

WORSHIP GUIDE – Sunday AM, October 2nd, 2022 – 10:15am

Transforming Grace

Welcome: [Pastor Bernie]

- Passage Focus: After instructing the believers on what godliness looks like toward unbelievers, Paul now gives Titus the motivation for this evangelistic godly conduct – the transforming grace of God.

³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- Worship Service Focus: We will praise God for His grace in salvation and reflect the miraculous transformation of heart His grace brings to the believer.

PRAISE THE GOD OF GRACE

Congregational Song: Come Christians Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high,
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end.
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again,
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore,

His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

Meditation and Congregational Song: Wonderful Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost our way
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

REMEMBER THE TRANSFORMING WORK OF THE GRACE OF GOD

Scripture on the transformation of God's Grace: Romans 6:17-19

¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of

your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

Testimony of God's Transforming Grace in the life of John Newton [Vanessa Horner]

John Newton, the author of the text we are about to sing, was the son of a well-known and much respected British sea captain. Since his father sailed the Mediterranean much of the time, the raising of the boy was left to his mother. Each day she gave John a lesson from the Bible and prayed that God would someday make him a preacher. Although John had the benefit of a godly mother, she died when he was only 6 years old. Several months after her death, John's father remarried and sent him away to boarding school; but John soon grew weary of school – and at just 11 years of age, he quit and joined his father's ship as a sailor. For the next 6 years, John sailed the Mediterranean as part of the British merchant fleet. And as the years passed, he lost any fear of God and pursued a life of doing just about anything he wanted.

Several years after sailing with the merchant fleet, John was unexpectedly ordered into military service on a man-o-war. During this time, he became so depressed that he reasoned there could be no God who cared for his soul. His conduct on the ship grew continually worse, and he ended up being publicly beaten by the Captain and was then traded to work on a slave ship.

Along with the others on board the slave ship, John began to relish in the wickedness on board. Newton's life soon became one of complete lack of restraint, foul language, and moral debauchery. Even the hardened sailors lost respect for John. To gain control of him, the captain chained John below the deck and fed him barely enough to live on. After enduring these conditions for almost 2 years, John finally smuggled a letter to his father, begging to be rescued. His father located him and began sailing him home to England.

However, on the voyage home as the ship neared England, a horrific storm broke loose on the open seas and began tearing apart the ship. As John struggled to keep the ship afloat, the many verses his mother had taught him began to fill his mind, and he pleaded with God for mercy. The storm finally subsided – and John prayed to God for forgiveness and accepted the loving grace of God and Jesus Christ's death as the payment for his own wrongdoing. The crew began to notice that he was a changed man; for, after his salvation, John Newton never swore again.

John continued to sail as a slave trader, and after a time his heart began to drift away from God. Except for his profanity, he returned to all of his former sins – drunkenness, sexual debauchery, and cruelty towards the slaves. Yet God was not through with him. John became sick with a horrible fever that again humbled him before God. Of that time, John later wrote, "I threw myself before God to do with me as He should please. From then on, I couldn't go a single hour without fresh grace and strength from the Fountainhead."

After this voyage, John left the slave trade and moved to England. After several years of preparation, he became the pastor of a small congregation in the village of Olney, England. The 39-year-old pastor often wondered why Christ would put him into the ministry, for he later confessed, "No one could be more unworthy, for I had long been a persecutor, a blasphemer, and a profligate." Several years later, he began composing hymns for his church congregation to sing,

including one beautiful hymn that defined his life: **Amazing Grace**. John never ceased to marvel at God's amazing grace that turned him from a cursing sailor into a mighty proclaimer of God's Words. At the close of his life, he wrote, "My memory is nearly gone. But I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."

At the age of 82, John Newton left the shores of this life for Heaven. The salvation testimony of John Newton, who shared the Good News of Jesus with thousands, has been shared over and over through the words we still sing all around the world today: "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see."

Congregational Song: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear.
And grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we'd first begun.

Congregational Song: The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,*

*Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every sinful thought,
Every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

*This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Now the daylight flees,
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.

*This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

*This, the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Children 3yr-K5 Dismissed to Junior Church

Message: Titus 3:3-7 [Pastor Steve]

³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus

Christ our Savior,⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Congregational song of response thanking God for His transforming Grace: Jesus, Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

*Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You*

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

*Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You*

Announcements [Pastor Steve]

- SFCS Auction Thanks
- Men's prayer breakfast – This Saturday October 8th, at 8:00am
- Preaching Emphasis: Tonight at 6:00pm