

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

10 May 2020

than Jacob earned it because he was good. It is an expression of the love of God to those who put their faith in him.

King David needed grace. O.K., he could look back at how he had slain Goliath; at how, despite the evil way he had been treated by King Saul, he had treated Saul as God's chosen King. But he could also remember the way he had treated Nabal. It had taken the special pleading of Nabal's wife Abigail to prevent a massacre of Nabal's household (incidentally her speech is the longest recorded in the Bible- perhaps a question for your next quiz, Ian). And then there was his treatment of Bathsheba's husband which amounted to murder, on top of his adultery. In Psalm 24 he wrote: 'Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?...He who has clean hands and a pure heart...' O yes, David, how did you feel when writing those words? How did you manage to 'seek your face, O God of Jacob'?

Perhaps that's the answer. David knew the story of Jacob. Tricky, deceitful Jacob. And if God could show grace to him he could show grace to David as well.

And then there is Paul. Persecutor of the Church, there when Stephen was stoned to death. He desperately needed grace.

Look again at those verses at the start of Ephesians. Paul knows that he does not deserve his salvation. The grace he has

received (6) comes from the love God has shown to us in Christ Jesus.

'...to the praise of his glorious **grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us...' Ephesians 1: 6-8

Do you praise God each day for His grace?

CONCLUDING SONG:

And can it be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu2uA6U4Fvg>

BLESSING

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen' (Eph 3: 20-21)

SONG

The blessing (lively and long – avoid if you want a peaceful conclusion)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp6aygmVzM4>

<https://rydebaptist.xyz>

Dear Friends,

This eighth Sunday of having to worship God in our own homes, finds us this weekend commemorating the 75th Anniversary of V.E. day. The events that were planned are very different from the ones that have been able to take place. Nevertheless there is still immense gratitude for all those who sacrificed so much for the cause of peace and security during World War II. This is all the more poignant today when we remember and express our thanks to all who still sacrifice so much for the health and welfare of our nation, including those working for the NHS and in other key frontline areas. We salute you.

This weekend would also have seen the Baptist Union of Great Britain gathering for its Assembly in Bournemouth. Sadly this had to be cancelled too. Poignant moments at Assembly always include recognition of those ministers and mission workers whose earthly service has ended and who have entered into the eternal peace of the Lord, as well as commissioning and celebrating with newly accredited ministers and mission workers going to new posts overseas, many in challenging parts of the world. Sisters and brothers, we salute you too.

At all times, but particularly when times are stressful and uncertain, it is right to recognise the truth based on experience that we are given in Psalm 46. 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.' The Psalm goes on to give powerful examples of the way that the history of God's people and the world clearly illustrate this, culminating in the compelling call of God to 'Be still, and know that I am God.' At times of turmoil and confusion it is tempting to add frenzied activity to our personal agendas, when what we need to do is to step back and look at all that God is doing—to put what we are doing down, to lay our anxieties and concerns to one side—and to let God be God.

We are grateful to Martin Light for preparing our resources for worship this morning. We shall have another guest leader next week, and I shall be back in a fortnight. However, like everyone else at this time, I won't actually be going anywhere! We look forward to meeting on Zoom for Communion at 10.30am this morning (please provide your own bread and wine) and for our weekly Prayer Meeting tomorrow evening at 7.00pm. If you are able to join us, it will be really great to see you.

If you are reading this sheet on your computer or device you can click on the links to follow the readings and listen to the songs online, and you can find other resources by visiting our Sunday Supplement website at <https://rydebaptist.xyz> This is updated every Sunday morning.

BIBLE READINGS

[Psalm 46](#)

[Genesis 33](#)

[Ephesians 1: 1-6](#)

SUGGESTED SONGS

God is our Strength and Refuge
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FpPgQiSNrk>

The Faithful One
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqqCVuSRkrQ>

PRAYER

We praise you, our Father God, that we come in prayer today with countless others across the world. We thank you that we come in the name of our Lord Jesus, who showed his faithful love to us on the cross, and lives today as our tower of refuge and strength in a time of trouble. Open our eyes today again to His grace. Amen

TO PONDER

The story is told of a young lieutenant in World War II whose unit was ambushed

by Nazi soldiers. Almost all of them escaped from the flying bullets by running into an old farmhouse. However, out of the darkness came the moans and groans of one of the men who had been severely wounded. The young lieutenant did the heroic thing. He crawled out of the night, and dragged the man to the farmhouse. But as he reached safety, the lieutenant was struck by a bullet and killed.

A year or so later the young man for whom the lieutenant had given his life was back in the States. The parents of the dead hero asked to meet him. But when he turned up for dinner, not only was he drunk but loud and obscene. At the end of the meal he vomited.

When he had left the mother slumped against the wall and moaned 'To think our precious son had to die for somebody like that'.

When the angels in heaven look on my behaviour they must say to one another 'To think that our precious Son had to die for somebody like that'. I owe him better. He gave His life for me and I should be ready and willing to do what He would do if He was in my place.

TIME OF PRAYER

Thank you Sally for all your suggestions for prayer. As preparation for this may I suggest you read Ephesians 1, especially verse 1-6 and 15-23.

SUGGESTED SONGS

Faithful One
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PjSO51hI0M>

Father God, I wonder
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QymsM5axoEc>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

I only heard of Christine Caine very recently. According to Wikipedia, 'Christine Caine is an Australian activist, evangelist, author, and international speaker. Caine and her husband Nick are best known for founding The A21 Campaign in 2008, a 501 non-profit, non-governmental organization that combats human trafficking.'

I heard her preach a sermon. Wow! You can find several of these on YouTube. You will find more of her life story there. And what a story it is!

She was born without a name. She was shocked when she discovered that her foster parents had destroyed all the paperwork. She had been badly abused as a child. She now goes out to look for those who have been abandoned by society and tell them of God's grace.

Christine wants to talk about God's grace which has transformed her life and is doing the same for many today.

Who needs grace? Not all of us were born anonymous like Christine. Few of

us had such a bad start in life. Think back though to the stories of the Jewish leaders and the founders of the Christian church. Here are some pointers.

Jacob had been a very naughty boy. He had pinched the birthright that was owed to the eldest son, Esau, by a trick. Read Genesis 27 – and the following chapters too if you have time – and you will find out what a tricky customer Jacob was. Now in Chapter 33 he is returning to the land God had told his father Isaac and his grandfather Jacob would be theirs. And was he scared? You bet he was (32:7). Esau had been in occupation of the land for a good many years. Jacob had a lot to lose. At least he obeys God by travelling. But he acts with great prudence and as he approaches Esau's home sends gifts and friendly greetings to him.

But God is gracious, meets with Jacob (32: 22-31) and encourages him. Jacob then meets up with Esau. We then get a remarkable picture of grace, although you may not realise this as the word is translated 'favour' in the NIV. 'What are you doing, sending me all these gifts?' asks Esau. 'To find grace in your eyes, my lord', replies Jacob. And this is what Jacob gets. He does not get what he deserved, a drubbing from the hands of Esau's servants and confiscation of his wealth. Instead, he returns safely to Shechem. Grace is favour that is not earned because we are good, any more