



SUNDAY IN HOME WORSHIP

Sunday 28th June 2020

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A resource from

GRANGE BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's keep praying for the ability to gather all together soon. We're hoping that Sunday July the 12th will be our first Sunday gathering back together, but we're still waiting for more details to come through to ensure we can do that within the stage 3 lifting of restrictions. Your prayers for wisdom in planning these gatherings are hugely appreciated.

Praise God for the safe arrival of Ezekiel Harry Bartlett! We'll be praying for the Bartletts later on this morning as well as other members too.

If you have the technological capability, be encouraged to set aside an hour from 5-6pm this afternoon and jump on Zoom. These have been some really encouraging times of study and prayer.

As we get underway with in-home/in-park worship this morning, let's remind one another in song of the good news. God hasn't demanded that we perform our way to him, instead, he has graciously given us his own Son, Jesus, to be our great High Priest whose sacrifice on the cross made an end of all our sin. This morning, are you weighed down by sin you still battle with in this life of repentance? He ever lives and pleads for you! Praise his name!

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is 'Love'
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me.
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God
With Christ, my Saviour and my God

Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook
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PRAYERS OF PETITION

Pray for our world that seems to have become increasingly divided over the past months. Pray for the people and leaders of Brazil, Mexico, India, and Pakistan where COVID-19 cases are rising fast. Pray for our leaders here in Australia. Pray for the Church around the world to be faithfully proclaiming the good news of God's love for us while our brokenness is so evident.

Ask the Lord to bring us together to gather as a church in coming weeks. Pray for Luke and Ben as they carefully weigh up how to do that well and wisely.

Praise God for the safe arrival of Ezekiel Harry Bartlett. Pray for the Bartletts as they settle into life as a family of four while caring for Amy's dad Ted. Ask God to supply for all their needs through his people and to give them his wisdom for any decisions they need to be making at this time.

Rejoice with Chris & Summer who celebrated their third wedding anniversary this week! Ask God to keep increasing them in their love for one another and to strengthen them daily for a marriage that reveals the patient and never-failing love of God.

Pray for Laurie Russell. Laurie is an elderly brother in Christ from Albany Creek who hasn't been able to see his wife for months since she's in aged care with dementia. Pray that they might be reunited soon.

GALATIANS 5:13-15

SET FREE TO SERVE!

READ & PRAY

Read Galatians 5:1-15 and pray for God's word of truth to transform us for his glory and our good.

INTRODUCTION

We live in a culture obsessed with freedom. Many think of freedom as the right to be able to do whatever you want, whenever you want, without fear of interference from others. Is that your experience too? That kind of freedom is inherently selfish and, ironically, just another form of slavery.

The freedom that Christ offers us in the gospel, however, couldn't be more different! His true freedom isn't the freedom to selfishly serve our own sinful desires and wants, it's the freedom to selflessly serve one another in love.

If Grange Baptist Church is to continue growing up in maturity and unity, it's so important that we have a proper understanding of true freedom. Without it, we run the risk of becoming a church full of individuals who think we are 'free' to assert our own individual rights and needs. But Christ didn't set us free from the Law in order that we might be a 'law unto ourselves'. He set us free so that we might serve one another in love. We have been set free to serve!

GALATIANS 5:13a

SET FREE FROM THE LAW

- Galatians is Paul's passionate plea for the church in Galatia to remember the heart of the Gospel message.
- Consider Galatians 1:6-9 and 3:1-6. What was the church in Galatia at risk of doing?
- Paul reminds these Christians of the fundamental truth of the gospel: a person isn't justified (declared righteous by God) by their works of the law, but through their faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 2:15-16). A Christian, therefore, isn't obligated to earn their justification by keeping Jewish laws such as circumcision (Gal. 5:2-6). Rather, through Christ, we have been set free from the law we couldn't keep (see Gal. 1:3-5; 2:3-4; 5:1).
- The Galatians were returning to circumcision as a way of earning God's favour. How might we be tempted to put ourselves back under 'a yoke of slavery?'

GALATIANS 5:13b-15

SET FREE TO LOVE

- Read Galatians 5:13b-14. What are we Christians to do with all this newfound freedom?
- How might a Christian misuse their newfound freedom in Christ? Look at the list of 'works of the flesh' in Galatians 5:19-21. Do you notice how many of these sins listed have to do with disunity?

- Instead of using our newfound freedom in Christ to serve our own sinful and selfish desires, what does Paul command us to do?
- Throughout the New Testament, 'love' is presented as the fulfilment of the law (Read Matt. 22:34-40, John 13:34-35, Rom. 13:8-10, Gal. 5:6).
- Paul is talking about a Christian's very real freedom, as being their very real servanthood of one another in love. This is a very real paradox. How does this true freedom differ from the world's view of freedom?
- What might a church that refuses to 'serve one another in love' look like? Take note of verse 15.
- Why might this be a timely word for our church to hear, especially since after some time apart we hope to be coming together in worship again soon?

CONCUSION & PASTORAL REFLECTION

- Christ did not set us free from the Law in order that we might now become a 'law unto ourselves.' He set us free in order that we might serve one another in love.
- True Christian freedom isn't the freedom to selfishly serve our own sinful desires and wants, it's the freedom to selflessly serve one another in love.
- True freedom is to be set free from ourselves to serve others in love. How can you live out this freedom in Christ this week?
- Listen to the pastoral reflection for further encouragements and challenges.

O HOW GOOD IT IS

O how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit
In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of his presence
Here among us.

**So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out his word
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come
For he dwells in the presence of his people.**

O how good it is
On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength
The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging.

Chorus

O how good it is
To embrace his command
To prefer one another
Forgive as he forgives.
When we live as one
We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father
And the Spirit.

Chorus

