glorified end.
God has forgiven me of all my sin.**

**Mercy and justice are met in accord,
Christ is my Surety Who took justice's sword.
There on the cross where He died in my place,
Jesus my Savior and Giver of grace.**

**Lord of all glory, my Lord over all,
I worship Thee and upon Thee I call.
Praises and honor to Thy holy name,
Sing of Thy greatness and Thy truth proclaim.**

