



GRAN ALACANT TABERNACLE NEWS

January 2017
Issue 9

Greetings to all from the church at Gran Alacant

As the short cold winter days pass with the arrival of the spring, the days begin to be warmer, the almond trees are beginning to flower and new green grass start to shoot out of the ground. It is a great joy to see the beauty of nature coloring the fields and bringing new life, How Great is our God, How faithful is our LORD of the universe who brings each new season.

For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

(Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

Here at Gran Alacant church as spring approaches, we are beginning to see some brethren who have their second homes here or that come for a spring break coming back to visit us , this also brings us great joy.

In nature we see God's attributes, Romans 1-20 ; *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...* Not only can we observe His many attributes in the spring, but also His gospel plan to make man a new creation. In John 12.24 Jesus tells us, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit"*. Through the death and blood of Jesus comes new life, eternal life.

God is Faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Our life that was once spiritually dead, in darkness full of sin, has been transformed and made new by the sacrificial death of Jesus, He gave His own life as a sacrifice in order that we could have new life in Him. In the same way, we must die to ourselves for the new life that God desires for us. We will never be able to serve God as He desires if we do not surrender our all to Him. The gospel saves when we allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives. The gospel transfers our soul from the bondage of sin that leads to eternal death into the newness of life that is eternal with our creator; this brings immense joy to every true believer.

Please join us in prayer that in this new season the Lord will open up doors to spread the good news of the Gospel that has power to save , transform and give new life to those that are lost and spiritually dead.

God Bless you in Christ Jesus. Pastor Pino Cinquemani

Mankind is controlled by the desires of the flesh and mind, always in search for something to satisfy his physical and mental desires, something to satisfy the senses and his ego (praise, position and power). This sinful natural nature brings man into God's wrath and condemnation which is God's just indignation against all who reject Him and His love.

The message of salvation is, *"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast..."*

(Ephesians 2:4-9)

The greatest miracle that mankind will ever see is when God's mercy reached down to us in our worthless, degraded and rebellious condemned state and made us alive with Christ Jesus. This is the ultimate demonstration of love, in that "while yet being sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). 8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."*

Jesus paid the price of our sin so that we might be made righteous before God through Him (2 Cor. 5:21). *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

The power of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead also made us alive in Christ. We who were separated from God and without hope were brought into a personal relationship with God. Our souls are no longer separated from our creator.

This is all His work of grace; there was nothing we or any other human could do to change our situation. It is God's work and it is all His grace.

Our salvation is the demonstration of His grace it is all done for God's glory and purposes, not ours. All glory, honor and praise are His and none to us. ***"For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.***

Grace is simply, undeserved merit or favor, getting something nice that we do not deserve. Mercy is the releasing us of the punishment which we deserve. We cannot earn salvation in anyway, by any manner, means, or method. It is impossible. It can only come because of God's mercy in forgiving our sins through Jesus Christ by His grace making us alive with Him.

Faith is not the cause of our salvation, but it's God's love operating through His grace in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross that saves us. Faith is the channel by which God's gift comes to us. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ and His finished work at the cross asking to be forgiven we act by the faith, but let's be very careful not to make faith a work or we destroy grace.

We are not saved because we "made a decision for Christ." Decisional regeneration is just as much a heresy as baptismal regeneration; it is contrary to the Bible, as is believing that salvation can be received through sacraments and good works.

We were dead in our trespasses and sin and incapable of making a decision for Christ until the Holy Spirit convinced us of sin and began His work in us that brought us to a contrite and repentant heart.

In Galatians 3:25–29 we read “*But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. Sons and Heirs* 26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise”.*

The tutor is God’s law that educates and helps us to grow, just like a tutor of children guides them to maturity , God’s law (tutor) leads us to faith in Christ Jesus, and then are justified by that faith. Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

In the Old and New Testament, the same root words are translated “righteousness” and “justification.” Justification, is to declare us righteous, it is something that only God can do, through Jesus, although we are actual sinners, He justifies us and declares us righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

We are no longer under the condemnation of the law. We are baptized into Christ and made part of His body His church; (1 Corinthians 12:13) *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit”.* He declares us righteous. He acquits us of all of the judgment upon our sins and transgressions.

Faith is an essential and only means that will allow mankind to receive forgiveness of sins and reconciliation and fellowship with God. But faith will only accomplish this in relation to where and to who this faith is directed to. The outcome of faith lies in that which is trusted. It is faith in Jesus Christ which constitutes and transforms sinners into sons of God.

This is the principle foundation of the Christian life. Faith in Jesus Christ, baptism into Jesus Christ, and putting on Jesus Christ are connected.

Galatians 3: 26–27; *for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Faith is an attribute of the heart, and not of the head. It is impossible to argue men into faith. Faith is trusting in something or someone. When we are drawn towards the person of Jesus Christ, believing in Him and the purpose of His death, His burial and resurrection, and we can acknowledge that we can entrust our soul, our destiny, our most precious possessions to His care, with thanks giving and Joy and knowing we will be saved by Him and that He will do better for us than we could do for ourselves, that is faith.

Galatians 3:27; *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

The meaning of baptism in this verse is our spiritual baptism that takes place when we repent and put our faith in the finished work of Jesus at Calvary. At that very moment we are immersed into Him as we die to our old self.

We are immersed into His death, His burial, His resurrection, and have new life in His presence. The phrase, “baptized into Christ” is not baptized into water, but baptized into Christ. It is a spiritual baptism, being clothed with His robes of righteousness.

Water baptism is something we do after we have faith in Jesus for what He done for us and is not what

we do in order to receive the Holy spirit which is given when we receive the faith and believe in Him, water baptism is an act of public witness that we do after we have received the faith and believed. If water baptism would be a necessity for salvation then salvation is no longer by grace but by works, then all of Galatians needs to be thrown out of our Bible, because Galatians clearly shows us that there is no work of our own that can in any way add to what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross. Only faith alone in Christ alone is our salvation.

The baptism the apostle Paul is speaking of here is our spiritual immersion into Christ , and is clear In Romans 6:3, *“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death so that as Christ was raised from the dead to the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.”*

All who have been baptized into Christ are clothed with him, which is the righteousness of our Lord Jesus imputed in us.

Galatians 3:28; *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”*

Here the teaching is not about uniformity, because we are all different, but about unity of the brethren when we live our lives surrendered to Him. We are all equally clothed in His righteousness, everybody wears the same robe we all have the same identity. Jew and Gentile alike are dressed in the same garment. The person who has received Christ by faith, then he has put Christ on as a garment, in His nature, in His presence and in His power.

There has been a lot of misunderstanding in this verse, *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

There is neither Jew nor Greek means that there is no racial distinction in Christ. There is neither slave nor free means there are no social class distinctions in Christ. There is neither male nor female means there are no gender distinctions in Christ. All have put on the same garments of righteousness.

Tragically Christian feminists make this phrase their arguing point for their interpretation to support their view of Christian feminism. Many claim that passages such as the ones below are outdated and served only during the times it was written and not for our modern world of today.

They are in fact interpreting these verses according to their own desires. But as Christians we have to understand that however much the world may change socially and ways of thinking; philosophy human rights ect , God and His word is unchangeable and cannot be altered to suite the times.

1 Timothy 2; *in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

1 Corinthians 14; *Let your women keep silent in the **churches**, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in **church**.*

1 Corinthians 11; *2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. 3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. 6 For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. 7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.*

Many Christian feminists hold fallacious teaching on roles of men and women.

Christian feminists argue that this phrase Gal 3:28, “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, **there is neither male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*” means that there are no meaningful distinctions between men and women. However, Paul here is not talking of our cultural role and the way that God has set roles for each one us or distinction between all possible differences in culture. But the context deals with **justification and sanctification**.

A Jew receives justification exactly the same way a Greek receives justification.

A slave receives justification exactly the same way a free man receives justification.

A woman receives justification exactly the same way a man receives justification.

Gay activists also use this passage to argue that homosexual practice is valid because in Jesus Christ God annuls the distinction between men and women just as the Christian feminists they also completely miss the point of this passage. The verse means that there is no distinction between the different race, economic status, or gender of Man who has come to faith and been baptized in Christ Jesus and put on the righteousness of Christ.

However, God maintains differences in roles within society. God designed differences in sexual role so there are functional differences between men and women. He did not create unisex; He created gender difference. Spiritually, men and women are the same. Physically and functionally, they are different. Spiritual blessing is one thing but human function is another thing.

Many liberal Christian today fail to accept that God’s truth is transcendent. They use current philosophy and trends to adapt it to the word of God that is why we have pluralism, (everyone has an equal view of life) with plurality there is no unity of truth. Equality of the sexes in the modern age is a form of pluralism. They use this philosophical bias to interpret Scripture, which then contradicts the fact that **the Bible is exclusive in truth**.

Through the grace of God, all true believers in Christ Jesus will have a change of life, be born again through the Holy Spirit and are transferred under His Kingdom, under His principles and righteousness that are found in His word that lead to the blessed assurance of being eternally with Him now and in the world to come, for His is the power the Honor and Glory forever and ever.

Amen.

When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, women, as well as men, came into it in great numbers (Acts 5:14); *And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women*, There were no distinctions made in conditions of membership between their different cultural, economical status and gender.

The good works of women are frequently mentioned in Scripture.

Dorcas or Tabitha is cited as an example of faithful, she was full of good works and acts of charity and loving service (Acts 9:36–39). Lydia is revealed as being a woman of great hospitality, "persuaded" Paul and his company to abide in her house (Acts 16:14–15). Phoebe is described as a "servant of the church that is in Cenchreae" (Romans 16:10). *I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, 2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.*

In 1 Timothy 5:9–10 Paul describes the qualifications for women who were to devote full time to Christian work and to be supported by the church, these qualifications included widowhood, being sixty or more years of age, having no kin of their own to support them, and being "well reported for good works." These good works were (1) bringing up children, (2) showing hospitality to strangers, (3) washing the saints' feet, (4) relieving the afflicted, and (5) diligently following every good work.

Woman's role in the private teaching of God's Word is also referenced in Scripture. In Acts 18:26 Priscilla, with her husband, Aquila, privately taught a good, but misinformed preacher (Apollos) "the way of God more accurately." And in Titus 2:4 commands older women to train younger women in Christian living.

As we have seen in Galatians 3:28 the importance of women in the eyes of God is, *there is neither male nor female, for ye all are one man in Christ Jesus.*" In the time of Jesus' day, there were many distinctions among people by which they looked upon each other as inferior or superior and, because of these differences, separated themselves from each other. These differences included religious background (Jew and Greek), special status (slave or slave owner), or sex (male and female). Through Paul God tells us that none of these distinctions was valid as far as our spiritual worth is concerned. He did not mean, certainly, that when one became a Christian he or she ceased to be a man or a woman, a slave or a free man, a Jew or a Gentile. But that none of these, should cause separation, because all have been equally Justified in Christ Jesus.

Although women and men are equally valuable in the eyes of God, the bible teaches us that men and women are to fill different roles in the church. In the Lord's plan for church government each congregation is to be led by elders (Philippians 1:1). In listing the qualifications for elders (1 Tim. 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9) as being the "husband of one wife" is mentioned. This obviously excludes women from these roles; only men are to be elders. Although women can teach privately, as we learned from the example of Priscilla, women are forbidden to teach men publicly (1 Tim. 2:12). The common practice today of women being accepted as preachers is not a practice approved in the New Testament and should not be practiced in the church (1 Cor. 14: 34).

The great emphasis today on the rights of women should not cause Christians to question the Lord's forbidding women to assume certain roles in the church. Woman's role in the church is closely connected to her unique role in the home. Woman alone can give birth to children (1 Tim. 2:15). The man must care for and provide for his wife and love her as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). The woman's submission to her husband means supporting him, and respecting him (Eph. 5:22, 33).

In order for there to be the greatest amount of love in the family, God has established different roles for men and women in the home. This difference is likewise to be reflected in the church which is a family. The church should teach what the Bible states about the role of women, regardless of what others are teaching and practicing. Christ accepted women as his followers on the same basis as men, although he appointed no women apostles.

Women had a very important part among the earliest members of the church and are still today a very important part of its life. They were outstanding in their abilities to extend hospitality, to help provide for the needy and to express serving love which is fundamental in the church as the family of God. In God's sight men and women are to accept each other as being of equal value because God respects both equally. But God has ordained there are certain roles in the church which a woman cannot fill, and has given reasons why he made this distinction. Christians must uphold what God has set forth in this and all other matters regarding His church.

Women in the Bible the old and new testament have traditionally fulfilled supportive roles in serving God and gained their greatest joy and sense of accomplishment by serving God according to His will. But the feminist movement has successfully influenced many women to abandon these divinely ordained roles. Unfortunately, this movement has made headway even in the church, creating chaos and confusion regarding the role of women both in ministry and in the home. Only in Scripture can God's intended design for women be found.

More women are training for, and entering into, the pastoral ministry than in any other time in the history of the church. This fact is particularly true within the mainline denominations which tend to be more liberal and contemporary.

Throughout the Old Testament, women were active in the religious life of Israel, but generally they were not leaders. Women like Deborah (Judges 4) were clearly the exception and not the rule. There was no woman with an ongoing prophetic ministry. No woman was a priest. No queen ever ruled Israel. No woman wrote an Old Testament (or New Testament) book. Isaiah 3:12 indicates that God allowed women to rule as part of His judgment on the sinning nation.

God gives women a broad range of ministry opportunities and ways to use their spiritual gifts within the church. There are so many women in the church who are in need for mature Christian women to guide them and teach them to live Godly lives and also to teach the children the ways of the Lord which is so important being that these children will be the next generation of church.

The focus should always be on what the Word of God says in this or any other issue. Women hold a very high value in the church today. Women can do almost anything a man can do, they can hold leadership in the areas of Worship and prayer, children bible school teachers, Leaders of Women's Bible Studies and the list could go on.

But according to the word of God Women are not allowed to hold only one position in the church, which is the office of Pastor or Elder.

Men and women stand as equals before God, both bearing the image of God Himself. However, without making one inferior to the other, God calls upon both men and women to fulfill the roles and responsibilities specifically designed for them, a pattern that can be seen throughout the scriptures. Only in obedience to Him and His design as taught in the scriptures, both men and women will truly be able to give glory to God.

Psalm 96

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

4 For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens.

6 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

7 Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength.

8 Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts.

9 Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord.

13 For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

Blessings from Gran Alacant

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Please continue to pray for the church mission here in Gran Alacant; to be strengthened in the wisdom of God and to be guided by the Holy Spirit in order to fulfil His will and purpose for us.

Blessings in Christ Jesus.

For more information contact us via the website

www.granalacantchurch.org

Email

Pino@granalacantchurch.org
