

The Greatest Salvation Imaginable by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah . . ." (Jeremiah 31:31)

God is just and holy and separated from sinners like us. This is our main problem at Christmas — and every other season. How shall we get right with a just and holy God?

Nevertheless, God is merciful and has promised in Jeremiah 31 (five hundred years before Christ) that someday he would do something new. He would replace shadows with the Reality of the Messiah. And he would powerfully move into our lives and write his will on our hearts so that we are not constrained from outside, but are willing from inside, to love him and trust him and follow him.

That would be the greatest salvation imaginable — if God should offer us the greatest Reality in the universe to enjoy and then move in us to know that Reality in such a way that we could enjoy it with the greatest freedom and the greatest pleasure possible. That would be a Christmas gift worth singing about.

That is, in fact, what he promised in the new covenant. But there was a huge obstacle. Our sin. Our separation from

God because of our unrighteousness.

How shall a holy and just God treat us sinners with so much kindness as to give us the greatest Reality in the universe (his Son) to enjoy with the greatest possible joy?

The answer is that God put our sins on his Son, and judged them there, so that he could put them out of his mind, and deal with us mercifully and remain just and holy at the same time. Hebrews 9:28 says Christ was "offered once to bear the sins of many."

Christ bore our sins in his own body when he died (1 Peter 2:24). He took our judgment (Romans 8:3). He canceled our guilt (Romans 8:1). And that means our sins are gone (Acts 10:43). They do not remain in God's mind as a basis for condemnation. In that sense, he "forgets" them (Jeremiah 31:34). They are consumed in the death of Christ.

Which means that God is now free, in his justice, to lavish us with all the unspeakably great new covenant promises. He gives us Christ, the greatest Reality in the universe, for our enjoyment. And he writes his own will — his own heart — on our hearts so that we can love Christ and trust Christ and follow Christ from the inside out, with freedom and joy.

Events

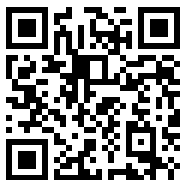
TODAY

Christmas Potluck at the church
1 PM

EARLY Christmas Eve service
Tonight 5:30 PM

12/30 College & Career
Christmas Party @ the Byrd's
7:30 PM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Michael Lopes	

Service Times

- Sunday School 9:30 am
- Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
- Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
- Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
www.grbc.net



GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

December 23, 2018

*Unto us
a child is born*



*Unto us
a son is given*

Traducción
simultanea
al español
disponible en
servicios
de AM y PM

Morning Worship

Call to Worship	Pastor Bob Prentice
Opening Hymn	#168 Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
Scripture Reading	John 15:1-17, page 901
Pastoral Prayer	
Offertory	#147 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Preparatory	#149 Joy to the World
Sermon	Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship	Pastor Charles Fortner
Opening Hymn	#151 O Come All Ye Faithful
	#153 Behold a Branch is Growing
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:26-55, page 855
Pastoral Prayer	
Offertory	#150 All My Heart This Night

Preparatory

(Sing 3 x's) Holy God, in love, became perfect Man to bear my blame.
On the cross He took my sin. By His death I live again.

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Sermon

The Gospel Song

#152 O Little Town of Bethlehem
Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains:
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!