

Grace Reformed Church

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Order of Service

Prelude

Announcements

Silent Prayer

*Call to Worship: Psalm 46

*Salutation – Opening Blessing

*Invocation – Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn #189: Jesus Loves Me.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 75.

Confession of Faith: The Apostles Creed

Tithes and Offerings

Congregational prayer

*Hymn #678: Trusting Jesus.

Scripture Reading: John 3:16-17.

Scripture text:

Sermon Title: It's All Under Control.

*Prayer of application

*Closing Hymn #688: Have Thine Own Way, Lord.

*Benediction – Closing Blessing

*Doxology [Hymn #731]

*Postlude

*Congregation Stands

We believe the worship service as service unto God is the primary way that God's people grow in faith and love, as God's Word is read, preached, sung, prayed and visibly administered in baptism and the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME: Following the recommendation of the President of the United States to limit gatherings to less than 10 people, Sunday School, Worship Service, and Bible Study will be entirely on-line for the next 2 Sundays.

COMFORTING WORDS: God's providence has to do with God controlling all things by His sovereignty, so that nothing happens by chance but "all things work together for good to those who love God" (Rom. 8:28). "If God be for us, who can be against us, and who can separate us from the love of Christ?" Therefore, we are not supposed to worry; we are to trust in the God who will meet our needs [Matt. 6:25-34]; "but it is natural to worry about painful things and about the loss of things we value. We do not want to lose our loved ones, our health, our safety, or our possessions, but even if we do, God is working all things for our good.... We find that hard to believe because we are shortsighted. We feel the pain and loss now, and we do not see the end from the beginning, as God does, yet God tells us that the sufferings we have to endure in this world are not worthy to be compared with the glory He has laid up for His people in heaven (Rom. 8:18)." It is a comfort to know our lives are in His hands, and that He governs all things in His wisdom and goodness (R.C. Sproul).

SCHEDULE

1. **Young adult/ adult Sunday School:** 9:00 am. Topic: The World of Transgender. This class will be streamed for the next two Sundays.
2. **Bible Study:** at 6:00 pm. *Topic:* Abraham prays for Sodom.
3. **Wednesday:** Prayer meeting at 6:00 pm.
4. **March 23-25:** South Central Classis meeting via video conference.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the souls and bodies of every living person in the world.
- Amy Flanagan's dad, Dave LaFrance, being treated for lymphoma.
- Darrell Bentz has Parkinson's disease.
- Phyllis Grossmann is taking treatment and PT for back pain.
- Darlene Ochsner is living at Morning Star assisted living.
- Tiffany Hoff's brother Ty's brain surgery moved to May.
- Matthew Plooster and his mom Bonnie moving to Rapid City in April.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

2020 BACK TO BASICS: **The Will of God**

(Summary of R.C. Sproul, *Everyone's a Theologian*, Chapter 14)

THINGS SECRET AND THINGS REVEALED

Christians often ask, "How can I know the will of God of my life?" The Bible says that God has a *hidden* will and a *revealed* will. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29).

God's hidden will is His decretive will, which refers to the fact that God sovereignly has decreed (planned) whatsoever comes to pass. For example, those who crucified Jesus did whatever God's "purpose determined before to be done" (Acts 4:28; cf. 2:33). The "only way you are going to know the hidden will of God for you today is to wait until tomorrow, and look back on the past and know that whatever happened in the past is the outworking of the hidden will of God. In other words, we only know God's hidden will after the fact."

God's revealed will (also called 'the preceptive will of God') refers to God's law, to His commands revealed in the Bible. "The first commandment, 'You shall have no other gods before Me' (Ex. 20:3), for example, is part of the preceptive will of God." "Whereas the decretive will of God cannot be resisted, we not only can resist the preceptive will of God but we do resist it all the time."

God "has a secret plan for your life that is absolutely none of your business... which is why He is so severe in His warnings in Scripture against those who try to find out the future through illicit means such as Ouija boards, fortune tellers, and tarot cards. Those things are off-limits for Christians."

LIVING GOD'S WILL

"We are encouraged by Scripture to learn the will of God for our lives... by focusing our attention not on the decretive will of God but on the preceptive will of God. If you want to know God's will for your life, the Bible tells you: 'This is the *will* of God, your sanctification' (1 Thess. 4:3). So, when people wonder whether to take a job in Cleveland or in San Francisco, or whether to marry Jane or Martha, they should ... study the law of God to learn the principles by which they are to live their lives from day to day (see Ps. 1:1-4; 119:105). "The will of God is that we obey every word that proceeds from His mouth."

"If you want to know which job to take, you have to... make a sober analysis of your gifts and talents. Then you are to consider whether a particular job is in keeping with your gifts; if it is not, you should not accept it." You also have to do the hard work of matching "your calling – with a job opportunity."

"When it comes to deciding whom to marry, ... you might discover that there are several prospects who meet the biblical requirements. So, which one do you marry?" The answer is: "whichever one you *want* to marry. As long as the one you choose falls within the parameters of the preceptive will of God, you have complete liberty to act according to whatever pleases you, and you do not need to lose any sleep wondering whether you are outside the hidden or decretive will of God." Be encouraged; "you cannot be outside the decretive will of God." The Bible says that God will lead us and direct our paths (Prov. 3:5-6).

Grace 2020 Reformed Church

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Pastor David Fagrey

(605) 399-1711

Lord's Day, Sunday, March 22

WELCOME

Sunday School – 9:00 am
Worship Service – 10:30 am
Bible Study – 6:00 pm

Pastor Fagrey's weekly sermons are on 88.3 KLMP Sundays at 8:30 am

The Lord Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you,
he who believes in Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47).