

## The Greatest Love by John Piper Solid Joys, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)

*I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.* (1 John 2:12)

Why should we emphasize that God loves, forgives, and saves "for his name's sake" — *for his own glory*? Here are two reasons (among many).

1) We should emphasize that God loves and forgives for his own glory because the Bible does.

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions *for my own sake*, and I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

*For your name's sake*, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great. (Psalm 25:11)

Help us, O God of our salvation, *for the glory of your name*; deliver us, and atone for our sins, *for your name's sake*! (Psalm 79:9)

Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, *for your name's sake*. (Jeremiah 14:7)

God put [Christ] forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. *This was to show God's righteousness*, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. *It was to show his righteousness* at the present time, so that he might be just

and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:25–26)

Your sins are forgiven *for his name's sake*. (1 John 2:12)

2) We should emphasize that God loves and forgives for his own glory because it makes clear that God loves us with the greatest love.

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory. (John 17:24)

God loves us not in a way that makes *us* supreme, but makes *himself* supreme. Heaven will not be a hall of mirrors, but an increasing vision of infinite greatness. Getting to heaven and finding that *we* are supreme would be the ultimate letdown.

The greatest love makes sure that God does everything in such a way as to uphold and magnify his own supremacy so that, when we get to heaven, we have something to increase our joy forever: God's glory. The greatest love is God's giving *himself* to us for our eternal enjoyment, at the cost of his Son's life (Romans 8:32). That is what he means when he says that he loves us and forgives us for his own name's sake.



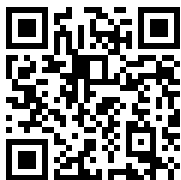
there is joy before the  
angels of God over one  
sinner who repents

Luke 15:10

### Events

TODAY VisionYouth Meeting  
@ David White's 7:30 PM  
3/4 Small Groups  
3/6 College & Career Murder  
Mystery Dinner 6 PM  
3/8 College & Career Lunch  
1 PM  
3/13 Mystery Dinner

### Give



### Upcoming Events



### Pastors

Stephen Byrd    Stu Johnston  
Michael Lopes    Bob Prentice

### 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](http://www.grbc.net)

February 23, 2020



**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

## Morning Worship

### Call to Worship

### Congregational Reading

### Opening Hymn

In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this Solid Ground; firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace;

when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My Comforter, my All in All; here in the love of Christ I stand!

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless Babe!

This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on that cross as Jesus died; the wrath of God was satisfied.

For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live!

There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain;

then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;

for I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ!

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;

from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny!

***No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;***

***'til He returns or calls me home; here in the power of Christ I'll stand!***

***(repeat)***

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### Scripture Reading

**Acts 16:16-40, page 925**

### Pastoral Prayer

### Offertory

### Preparatory

**#271 How Sweet and Awful**

**I Need No Other**

My faith has found a resting place

Not in device or creed

I trust the ever living One

For me his wounds shall plead

**(Chorus) I need no other argument**

**I need no other plea**

**It is enough that Jesus died**

**And that He died for me**

It's enough for me that Jesus saves

This ends my fear and doubt

A sinful soul I come to Him

He'll never cast me out **(Chorus)**

My great Physician heals the sick

The lost He came to save

For me His precious blood was spilled

For me His life He gave **(Chorus 2x)**

Text: Lidie Hornsby Edmunds Music: Todd Agnew, Michael Neale  
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### Sermon

**Pastor Stu Johnston**

## Evening Worship

### Call to Worship

### Opening Hymn

**Josiah Hanko**

**#2 God My King Thy Might**

**Confessing**

**Hebrews 4:11-5:10, page 1003**

### Scripture Reading

### Pastoral Prayer

### Offertory

**Have Thine Own Way**

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will,

while I am waiting, yielded and still,

while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Search me and try me, Master, today!

Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,

as in Thy presence humbly I bow,

as in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Wounded and weary, help me, I pray! Power – all power – surely is Thine!

Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Hold o'er my being absolute sway! Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see

Christ only, always, living in me!

Christ only always, living in me!

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### Preparatory

**O Great God of Highest Heaven**

1. O great God of highest heaven, occupy my lowly heart.

Own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel power.

Let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war.

You have loved and purchased me, make me Yours forevermore.

2. I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice,

did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys.

Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me

through the gospel of Your Son, gave me endless hope and peace.

*(key change)*

3. Help me now to live a life that's dependent on Your grace.

Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face.

**You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed.**

**O great God of highest heaven, glorify Your Name through me.**

**(repeat)**

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### Sermon

**Pastor Michael Lopes**