

Happy Birthday This Week:

Pam Austin - April 28

Excerpt from "**Christ Exalted**" a sermon by **Joseph Irons**

"I call upon my hearers to investigate this point, as to whether their own souls are accustomed to go forth in acknowledgment of the glorious self-existent Deity of Christ. How shall I view Him in His glorious character of Jehovah, but by insisting upon His greatness, on His graciousness, on His glory essential, for He is a great, a gracious, and a glorious God? He is so great, that the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him, so great, that He is incomparable, greatness is one of His attributes, He is so great, that His omnipotence defies all restraint, so great, that His omniscience refuses to be eluded or evaded, so great, that He does as He will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and in the greatness of His power He holds the heavenly hosts in their dignity and glory, and commands worlds, and suspends them as upon a balance in His hands, nay, rules devils themselves, and says, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further," and thus proves Himself to be a great God. And is He not a gracious God, that has stooped so low, as we have just seen in our exordium, as to humble Himself, and become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross? Was it not gracious, that, without any solicitation on the part of man, without anything to move Him thereto, but His own gracious mind, His own eternal and infinite love, He should come down from His high throne of Majesty which He occupied with the Father from everlasting, on purpose to be made in the form of a servant, and to die the death of the cross? Is He not gracious when He feeds sinners, clothes sinners, watches over sinners, when He feeds hungry sinners, clothes naked sinners, takes up the cause of burdened sinners, and bids them cast all their care upon Him, for He careth for them? He is so gracious, that He casts all their sins behind His back, so gracious, that He declares He will give them grace and glory, so gracious, that He has sworn that He will never leave them nor forsake them; yea, He is so gracious, that He has said, "Where I am, there also shall my servant be" so gracious, that He made this gracious demand of His Father, "I will that all those whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory." (John 17:24) And He is so glorious, that angels must veil their faces in His presence, so glorious, that creation is shaken to its center at His nod, so glorious, that hosts, and armies, and nations, and empires, are under His control, so glorious, that Zion has no glory without His presence, and Zion's glory can never be eclipsed whilst He vouchsafes to be present with her."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Richard Warmack, Pastor - (318) 513-9809

EMAIL: pastor@gracebaptistofruston.org

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.gracebaptistofruston.org

Also visit: www.sermonaudio.com/graceofruston

Grace Baptist Church
2808 N. Trenton Ruston, La.71270
4/23/17

Call To Worship

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea;
The Great High Priest, whose name is love,
Will ever live and plead for me.

My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He reigns,
No tongue can bid me to depart.

Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the worthy Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable "I AM,"
The king of glory and of grace.

(Tune: Doxology)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Judy Ward; Mac Ward; Noble Jones; Cindy Brantly;
Emily Dubose;Devonne Lewis;
Dusty Adams; Emily Gay; Lydia Headrick

"By God's all-wise appointment, our assemblies are the food and the nourishment of our souls. It is the main way whereby we publicly identify with Christ and His Gospel. We evidence our love for Christ by our loyalty and support of one another in opposition to all false worship. Many things will rise up in competition to the diligent attendance of our assemblies. We must recognize and refuse to give into anything that is opposed to what Christ commands. The total falling away of a graceless professor always begins with this neglect, this disassociation with God's people." (John Owen)

From William Mason's "Morning Thought"

"Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, etc." **1 Tim. 3:16.**

The truths of the gospel are undoubtedly great mysteries to carnal reason. We have naturally no ideas of their existence; but being plainly revealed by the Spirit of truth, they cease to be hid from our knowledge. They are no longer secret mysteries, as to their matter, but plain and open truths to faith. True, the **MANNER** of their existence is incomprehensible to reason. So they will ever remain mysteries to us. Therefore the sons of natural pride and human ignorance reject and disbelieve them: but the children of wisdom and humility esteem the whole mystery of godliness, every bible-truth, as precious objects of their faith. Blessed be God, our comfort and salvation consists in believing, not in explaining. The Christian, like the prophet, being born of the Spirit, is a "*man of strife and contention with the whole earth.*" **Jer.15:10.** All in nature and carnal reason are in arms against the truths he believes. Because he earnestly contends for them, he will ever find controversy and perverse disputings from men of corrupt minds, destitute of the truth. **HIS ZEAL IS ALWAYS COMMENDABLE, ONLY LET IT BE IN LOVE.**

What the Lord hath taught in his word, we receive as the food of our souls. This is our simple answer to the god of this world, and to the wise disputer of this age. We cannot comprehend how God dwelt in flesh, but we are fully assured he did. We have the fullest proof of it in his word; and his word is truth. And it is the very life of our souls, and the joy of our hearts, to believe our God. **WHY** God dwelt in flesh, and the glorious ends he hath accomplished hereby, we know. Of this also, we are perfectly assured; we believe it from the same infallible testimony. To the faith of this, we have the inward witness of the Spirit also. God, known in the flesh, beheld in human form, viewed in our nature, is the very essence of our faith; we now partake its blessings and experience its comforts. Hence springs the assured pardon of all our sins, the acceptance of our persons, the sanctification of our souls, and sure and certain hope of eternal life and glory. All this is by free promise, according to the purpose and decree of the everlasting covenant of grace, to the glory of the ever-blessed Trinity, and to the comfort and salvation of lost sinners. Thus saints are called into "*one body, by one Spirit; have one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one atonement, one righteousness, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in them all.*" **Eph.4:4-6.**