

## FAIRMONT GRACE CHURCH

### August 26, 2012

“The promises of God,” said an old preacher, “are like the clothes we wear; if there is life in the body, they warm us, but not otherwise. Where there is true living faith, God’s promises afford warm comfort.”

#### *Daily Readings for the Week of August 26 - Sept. 2*

Sunday	Isaiah 64-66	Thursday	Jeremiah 31-32
Monday	Jeremiah 22-24	Friday	Jeremiah 33-35
Tuesday	Jeremiah 25-27	Saturday	Jeremiah 36-38
Wednesday	Jeremiah 28-30	Sunday	Jeremiah 39-41

\* We will observe the Lord’s Table next Sunday in our morning service.

We will have lunch together here afterwards. There will not be an evening service.

\* I am scheduled to preach in the Bible Conference in Danville, Ky. Sat. morning. Please pray for these services.

Call to Worship Hymn

Scripture Reading

Hymn #205-Once For All!

Message

Closing Hymn #488 - My

Redeemer

*Zion Is His Dwelling Still - Don Fortner*

*(Tune: #255 Tune: I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say)*

The Lord our God chose Zion’s hill to be His place of rest;  
 And Zion is His dwelling still, with His own presence blessed!  
 Christ’s word of promise He will keep, as long as time shall stand,  
 Where two or three poor, needy sheep gather, He will descend.

Christ stoops to meet poor sinners here and speaks by His preached Word  
 To both reprove our sin and cheer our souls with grace outpoured.  
 The hungry and in spirit poor with grace and truth are fed.  
 The contrite, trembling at His Word, by Christ are gently led.

O Holy Spirit, come today! Father, accept our praise!  
 Savior, Your glory here display, and heal each soul’s disease!  
 Arise, O Christ! Arise! Arise! Come, visit us with grace!  
 We wait, with hopeful, longing eyes, to be thus owned and blessed.

### “No Difference”

“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.” (Acts 15:11)

Looking at the first word in the verse above, consider: ‘But’ what? This was the answer of the conference held at Jerusalem because ‘Certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren, and said, “Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.”’ (Acts 15:1) This is why Paul and Barnabas left Antioch and came to the church at Jerusalem, of which James, the Lord’s half-brother, was the pastor. There the apostles and elders came together and gave their united voice in condemning those who troubled the Gentile believers with this mixing of law and grace (22-31). And they also with one voice reaffirmed this vital truth that salvation is ‘by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone’ ( v.11 ). What was true then is true now.

We believe that to God’s grace in Christ, not to the law, are all believers debtors. “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” Notice verse 11 says: ‘But we believe, ’ that is Peter, who after being told by Christ: ‘thou shalt deny me thrice, vehemently protested: ‘If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise.’ Soon Peter sets at the camp fire of the Lord’s enemies and for the third time, with curses, swears ‘I know him not. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.’ Yes, Peter was happy to say: ‘ But we believe that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved.’ Then there’s Paul, once a self righteous Pharisee who said: ‘For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am.’ Yes, Paul stands next to Peter and says: ‘But we believe...’

‘But we’ applies to James, the Lord’s half brother as well. Was James among those family members who were embarrassed by the Lord Jesus and who at one time said: ‘He is beside himself.’ (Mk. 3:21) ‘For neither did his brethren believe on him.’ (Jh. 7:5 ) He begins his epistle with: ‘James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.’ So, with Peter and Paul, he stands to proclaim: ‘ But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.’ The church sends Paul and Barnabas, with other men, back to Antioch with an epistle stating that they are not under the law, but grace. When they had arrived there, they gathered the believers together and delivered the epistle, ‘Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.’ (31). I can almost hear them singing something like this:

“Free from the law- O happy condition!  
 Jesus hath bled, and there is remission;  
 Cursed by the law and bruised by the fall,  
 Grace hath redeemed us once for all.”

Larry

## “A Happy Child”

*“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.” (John 17:11)*

Wise, blessed, and happy is the child who willingly and graciously submits to his parents' instruction, guidance, and discipline, even though it often results in temporary disappointments, heartache and pain. Such a child honors his father and mother by trusting himself to their love and wisdom. His gracious submission to them says, “They know what is best and will do what is best for me.”

Wise, blessed, and happy is the sinner who can willingly and graciously submit himself to the sovereign providence of his heavenly Father, even though it may entail temporary disappointments, discomforts, sorrow and pain. Such a sinner **honors** his heavenly Father. He realizes, and is thankful, that what we call providence is not blind fate or mere chance, but the exercise of his Father's sovereign will. He understands that his heavenly Father, in infinite wisdom, rules over all creation and all creatures; for the good of His people, to the glory of His great name.

Such a sinner believes ( knows) that every particular event of providence which he passes through, so to speak, is brought about by infinite Wisdom and Love. He not only sees the **hand** of God but also the **heart** of God in designing his passage through this world. He is happy and thankful to be in the hands of such a God. Such a sinner **honors** his heavenly Father. He knows that *his Father knows* what is best for him. He knows that *his Father is able* to do that which is best for him. He knows that *his Father will do* what is best for him. He wants his heavenly Father to be glorified in Himself, in all things. Blessed and happy is such a sinner!

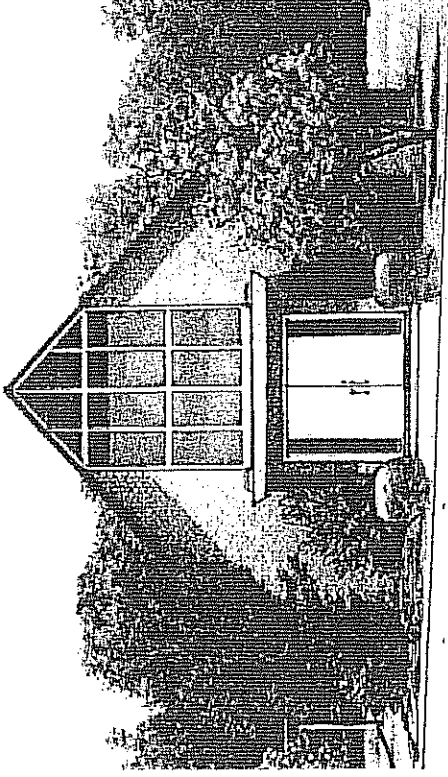
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1. *“My times are in Thy hand,”  
My god, I want them there:  
Choose Lord the path that's best for me  
Throughout my journey here.*
2. *“My times are in Thy hand,”  
My God, do what You will:  
Grant grace to me to honor You,  
To trust You and be still.*

*“Jesus saith unto here, ‘...but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.”*

# Fairmont Grace Church



**Pastor Larry Criss**

3701 Talladega Highway · Sylacauga, Alabama

*“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” I Corinthians 1:23-24*

## Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Larry Criss, Pastor

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