

EASTSIDE BAPTIST

ONE GOD, ONE PEOPLE, ONE HOPE

558 Gadsden Highway, Birmingham, AL 35235

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www.ECBCirmingham.org



Nursery

THE ENCOURAGER

September 27, 2017

Sola Gratia

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” –Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

Sola gratia (grace alone) is the companion of *sola fide* (faith alone). Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches that our salvation completely depends on the righteousness of Christ, which is given by grace and gotten through faith. Jesus came graciously to live righteously for us.

The medieval theologian Anselm of Canterbury shows us exactly why salvation has to work this way in his work *Cur Deus Homo* (Why God Became Man). In this treatise, he points out that God is worthy of all our praise and obedience. Neglecting to give God our full worship and service deprives him of something that is rightfully his. Therefore, just one sin is enough to break our relationship with God. Even if we sinned only one time in our lives, living the rest of it in perfect obedience and worship would only be giving God what he already deserves from us.

Someone had to come and give God what he deserved from us: a fully sinless and God-honoring life. That someone was Christ. He lived his life in the power of the Holy Spirit and according to the will of the Father. His life was infinitely valuable and earned him eternal life. But in God's grace to us, Jesus did not get what he deserved. He was rejected by the Father and took the punishment for sin we deserved, though he was sinless. But we know that Christ got the eternal life his perfect life deserved three days later when the Holy Spirit raised him from the dead. He now sits at Father's right hand, his rightful place of authority.

The word grace means “unmerited favor,” which is exactly what we gain through faith in Christ. It is by this grace, the unmerited favor of God to us, that we are saved through our faith. When we have faith in Christ, we get by grace what is his. He is the groom and we are the bride: by faith, all that he has is ours. The one who never sinned, who died willingly, who beat death, is our living Christ. His life was and is *for me*. His life was and is *for you*. The Son of God earned the favor of God for us. He held up our end of the bargain for us. Now, when the Father sees us he sees Jesus and says to us, “You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. In you I am well pleased.” No good work of yours could ever complete or add to the joy of being loved by God like the Father loves the Son.

This is *sola gratia*. The Roman church during the Reformation used the language of grace, but did so in an unbiblical way. For Rome, grace meant God allowing us to take part in a life of faith that needed good works to complete it. Grace was our ticket to participate and earn it. Granted, this would be more gracious than no salvation at all, but it is not the grace of a victorious Christ. That is the grace of a Christ who requires you to meet him half way.

The Jesus of the Bible is the Church's groom. He came to us and says, “Mine!” even though we were filthy in our sin. He sprinkles us clean with his blood. He came to give life and the and give it abundantly. He is coming on the clouds as our ruling king and we are his bride, by grace alone- *sola gratia*. -Jacob Catlett

- 9/24** Barbara Finley & David Williams
10/01 Irene & Brian Harbin
10/08 Donnie Henson, Erin Krier & Dustin Lindsey
10/15 Clyde & Glynda Rice
10/22 Barbara Finley & David Williams
10/29 Irene & Brian Harbin

September Birthdays

Becky Driver 9/30
Barbara Finley 9/30

October Birthdays

Wilson Pennington, III 10/04
Terry Slanton 10/05
Valerie Weems 10/06
Jeremiah Scott 10/07
Elsie Dockery 10/09
Jane Snow 10/09
Jacob Catlett 10/11
Kathy Askew 10/18
Jackie Nunnolley 10/18
Erin Williams 10/18
Cecil Wilson 10/18
Irene Randall 10/19
Randy Scott 10/20
Mildred Watkins 10/22
Mallory Smith 10/24
Ann Lolly 10/27
Melinda Lunsford 10/27
Wayne Fulmer 10/31

Give Securely!
easyTithe

Date: 9/24/2017

Undesignated Offerings:
\$5096.00

Weekly Budget Needs:
\$7,020.00

2017 YTD Giving:
\$250,498.14

2017 YTD Needs:
\$252,720.00

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/01** Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am
- 10/03** Deacon's Meeting 6:30 p
- 10/04** TeamKids 5-7 pm
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal 7 pm

Kingdom Fest
October 29th
3-6 pm
@ Huffman Baptist



Candy and Monetary
donations needed
(See Audrey Krier)

September Missions

Feed the Homeless:
Monetary Donations

EACM: Sugar

Lawana's Pantry:
Non-perishable foods

OCC Needs: Flashlights w/
batteries, musical instruments
(harmonicas, recorders, etc.)

Sept. Deacon Ministry:
Bill Graham & Eddie Gates