

October 29, 2017

## SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Of Princeton, New Jersey*

### Jesus Christ

For by Him were all things created,  
that are in heaven, and that are in earth,  
visible and invisible ...

And He is before all things,  
and by Him all things consist.  
- Colossians 1:16-17

#### **Weekly Schedule of Services**

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class  
11:00 AM Morning Service  
Thursday: 7:30 PM Mid-week  
Service

*Services Broadcast Live @  
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#### **WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION**

251 Green Lane  
Ewing, NJ, 08638

#### **MAILING ADDRESS**

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**Articles in this bulletin are by the pastor unless otherwise noted.**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>10:15</b>	<b>am.</b>	<b>Bible</b>	<b>Class</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Service:</b>	Hymns * Scripture Reading * Message*	Hymn.
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Today:</b>	Scott Keller	<b>Scripture</b> <b>Thurs:</b> Rob Keller
<b>Nursery Sun:</b>	Carol D; Kristyn K	<b>Nursery Thurs:</b>	Emma C
<b>BDays:</b>	Alyssa L. 8th; Joshua D—9th; Urmilla I—13 <sup>th</sup> ; Jacob I—16 <sup>th</sup> ; Jonathan D—21st; Ravi I—29 <sup>th</sup>		



## SUNDAY'S READING IN PROVERBS

**Proverbs 10: 11: The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.**



## COME UNTO CHRIST

Are you laboring under the burden of the law? Christ fulfilled the law for his people. He is the end of the law for righteousness to all who believe. Christ says, “*Come unto me and I will give you rest!*” (Mt 11: 28) Are you heavy laden under the heavy load of guilt from your sin? Christ put away the sin of his people on the cross. Christ says, “*Come unto me and I will give your rest!*” Are you under the weight of your old fleshly man? The old sinful man in Christ’s people was crucified when Christ was crucified. So Christ says, “*Come unto me and I will give you rest.*” Are you loaded down with the burden of this life? To those who come to Christ, he says “*My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid....in me ye have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world...*” (Jn 14: 27; 16: 33)



## WHAT A CONTRAST

**Acts 7:54-60**

What a demonstration of contrast between the way of the wicked flesh and the way of sovereign grace in Christ. When God’s servant, Stephen was being stoned to death for the gospel’s sake; the enemies of the gospel were filled with rage, Stephen was filled with joy in the Lord (Acts 7: 56; Phil. 3:3). They were occupied with hatred; Stephen was bursting with the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). They were packed with fear; Stephen was occupied with faith (Heb. 12:2). They were chock-full of persecution; Stephen was jam-packed with prayer (Acts 7:60).

Oh, how dreadfully wicked is the way of the sinful flesh (Rom. 3:9-18). Oh, what a difference the sovereign grace of God makes in the believer (Rom. 9:15-16; 1 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 1:9). Oh, may God cause us to believe and love the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! *Pastor Tom Harding*



It is my determination, in everything I preach and write, to glorify God my Savior, the Triune Jehovah, expose sin and leave sinners without excuse before God, call sinners to Christ, comfort, edify, and strengthen God's saints, and inspire in the hearts of God's elect devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. Any subject that is not useful for these goals is not worth thought, let alone discussion by God's ambassador. *Pastor Don Fortner*



## PHOEBE COMMENDED

***“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.”*** (Paul the apostle in Romans 16:1)

Phoebe's name means “radiant”. Truly she was. But not in the sense many might assume. Nor in the sense many unbelieving women desire to be. Rather, Phoebe was radiant with commendability to Christ's people. God forbid that any woman among His people be uncommendable. But truly blessed is she whom Christ's minister publicly commends to others. Phoebe was commendable for these reasons:

1. *Phoebe was acknowledged by Christ's minister as “our sister”.* She had probably been born in paganism, for she was named for a Greek goddess. But she had forsaken paganism and joined herself to Christ through saving faith in Him, and was therefore a member of His family.

2. *Phoebe was a “servant of the church in Cenchrea”.* Cenchrea was a village at one of the harbors of Corinth. The church of Corinth evidently assembled in this village. Phoebe was a “servant” of this church. She did not merely have her name on the church roll, nor occupy a pew. Rather, she served Christ in His church.

3. *Phoebe was declared by Christ's minister to be “a helper of many and of myself also”.* The Greek word here translated helper means “patroness, caring for the affairs of others and aiding them with her resources” (*Thayer's Greek Definitions*). She was a patroness to many of Christ's people, evidently cheerfully and voluntarily providing for their needs at her own expense.

Phoebe therefore was certainly commendable to Christ's saints in whatever place she visited. She was to be received worthily and assisted necessarily, treated according to her treatment to others.

O that we might find many Phoebes in Christ's churches!

*Missionary Daniel Parks*



## SPEAK THE EDIFYING WORD

**Ephesians 4: 29: Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**

Speech is an invaluable gift and an incredible tool. With it comes an incredible responsibility, especially for God's preacher. If used correctly and blessed by God our word can be a blessing of inestimable worth, "*ministering grace unto the hearers.*" But if used incorrectly it can greatly corrupt our hearers. (Ja 3: 2-12) Every word we speak is either one or the other. The Holy Spirit exhorts us to put off the old man with his corrupt speech and put on the new man, speaking the good word of God, which God uses to edify and minister grace to the hearers.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The natural heart cannot speak good things. Christ said, "*A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*" (Mt 12: 34-35) When the inward part is wicked there is no faithfulness in the mouth, only guile. (Ps 5: 9) The natural heart is nothing but guile so the natural man speaks lies on God in hypocrisy. (Ps 12: 8; 52: 2-4; 73: 8-9; Rom 3: 13) This is why our Lord said that a sinful heart cannot speak good things.

Yet, God gives a new heart in the new birth. (Ez 36: 26-27) When God gives us faith in Christ he will not impute iniquity to us because Christ has justified us so that there is no iniquity to impute. In addition, by the Holy Spirit there is no guile in the new spirit created within us. (Ps 32: 2) God alone makes us have a good treasure within. Then as Christ declared, "*A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things.*" The sure, certain result is that "*no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*" (1 Cor 12: 3)

Believers know the good and edifying word which ministers grace to the hearers. It is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the message which declares "*of God are ye in Christ Jesus Jesus, who of God is made unto us Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption. That as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the LORD.*" (1 Cor 1: 30-31) So out of the new heart, believers first speak to God, confessing Christ. (Ro 10:10) Then we begin speaking to our needy brethren and to needy, lost sinners the word which is good, that is, the gospel which God uses to edify his people by ministering grace to the hearers.

God hears and delights to hear the honoring things his people say about his Son. (Mal 3: 16) But nothing good comes from corrupt doctrine and idle talk. (1 Cor 15:33) God's word is that which is good and edifying. (Col 3:16; 4: 5-6) But we need God to give us grace to speak as we ought. So pray for one another, especially our pastors, as Paul asked the saints to do for him, "*that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*" (Eph 6: 19-20)