

# GRACE

AND

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 1003 LAKE CITY, SC  
PASTOR MISCHELL JONES 394-3725  
"To Know and to Show Christ"

# G L O R Y

Vol. IV Number I

January 8, 1986

We had a very good Watch-Night Service. Brother Carey McElveen and the fine people of the Scranton Baptist Church really blessed our hearts with their singing and his message (What a joy to see everyone in Church come forward to dedicate themselves to the service of the Lord in 1986!). We look forward to them visiting with us again in the near future. (I realize I'm slightly prejudice but I thought our singers did well also!!).

Here are a few of the activities scheduled for the next few weeks. Mark your calenders and plan to take part with us as we reach out for Christ.

## January:

- 12- 4pm Baptismal Service at Horse Branch FWE Church in Turbeville.  
(This will be our Evening Service this Sunday. One of these days we'll have our own Baptismal. Won't we???)
- 13- 7:30pm Ladies Aux Meeting at the Church
- 7-9:30pm Spring term of Bethel Bible Institute begins at Southside FWE Church in Darlington. (Goes thru April 15)
  - Eschatology II - Mike Jones
  - Cults - Lester Cahoon
  - Bible Doctrines- Joe McKnight
- 15- 7:30pm Quarterly Church Conference following Prayer Meeting
- 24- 10am - 3pm Winter Session of the South Carolina Conference of FWE  
Rev. Sheswood Lee, guest speaker

## February:

- 12- Valentine Banquet at the Church (Going to be VERY Special)
- 13-14 State Association Meeting

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On Dec. 28 the Church lost a very good friend as MR. LEROY HUGGINS passed from this life. Mr. Leroy had cleaned the Church for many years until his recent illness. His wife CARRIE has done his job in recent months and we are tremendously appreciative of the fine job she does. Our Prayers are with thementire family. *He that will be greatest of all shall be servant of all.*

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Col 4:3-4 Praying also for us that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

A WHILE BACK I ASKED YOU TO PRAY WITH ME THAT GOD WOULD "OPEN A DOOR OF UTTERANCE" FOR ME THAT I MIGHT PROCLAIM CHRIST. GOD HAS ABUNDANTLY ANSWERED THAT PRAYER AND I GREATLY THANK YOU.

NOW I AM AT A CROSS ROADS IN THE WORK. GOD HAS SUPPLIED SO MANY OPEN DOORS UNTIL I AM NOW DOING AS MUCH AS I CAN PHYSICALLY DO. IF THE MINISTRY IS TO EXPAND ANYMORE THEN GOD MUST SUPPLY THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO DO SO. (Some examples- When I mailed 1 or 2 tapes per week it was not hard to find the 2 hours per tape that is needed to record a copy. But when I start mailing 10 or 20 tapes a week you can see how hard it is to find that much time. A tape duplicator can record the same tape in 2 MINUTES instead of 2 hours! An electronic stencil cutter cuts about an hour a side off the time needed to prepare the newsletter notes (That would be 6 to 8 hours saved on this edition). A Word Processor cuts the process of preparing these Bible notes from 4 steps to 2).

MAYBE THIS IS AS MUCH AS GOD WANTS US TO DO AND HE HAS DELIBERATELY LIMITED US. IF SO I ACCEPT IT. BUT IT'S DIFFICULT WHEN MY HEART BURNS INSIDE TO TELL MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS.

I ASK YOU TO PRAY WITH ME THAT GOD WOULD EITHER GIVE ME PEACE OF HEART ABOUT STOPPING THE MINISTRY AT IT'S PRESENT LEVEL OR ELSE SUPPLY THE MEANS TO DO MORE. EITHER WAY I'M HAPPY TO DO HIS WILL AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

(For you that may not know, I get no money from the newsletter whatsoever. The Church would pay me the same amount if I never published another newsletter; and every penny that comes into the ministry goes into the ministry. I'm not seeking to make a "name" for myself- I deliberately leave my name off all notes so that people can make copies of them and noone will know where they came from.

Sometimes I'm tempted to quit- it was 9pm Monday night and 10pm last night before I left the office, and it doesn't look any better for tonight!!- but God keeps throwing "coals" on the fire in my heart and I'm forced to try to find more and better ways to tell people about Jesus. This is God's Will for my life and I wouldn't change with anybody.)

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I failed to thank those of you that have helped this ministry in the past month- Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Evans, A Florida Friend, Bill and Elise McBride, Carrie Huggins, Olee Elmore, Jimmy Floyd, Oma Owen, Mrs. Sybil Anderson, and today I got \$12.10 in an envelope with no name. Thanks to you January's postage is paid!

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We have begun the new year by studying the book of Colossians. The notes for the first chapter are included today. I will mail the rest as they become available. I'm also preparing the notes for the Eschatology class (that will include a study on Satan, Demons, and Angels also) and they will be available when time permits me to turn the rough notes into typed notes and the typed notes into printed notes. We have lots of material already available- write me and let me know what you need and I'll be glad to send it to you.

## COLOSSIANS: COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Colosse was located about 100 miles inland from Ephesus (in modern day Turkey) and at one time was one of the major trade centers of that area. It had begun to decline but still contained a large Jewish and Greek population (with their religious thoughts and doctrines). Paul had never visited the Church in Colosse (2:1) but he learned about it from Epaphras (1:7) and the Spirit inspired him to write this letter to them to enable them to overcome false doctrine and to realize their riches in Christ. The Church probably came into being from Paul's work in Ephesus- *And they continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. Acts 19:10* (Paul scattered seed everywhere and reaped fruit!)

Colossians is one of the most profound of Paul's writings (It may have been the one Peter referred to in II Pet 3:15-16 as "hard to understand"!!). It is very difficult to just "skim" the surface of Colossians--but equally as difficult to "dig deep" without getting bogged down. The one great truth that Paul wants us to keep in mind is that we are COMPLETE IN CHRIST- Spiritually, Mentally, Socially, and Physically (See Luke 2:52). We do not need to add anything to Him to be complete, nor take anything from Him to be consistent.

**THE COLOSSIAN HERESY-** After talking with Epaphras, Paul realized he had a "double-barrled" problem in the Colossian Church. The Jews had brought Jewish Law with them when they accepted Christ and the Greeks had brought their Philosophy. What this had done was ADD some things to Christianity to "make it complete" or SUBTRACT some things from Christ to make Him fit men's reasonings. The Additions took the form of Laws and Rules that regulated the life of men so that righteousness became a result of man's effort instead of Christ's sacrifice (Much like the Pharisees of Jesus' day.). The Subtractions came about because of the problem of Gnosticism (From the Greek word "Gnostic"-Knowledge). The Gnostics would only accept what they could explain (Like the Sadducees. The names have changed thru the years but the problems remain the same--Satan wants to "mash the gas or the brake". People always want to add to or subtract from the Gospel in order for them to feel that they can control the situation--reverting right back to the Satanic problem of wanting to be God!). This resulted in 3 major problems: (1) A pure God could not create Evil, therefore God had created a series of lesser emendations (angels) that eventually created the physical (evil) world. This made Christ lower than the angels because He actually took a human body. Not only did it dishonor Christ but it led to Angel worship! (2) Only a select few had knowledge enough to understand these things so that made them "Superior" Christians- dividing the Body of Christ! (3) Since Physical was "Evil", men must either avoid it at any cost or indulge it to show that it had no meaning. This meant that some obeyed strict laws while others indulged in all evil. It also led to the denial of the Bodily resurrection since the body is "evil".

These errors had to be refuted because they cut to the very heart of the Gospel- We are complete in Christ. Nothing can be added--and nothing should be taken away.

Paul begins this letter as he did all his letters: Doctrine first and then the Duty that results from that Doctrine. What you Believe determines what you do!!!

## Chapter 1 "Christ, the Pre-eminent One"

- 1-8 Introduction: Paul's Knowledge of the People
- 9-12 The Prayer: 7 Things Paul desired for the People
- 12-14 Paul Praises the Father for what He has done for us thru Christ
- 15-19 Paul explains How Christ could do this
- 20-23 The Purpose: The Reason Christ did this
- 23-29 The Preacher: Paul's Purpose in Life- Bring men to Christ

### I. INTRODUCTION: Paul's Knowledge of the People 1-8

Note WHO Paul was- An apostle of JESUS CHRIST

Note HOW he described the Church- IN CHRIST

Note His Opening Greeting- Grace and Peace from God our Father and  
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (Making them equal)  
- Our Prayer for you is made to God the  
FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Notice that everything he did proclaimed Christ as Son of God.

#### A) What Had He Heard about them??

- Their Faith in Christ Jesus. (Faith in a PERSON- not a slogan, or a program. Your Faith is only as good as what it rests in.)
- Their Love to all the Saints. (Because of the fact that we all are part of the Body of Christ. *We know that we have passed from death unto Life, because we love the Brethren. I Jn 3:14. My Little Children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in Truth I Jn 3:18*).
- Their Hope laid up in Heaven. (Because of What Christ did! They were living as Pilgrims; aware that this world is not our ultimate destination. Heb 11:13).

All of these things were based on what they had heard from the Word of God- not some man made philosophy.

This belief in Christ had produced Fruit as soon as they believed and accepted it (Therefore the proof of it's truthfulness was "in the pudding"!!).

#### B) Who had He Heard about them from??

Epaphras: Paul's dear fellow servant (Probably saved during Paul's ministry in Ephesus. Now a minister as Paul).

Their faithful minister of Christ. (Church Pastor?)

He had declared to Paul their love in the Spirit. What do People tell other people about our Church?? Do they tell of our Faith and Love and Hope?? Do they see the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives??

When you talk about Fellow Saints, do you tell of their Faith... or their Failures???

## COLOSSIANS: Complete in Christ

### II. THE PRAYER: 7 Things Paul Desired for the Church 9-12

As soon as Paul heard about God's Blessings on the Church he added them to his "Prayer List". He did not vaguely ask God to "Bless" them. He had specific things he wanted to see God Accomplish in their lives.

1. Knowledge of God's Will- *Filled with the Knowledge of His Will.* The Greatest purpose any man can have is to do what God wants. The Greatest peace any man can have is when He's doing what God wants. Paul did not want them to merely glimpse God's will- he wanted them to be "filled full" of the Knowledge of God's will. He wanted them to know it as surely and as clearly as possible.

2. Ability to Understand God's Will- *in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.*

a. What God's will is- The Amp. Bible calls this Wisdom "Comprehensive insight into the ways and purpose of God"

b. That it is GOD'S Will- "understand" here means discernment. Paul wants them to learn not only what God's will is but also to discern between God's will and-

Selfish Desires: *There is a way that seems right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death. Prov 14:12*

Satanic Delusions: *For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light 11 Cor 11:14*

3. Application of God's Will to Life- *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.* Live your lessons! Faith without works is dead. (Sometimes the way to know His will is to DO His will Jn 7:17).

4. Bear Fruit- *Being fruitful in every good work.* If you do what God says you will accomplish what God wants and Fruit will be a natural result Jn 15:5

5. Increasing Acquaintance with God- *Increasing in the knowledge of God.* The more you serve Him the more you know Him, and the more you know Him the more you serve Him...until your chief goal in life is to Know Him above all (Phil 3:10).

6. Powerful, Pleasurable, Patience- *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.* As you wait upon God to renew strength (Is 40:31) you learn the Source of your Power (God- who invigorates and strengthens us); the Suffering that Power brings (Patience and endurance that are the cost of obtaining and administering this power), and the Celebration that comes with Power (Joyfulness).

7. And, finally, A Thankful Heart- *Giving Thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the Saints in Light.* The "Road to Apostasy" begins with an unthankful heart (Rom 1:21) and Paul prays that the Colossians would know WHO to Thank and WHAT to Thank for.

What a great Church we could have if each member knew and understood God's Will, applied it in their lives to produce Fruit for God, and maintained a relationship with God so that they could receive Power to do what God called them to do. Surely then Thanks and Praise would ring in every service!!

### III. PAUL PRAISES THE FATHER FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US THRU CHRIST

A) Exalted us- Made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Rendered us fit to be included in the Will!!  
John 1:12 as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God;  
Ep 2:6-7 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

B) Freed us- Delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

1. Freed us from the "disorder of darkness" where Satan had us captive with blinded eyes. II Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2. Translated (change from one form to another) us into the kingdom of His dear Son. God did not do away with my personality- He freed me from sin's disorder to walk in the light of the Lord. I walk in a new life with a new "Master" now.

C) Bought us- In whom (the Son) we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. I am able to escape Sin's power and become a partaker of Heaven's inheritance because Christ paid a debt I could not pay- the wages of sin. He paid MY debt so I could enjoy HIS Blessings! Glory!

### IV. PAUL EXPLAINS HOW CHRIST COULD DO THIS 15-19 If you accept what Christ has done for us then you must admit He is able to do this. This is easy when you realize who Christ is!

A) He is the image of the invisible God. The visible representation of the invisible God. If you have seen me you have seen the Father Jn 14:9

B) He is the Firstborn of every creature- He was before all creatures and has authority over all of them. Jn 1:1

C) He is the Creator of all things:

Location- Heaven and earth (everywhere)

Substance- Visible and invisible (everything)

Authority- thrones, dominions, principalities or powers (He is all powerful. Since He created all "Power" He is greater than any power.)

Purpose- created BY Him FOR Him.

Time- He is before all things (Eternal)

Necessary- By Him all things consist (are held together). If He could cease to exist so would everything else!! He did not simply create everything- He continues to hold it together!!

D) The Head of the Body- the Church

He began the Church- It is HIS Body

He is the firstborn from the dead- Basis of our belief I Cor 15:14

He is to be preeminent in everything in Church- and everywhere!!

E) All fulness dwells in Him- He is completely permanently complete. He needs nothing- now or ever. He is GOD!!!

If He is God, He is greater than the Angels. If He is God and He provided Salvation, then there is nothing man can add to it.



## COLOSSIANS: Complete in Christ

### V. THE PURPOSE: The Reason Christ did this vs 20-23

- A) TO reconcile a sinful world to a Holy God- (Reconcile= to bring God and man into Holy Harmony!!)
1. How- By HIS blood on the cross- The only payment God will accept for the sin debt. See Heb 9:22
  2. Who: The All. In Heaven and in earth (Not just a select few) The Alienated. Hostile in our Attitude and Actions. Sin begins in the mind before showing in the Life. (Remember that Adultery can happen in the Brain as well as the Body!). That's why Satan seeks to control your mind (II Cor 4:4, 10:5) thru Songs, TV, and Ads. (Ever found yourself humming a Beer commercial?? or watched kids covet only advertised toys??)
- B) To Produce a Holy People. Holy= Separation FROM worldly defilement FOR God. Being separated does not make us Holy- that comes when we add dedication to God. (Because a building is not a Beer Hall does not make it a Church!).
- Because of What Christ did on the Cross we can now be set apart for God without fault and free of reproach. (Meaning we don't have to Add anything or Earn our Salvation.). Only if Christ were God and man could He accomplish on the Cross what He did.
- C) To Provide all we need to maintain this reconciled relationship by simple Faith. Faith is our Foundation and we should be firmly established on it so that other doctrines and messages will not sway or trouble us. This is the Good News of the Gospel- Christ has provided all we need to come to God and to stay with God. Don't add Burdens of Law keeping or subtract Blessings of our relationship with Christ, the Son of God.

### VI. THE PREACHER: Paul's Purpose in Life (To proclaim Christ and present every man perfect in Christ) 23-29

A) Paul was willing to suffer as a Servant in order to help the Body of Christ- the Church (This is the suffering the righteous bear because of opposition to evil. In cannot produce salvation- Christ did everything necessary for that on the Cross- but it can allow us to know the "fellowship of His suffering" (Phil 3:10) as love for a lost world drives us on.).

B) Paul was a "Manager of the Mystery" that God had revealed to him- that Christ indwells the believer.

A Mystery is something previously hidden that God has now revealed There are numerous "Mysteries " in the New Testament:

- 1) The fact that God's Program with Israel would be interrupted was a mystery. Matt 13:11 Rom 11:25
  - 2) The Wisdom of God in His way of Salvation. I Cor 2:7 Rom 16:25
  - 3) God's work thru Christ. I Tim 3:16
  - 4) The development of evil into it's culmination in the man of sin (II Thess 2:7) and the development of the great apostate Religious system (Rev. 17:5,7) are called Mysteries.
  - 5) The Rapture is a Mystery I Cor 15:51
- But the Mystery Paul refers to here is the formation of the Church (centered around Gentiles) as the Body of which Christ is the Head. (See also Ep 3:3-9). Paul was responsible (as we are) to reveal this "secret" to a dying and desparate world- See I Cor 4:1-2. Are YOU Faithfully Telling the Good News???????

C) Paul's Preaching and Teaching had as their ultimate Goal the Maturing (meaning of Perfect here) of every Believer into Christlikeness.

The Goal of some speakers is a commendation from the listeners. The Goal of some is to faithfully "fill" the hour.

What is YOUR goal when you Teach or Speak?? Are you reaching your Goal???

D) Paul's Labors were based on God's Power - I Cor 2:4-5 My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Because of His willingness to be used, God had worked thru him greatly. (The word Labor here means "working until exhausted").

Paul has tried to get across to the Colossians that their standing in Christ, the Ability of Christ to save, and even his own life and ministry all hinged on the fact that Christ was indeed God. If He was not then everything was a failure. Either Christ was God, and had provided all they needed to be saved, or they were lost!!



GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM  
MORNING EVANGELISTIC SER. 11:00AM  
(LIVE OVER WJOT)  
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00PM  
WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING 7:30PM

# G L O R Y

Vol IV Num 2 January 16, 1986 "TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

The Lord doubled our Blessings Sunday. Instead of Baptising 3, we baptised 6!! The Lord just continues to show His greatness and Glory as He Blesses the work of the Church.

Prayer Meeting last night was very good with excellent participation and a good Church Conference. I'm so very glad our conferences are times of rejoicing in God's victories and His Blessings on the Church. Let's continue to work together and keep them that way.

This coming Sunday (Jan.19) we will celebrate Communion during the Morning Service. WE normally have our Communion Service on Sunday night but I decided to change it this time to allow everyone an opportunity to participate. There will also be a number of special songs during the Service. Come join us this Sunday- and come expecting a Blessing!!

Master's Men will meet Tuesday night (Jan 21) at 7:30pm at the Church. We have not had a meeting lately and I hope we will have a good participation. We will discuss when to have our monthly meetings and try to adopt a program that will be of interest to everyone. A fish stew supper will be served.

NEW PARTNER- Last year Bill and Elise McBride committed themselves to regularly help this work and their assistance has been invaluable. Last night a new "Partner" joined the Group. Marion Coker had helped the work a number of times last year but now he has obligated himself to pay the postage on the newsletter this year!! This will remove a big burden from me and will allow any gifts now to be used to buy supplies and much needed equipment.

As we lengthen our cords of outreach we must strengthen our stakes of Foundation (Is 54:2) and it is partners committed to this work that will do this. Ecc 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

Another Fraise Note- Brother Morwood Gibson, the State Promotional Sec., plans to obtain a cassette duplicator soon and has said I can use it some. This will really help when I get in a bind with needing +numerous tapes.+  
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The goal of every true Christian is to be saved from the Penalty of Sin, to be saved from the Power of sin, and to one day be saved from the very Presence of sin. This means you need to be established in the Faith.

I. KNOW YOU'RE SAVED!! Have to know it and be sure of it.

A) The Witness of the Word- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Rom 10:17. Salvation is by Grace thru Faith. But Faith must have a Foundation- And that must be the Word of God.

B) The Witness of the Spirit- The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. Rom 8:16

C) The Witness of Your Walk- As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. Col 2:6

1. We are saved by Faith and walk by Faith. I don't try to "hold out" to stay saved. I become a part of the vine and depend on God's sustaining power.

2. I live a changed life from a desire to be like God--Be ye Holy, for I am Holy, saith the Lord. I don't walk different to be changed--I'm changed so I walk different.

II. RECOGNIZE AND USE THE HELP GOD HAS GIVEN. These Things Establish:

A) Established by receiving a Spiritual Gift. Rom 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established. Recognize your place in the Body of Christ and be content to be that.

B) Established by being on the Rock. Ps 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. (Storms won't "wreck" us if we're on the Rock!).

C) Established by seeing God at work. Ps 90:16-17 Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. We see what God has done and we look to what He will do.

D) Established by Counsel. Prov 20:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war. GOOD counsel allows you to see from a different view. When two agree it encourages us to go forward

E) Established by Christian Guidelines. Acts 16:4-5 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the Churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily. We are stable when we know what to do and what NOT to do.

F) Established by different Christian Ministers. 1 Thess 3:1-2 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; and sent Timothy, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: Paul Planted, Timothy watered, but God gave the increase!!

G) Established by Grace and not works. Heb 13:9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. It's not your Ability that will build or break you--It's your availability to God and trust in HIS provisions.

Know you're Saved, Know your Resources, and Stand firm in God.

# GRACE

AND

# GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00am

MORNING EVANGELISTIC SER. 11:00am

(Live over WJOT)

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30pm

Vol IV Num 3 January 27, 1986

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

January has been a time of regrouping after all of the Fall Activities---and allowing everyone time to be sick (Which everyone seems to have taken advantage of!!). February will be busy as we head into what we hope will be our biggest year yet.

Feb 4- Master's Men meet at the Church

Feb 9- Poster Parade in Sunday School. (Using the Church Theme- "To Know and to Show Christ")

Feb 10- Ladies Aux Meet at the Church

Feb 12- Church Wide Valentine Banquet

Feb 13-14 - State Association of FWB meet at Hillside FWB, Florence

Feb 16- Gideon Speaker in AM Service

March 2-7 - REVIVAL

A BEGINNING- I RECEIVED \$100 LAST WEEK FROM SOME VERY DEAR FRIENDS TO BEGIN OUR EQUIPMENT FUND. NOW IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF WAITING FOR GOD'S CONTINUED PROVISION. THE EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED VERY, VERY BADLY (IF YOU KNEW HOW LONG AND HARD I WORKED THIS WEEK YOU'D UNDERSTAND) AND I KNOW NOW THAT GOD WILL MAKE A WAY FOR US TO OBTAIN IT.

I PRAISE GOD FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE WILLING TO JOIN IN THIS MINISTRY AND TRUST GOD WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR US TO SHARE. TODAY'S NOTES CONTINUE OUR COLOSSIAN STUDY. ALSO INCLUDED ARE SOME NOTES ON THE ANTICHRIST THAT I HOPE WILL HELP YOU. EXTRA COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL OF THEM.

Gold Stars to Buck Flowers for beginning our "Children's Sermon" ministry between Sunday School and Preaching each Sunday. I think it's really going to be a Blessing to our young people. The Teens will be hearing about some special activities for them soon also.

The Lord has provided us with a great field of work and some very talented workers and we hope we can make a difference in our community in 1986.

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IF YOU SEE IT YOU HAVE THE ANSWER TO LIFE. THE SECRET IS  
IN LOOKING AT THE LIGHT INSTEAD OF THE DARK AREAS.

SOMETIMES LIFE IS LIKE THIS- WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT YOU SEE ONLY A GREAT BIG PUZZLE. IT SEEMS TO MAKE NO SENSE AND YOU SIMPLY EXIST INSTEAD OF REALLY LIVING. MANY PEOPLE TRY TO "FILL IN THE BLANKS" WITH "THINGS" AND POSSESSIONS. OTHERS TRY TO MAKE IT ALL FIT BY FILLING THE EMPTY SPACES WITH DRINK, DRUGS, OR SINFUL LIVING. BUT NOTHING FITS UNTIL MEN COME TO JESUS AND FIND HE'S THE LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE. HE BRINGS YOUR LIFE OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND INTO THE LIGHT WHERE YOU CAN REJOICE THAT YOUR PAST SINS WERE FORGIVEN, YOUR FUTURE HOME IS IN HEAVEN, AND YOUR PRESENT LIFE HAS PURPOSE AND PEACE BECAUSE NOW EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE.

HAVE YOU ALLOWED JESUS TO "MAKE SENSE" OF YOUR LIFE YET?? IF NOT THEN WHY DON'T YOU BOW RIGHT NOW AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND ACCEPT HIM AS SAVIOUR. THEN EVERYTHING WILL COME INTO FOCUS!! (If you do accept Christ then let me know so I can add your name to my Prayer list. I also have numerous booklets and tapes that will help you that are absolutely free. Let me hear from you today.)

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Special Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hyman, Mr and Mrs. Bill McBride, Mr and Mrs Jimmy Floyd, and Mrs. Carrie Huggins for gifts to this ministry this week. Because of their concern I can now offer to anyone desiring them (Absolutely FREE) chapter by chapter notes on REVELATION, GALATIANS, PHILIPPIANS, I THESSALONIANS, JAMES, I TIMOTHY, I CORINTHIANS, AND PROVERBS. Numerous tapes and specific subjects are also available. (I try to get God's message to people every way I can- If I can't preach to you in person I try to get you over the radio, if I can't get you over the radio I try to get you a tape, If I can't get you a tape I try to get you a newsletter--and I'm looking for more methods every day. I think the message of Christ is the most important thing in the world and everyone needs to hear it. I also think God is about to "wrap up the show" on this earth and anything we are going to do for Christ we need to do soon. I want no man's blood on my hands when I face God- Ez 3:18).

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils... (Therefore) Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt BOTH SAVE THYSELF, AND THEM THAT HEAR THEE.*

*(1 Tim 4:1,16)*

## COLOSSIANS: COMPLETE IN CHRIST

### CHAPTER 2 CHRIST, ALL WE NEED

Paul begins the chapter by telling the people that he is in a great "conflict" for them. The word "conflict" here is the one used for an athletic contest. Paul wants the people to know that he is in a "contest" for the souls of the people-- and if the false teachers win everyone loses!! This, of course, caused Paul a great deal of concern.

This concern is shown first by a Positive DESIRE for these people to know what they have in Christ before he begins to DENOUNCE the false teachings that would draw them away from Christ. This order is used first to show them their stability in Christ before he denounces "superior wisdom" and then he shows the victory and fulness we have in Christ before he denounces "sanctifying works". It all leads to the firm realization that Christ is all we need to be saved and Christ is all we need after we're saved.

Sad to say, even today many do not realize and apprehend this truth and live miserable Christian lives or else allow Satan to "run them ragged" chasing the "carrot" of a Better Blessing. May God help us to realize that all we need we have in Christ--and adding more only gives us less.

#### I. THE CONCERN PAUL FELT 2:1-2

A) Beyond Contact vs 1. He had never met these people but he was concerned about their relationship with Christ. It is this kind of concern that will turn us into the mission minded people we are supposed to be. Are you concerned that people beyond your immediate contact know the truth of the Gospel??

B) About Courage- "That their hearts might be comforted". Paul was concerned that some might "lose heart" and he wanted them to be "braced up" against anything that would lead them away from Christ. Satan tries to lead people into doubt and despair- do we seek to brace them up or drag them down??

C) For Companionship- "Being knit together in love". Paul realized that when one part of the body suffers all suffer (I Cor 12:26) and he was concerned that they would be so joined and united until each would help support and protect the other. Do you "look out for" Christians around you???

D) Unto Confidence- "Unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding". Paul realized that true riches comes with Peace of heart- and peace of heart comes from complete confidence (full assurance) in what we have in Christ. This complete confidence comes when we really understand what Christ did and who Christ is. Understand here means "to place together properly". Do we place the circumstances of life in their proper place--or do we allow circumstances to "cloud" our relationship with Christ??

E) Producing Confession- "Acknowledging the mystery of God in Christ" Paul did not want the people to simply know truths with their minds, he wanted them to confess them with their mouth (See Rom 10:9-10) and make them a part of their lives and lips.

The main thing he wanted them to confess was that everything they need was found in Christ (vs 3). All of the Wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God) and Knowledge (enlightenment about God's work in your life) are hid in Christ as "buried treasure--worth selling everything else to obtain (Matt 13:44). If they realized

(continued from front)

and confessed this then these false teachers would not be able to mislead them into adding or subtracting anything from the Blessed Salvation we have in Christ..

Do you realize all you need is found in Christ? Or are you continually seeking to learn more or live better thinking that that will fill the empty void in your heart? All you need is in Christ and digging elsewhere to find it only puts useless work on you and leaves holes along the way for someone else to fall in!!

II. THE CONFLICT PAUL FOUGHT 4-23 Paul now seeks to expose the errors of the False Teachers so the Colossians could recognize why they were wrong.

A) The Methods the False Teacher's Employed.

1. "Beguile you with enticing words" vs 4- To deceive by False Reasoning. These False Teachers sought to get the Colossians to accept wrong doctrine by their "persuasive Reasoning". Beguile here means "to reckon wrong". The False Teachers were ending up with the wrong answers because they started from the wrong source. They figured everything from man's point of view instead of God's. Today it is called HUMANISM and results in people saying, "I don't care what the Bible says, this is the way that makes sense" (Modesty gives way to comfort. Beliefs give way to personal benefit.).

2. "Spoil you" vs 8 - To take away your resources as in "the spoils of war". These False Teachers were all trying to "claim as a prize" these Believers. Today the idea is that the more people and resources a ministry has the more "Godly" it is and people become trophies instead of brethren. Many ministries are built on pandering to people's wants instead of dealing with people's problems--and most people would rather be petted than forced to face the needs in their life.

3. "Judge you" vs 16- Sit in judgment over. The False Teachers would decide what THEY thought was best for your life based on their on personal preference-- only their music, or type of preaching, or order of service were "spiritual".

4. "Beguile you of your reward" vs 18- Declare you unworthy to receive the reward even though you "won the race". They would "disqualify" people by making up the "rules" as they went along! Salvation by Faith was no longer enough-- you must discard some things and/or add some things to be "really" saved (Baptism, speaking in tongues, etc)

5. "Subject you to ordinances" vs 20b- Leave the liberty of the Lord for the bondage of the Law. Salvation becomes what YOU do instead of what CHRIST did (People consider themselves Christians because they pray, attend Church and give some money--failing to realize that all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, before God.)

There are all kinds of Methods but the thing to realize is that each of them seeks to draw us from Christ or add burdens to our walk with Christ. Does your "Religion" draw you closer to Christ?? Are you carrying a lot of extra "weight" around (See Rom 12:1) ??



## COLOSSIANS; COMPLETE IN CHRIST

### Chapter 2- Christ, All we need

#### II. THE CONFLICT PAUL FOUGHT 4:23

##### B) The Errors the False Teachers Enlisted

1. Enticing Words- Persuasive Reasoning (Like a Lawyer in a court that builds a "house of words" that has no foundation but looks very pretty. (If I can convince you to be saved; someone else can "convince" you to get "unsaved". Salvation is not in wisdom of words but the Power of God- I Cor 2:4-5)

2. Philosophy and vain deceit- One man said worldly Philosophy was like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there. Another said it was the science of learning more and more about less and less until finally you know everything about nothing! This is the intellectualism that denies anything that can't be "figured". Things like Faith and miracles are said to be the vivid imagination of the lesser educated.

3. Traditions of men- Forms and customs added by men (Do something in a Church one way for a year and suddenly it becomes a "sin" to do it differently!!). Jesus denounced many of these in Matt 23:-

4. The Rudiments (Elemental) Things of this world- The Teachings of Society. Social etiquette replaces Salvation experience. I Cor 1:26 For ye see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

5. Judgment of Religious Activities- Straining at gnats and swallowing camels.

6. Worship of "Heavenly Idols"- In this case, angels. In many cases we put Church ahead of God, or Projects ahead of people.

7. Self Control- This gives man the idea that the problem is not his sinful nature but his inability to conquer his passions. The answer then becomes greater effort or education instead of faith in Christ.

#### III. THE "CONCRETE" PAUL USED FOR FOUNDATION. Paul did not simply expose the problem, he pointed to the ways to keep from falling for the tricks the False Teachers used.

A) Enranked in Order- "your order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ" vs 5 These are military terms used to describe a group of soldiers that are able to withstand the enemy's attack because they form a block that protects each other and fights as a unit. For the Christian this is the Body of Christ in which each has a part that works together with the whole.

The first thing the False Teachers did was to try to get the Christians away from fellow Christians. Isolated he then became a much easier prey.

Do you realize the importance of being Faithful in Church attendance for yourself and for others??

Do you "look out" for fellow Christians who may be under attack??



B) Established in Faith- "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the Faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving" vs 6-7.

We receive Christ by Faith and we live by Faith. This is a continuous Life built on the foundation of Christ. It involves being:

1. Rooted- No tumbleweed (start and stop, hit or miss living)  
No transplant- Don't think "grass is greener" somewhere else.
2. Built up- Growing in Grace and Knowledge of Christ. Your building is built on Christ's Foundation--not someone's fancy!!
3. Abounding- Overflowing with thanks. Your life with Christ is not an overworking of self effort, but an overflowing of enjoyed Blessings.

C) Enlightenment about Christ's Work- We're satisfied with Christ because we know WHO He is and WHAT He's done for us.

1. He is the head of all principalities and Powers- Nothing in the "heavenlies" or in earth is greater than he. Therefore nothing should be placed ahead of Him.
2. Thru Him we are circumcised with Spiritual circumcision- We don't need external symbols of Spiritual Realities.
3. He enables us to have a new life- free from previous "debts". Not a new beginning only; a clean past also!
4. Thru Him we are victorious over our enemies- spoiling them! He turns defeat into victory and enables us to change the hinderances into helps.

What a Glorious Saviour.

Who could want anything more??

Who would accept anything less??

*Ep 4:14-15 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

## THE UNHOLY TRIO    REV 13:-

After the "war in Heaven" (Rev 12:7), Satan will realize that his time is short (Rev 12:12) and he will boldly seek to claim men's souls by imitation and intimidation. He will abandon his peaceful take-over begun during the first 3½ years of the Tribulation and now openly force men to worship his "Christ" instead of the real Christ. Antichrist will go into the rebuilt Jewish Temple and proclaim that he is to be worshipped now and then he will begin an intense campaign of wrath against any followers of Jesus (Rev 12:17). (These are people that believed during the first 3½ years of the Tribulation under the ministry of the Two great Witnesses (Rev 11) and the 144,000 Jews (Rev 7). The Church Saints have been raptured and are in Heaven).

The 3 main characters in Satan's plan are:

1. The Dragon- Satan. Who wants to be God.
2. The First Beast out of the sea (13:1)- Antichrist. He does not just deny Christ. He seeks to replace Him. (The "sea" is normally used to designate Humanity in general. The Antichrist will probably claim to be a Gentile but possibly will have a Jewish background (Many Nazis did this during WWII)).
3. The Second Beast out of the earth (13:11)- The False Prophet. He seeks to exalt the Antichrist as the Spirit exalts Christ. (The "earth" here is the word used many times to signify the land of Israel. This leads many to believe the False Prophet will be a Jew)

The main "Vehicles" for this Trio to work thru are:

1. Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots (Rev 17:5)- This is the false Religious System headed by the Catholic Church headquartered at Rome (17:9). Antichrist will probably use this for the beginning of his work but then abandon it to be "raped" by his kingdom (17:16) when he declares himself God in Jerusalem.
2. Babylon the Great (Rev 18)- The world Economic System that will eventually be headquartered in the region of ancient Babylon (Iran, Iraq).

### I. THE DESCRIPTION OF ANTICHRIST 13:1-2

- A) His Beginning- out of the "sea" of humanity
- B) His Base- 7 heads (each with a blasphemous title written on it) 10 horns with 10 crowns. The ten nation revived Roman Empire (3 of the nations will be under 1 rulership but will retain their identity). (See 17:8-18)
- C) His "Beastliness"- Like a Leopard- Greek empire (Swift)  
Feet of a Bear- Medo-Persia Empire (Savage)  
Mouth of a Lion- Babylon (Smart)
- D) His Benefactor- The Dragon (Satan) gave him:
  1. Power- ability to perform
  2. Seat- Throne (Place to reign from) (See Rev 2:13, 16:10)
  3. Great Authority- Dominion over people

## II. THE DETAILS OF HIS REIGN 3-10

A) The Wound vs 3. Either Antichrist will be killed and brought back to life (vs 12, 17:8-10), or one of the kings of his empire is killed and Antichrist restores him to life.

B) The Worship vs 4. (This is Satan's Goal- Is 14:14)

1. The Dragon vs 4

2. The Antichrist vs 4, 8, 12

3. The Image of the Antichrist vs 15

(People will not accept and worship Christ but they will worship all about this "Antichrist".)

C) The War vs 4b-7

1. He will defeat many by his "resurrection" (4b)

2. He will defeat many by his "retort" (5)

3. He will defeat Saints!!! (6-7)

4. He will conquer the world (7b)

D) The Warning vs 10 *He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity; he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

## III. THE FALSE PROPHET 11-18

A) His Description vs 11

1. Out of the "earth"- Probably a Jew. Is he the High Priest of the rebuilt Jewish Temple before Antichrist proclaims himself God? Does he now recognize this "false Christ" as the Messiah? (Remember that the Jews are looking for a world ruler that will restore Jerusalem's glory. When Antichrist moves from Rome to Jerusalem and conquers the world it would be easy to convince many that this is the coming Messiah).

2. 2 Horns like a Lamb- A Lamb does not have horns, a Ram does! This false prophet will pretend to exalt Christ but will actually promote Antichrist. The 2 horned Ram of Daniel 8 was the Medo-Persian Empire. Will this False Prophet be able to convince the Moslems to worship this "Messiah" also!!!? Joining Jews and Moslems together to fight "False Jews" that still proclaim Christ as Messiah!!

3. He spake as (for) a Dragon- He identified himself as Satan's spokesman. In a world gone "Mad" that worships Satan and Satan's man (Antichrist) this will make him someone to listen to instead of someone to scorn.

B) His Power

1. All of the Power of the first Beast- who obtained his power from Satan (13:4).

2. Establishes World-wide worship of the Antichrist. He does this by means of:

a. Wonders- calling down fire from Heaven (as Elijah who would precede Messiah- Mal 4:5).

b. Deception- calling down fire could be done in "the sight of men" but other miracles must be done in the "sight of the beast". Were these real "Miracles" or manipulations by electronic or mechanical means? The example given is the erection of an image of the Antichrist that is made "alive" and speaks as well as controls those who do not worship the image. Is this a "super computer" that can deceive men with its vast store of information and destroy men by means of an "implant" as the mark of the Beast?? (See 16:2)

## THE UNHOLY TRIO (CONTINUED)

### III. THE FALSE PROPHET 11-18

C) His Pressures- This False Prophet will use every means available to get people to worship the Beast and his Image knowing that once people worship them their fate is sealed- Rev 14:9-11 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

1. Religious Pressure- 13-15 Wonders and deceptive works are used to bring men to worship. In a world that is being trained to believe only feelings and sight instead of faith (Heb 10:38) men will fall easy prey to this clever trickster. This will be the most popular Religion ever and everyone will be pressured to "jump on the bandwagon". Matt 24:24 For there shall arise False Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

2. Physical Pressure- 15b "as many as would not worship should be killed!" This will make the Catholic Inquisition look like a picnic! Torture and death will be common- with no chance of escape because the mark will be clearly visible on all who worship. Matt 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

3. Social Pressure- 16 "All, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their forehead". This will be the "Communist" ideal- no social classes, no races, no division of any kind. All men will join together in one great "Brotherhood". (Christianity does not seek to make all men "equal"- one is a "hand", one is a "foot", etc. and every Christian has a different gift according to the diversity of the Spirit (see I Cor 12:-). It is the Humanist that say every man should get an equal "share of the pie". God says if a man can work and will not work that he is to do without!! II Thess 3:10).

4. Economic Pressure- 17 "No man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark". Men will watch their business close, their families starve, their bank account become useless, and see their life slowly be squeezed away if they refuse to worship. Today men will do almost anything to get and keep a job- what will it be like in that day?? Mk 13:12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

#### IV. THE MARK OF THE BEAST 16-18

A) The Location of the Mark- On right hand or Forehead. The Mark will be public and obvious so everyone will know you worship the Beast. There will be no secret discipleship. (This is a Satanic "copy" of God's program- Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their forehead. See also 9:4, 14:1 and 3:12). Today the Holy Spirit is our seal (Ep 1:13) but, evidently, after the Rapture men will have a physical seal when they follow Christ. Before the Church it was the Physical sign of Circumcision.

B) The Need of the Mark- Could not buy or sell without. Men will be forced to chose between their physical body and their eternal soul- - the same choice facing them today!!

C) The Description of the Mark- Note that ANY ONE of the three would enable you to buy or sell.

1. The Mark- Symbol of the Beast

2. The Name of the Beast- Signature of the Beast

3. The Number of his name- 666. Wisdom and understanding are necessary to interpret the number. It is therefore more than the numerical amount of 666- and MAY mean that the number 666 will not be used during the Tribulation. Instead it may refer to what the number represents (Wrath is pronounced on those who have the mark of the Beast- not the number of the Beast!!).

a. The number of (a) man- The number may simply signify man as opposed to God. (7 is generally considered a "holy" complete number to represent God. 6 is as close as you can come to that. Also remember that man was created on the 6th day.) It being 3 times repeated may refer to the "Unholy Trio"

b. The number may represent the Revived Roman Empire. (In Roman Numerals 666 is DCLXVI which are the first 6 symbols of Roman numbers- I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500). Perhaps the "number" will be 710 (7 heads and 10 "horns") and 666 is only God's way of showing us the meaning of that number.

c. The number may be "shorthand" for the name of a man (The numerical value of Jesus is 888). Here are a few of the MANY ideas men have come up with:

The Greek Name Euanthas		If A=6, B=12, C=18...		If A=100, B=101, C=102...	
E = 5		K = 66	C = 18	H = 107	
U = 400		I = 54	O = 90	I = 108	
A = 1		S = 114	M = 78	T = 119	
N = 50		S = 114	P = 96	L = 111	
Th = 9		I = 54	U = 126	E = 104	
A = 1		N = 84	T = 120	R = 117	
S = 200		G = 42	E = 30		666
666		E = 30	R = 108		
		R = 108	666		
		666			

Ronald Wilson Reagan  
6 6 6

Rev 13:18 (Amp. Bible) Here is (room for) discernment- a call for the wisdom (of interpretation); let any one who has intelligence (penetration and insight enough) calculate the number of the beast, for it is a human number- the number of a certain man; his number is six hundred and sixty-six

# GRACE

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GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Bible Study Hour 10:00am

Morning Evangelistic Ser. 11:00am

(Live over WJOT)

Evening Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm

# GLORY

Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725

Vol IV Num 4 February 11, 1986

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

What an amazing 2 weeks have just passed. God has "opened the windows of Heaven" and poured us out more Blessings than we can hardly receive. And most of the Blessings have been unexpected and some even a little unusual. It seems as if God has said this is HIS ministry and He will advance it the way HE wants to.

Let's begin first by sharing with you that the equipment fund has passed the \$500 dollar mark. 2 weeks ago it did not exist and today it's over \$500!! And a young man visiting our Church Sunday said he would give \$1000 over the next few months to purchase equipment! (3 more visitors like him and the dream will be a reality! The equipment we need will cost between \$4500 and \$5000.). What a Blessing that this young man read our newsletter, visited our Church, and committed himself to help us proclaim the message of Christ. (Thanks Jimmy- and Juanice. We appreciate it.).

Special Thanks to Eva Asaro, John McCall, Rev. Floyd Coleman, Clark Ziglar, David and Jackie Johnson, Carrie Huggins, Ann McKnight, Marion Coker, Bill and Elise McBride, and Anonymous for gifts to this work in the past 2 weeks. And a very special thanks to Rev. Ned Pattillo for his gift and encouragement. Not only have these gifts built our equipment fund but they have also enabled us to give away 30 tapes and 8 sets of Bible Study notes. They also enabled me to obligate myself to 35 more tapes and 5 more sets of Bible notes that I haven't had time to prepare for distribution yet. To me that is the real reason for rejoicing--that we were able to help people learn more about Jesus. If the purpose of this ministry ever becomes to get instead of to give then it will have missed it's goal. All of the equipment we're seeking has no value in it's self. Only as it enables us to reach more people for Jesus does it have worth.

I find increasing evidence of God using the newsletter articles. We recently spent the day visiting friends in Florida and everywhere we went people talked of how the newsletter articles ministered to them. Several people have contacted me recently about address .

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 1003

Lake City, S.C. 29560

Pastor Mircheal Jones

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changes (Thank you for doing that) and each of them expressed how they look forward to receiving the notes. And recently newsletter articles were published in a weekly newspaper in N.C. and in the national paper "Pulpit Helps". We didn't seek any of these endorsements and the newspaper articles were a complete surprise so we're not using them to "Boast" as much as to show those who share the vision with us that God is in fact using the work.

Open the window wider, Lord. I can hardly wait to see what's coming next!!!

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Our "Poster Parade" turned up some very interesting Posters that help proclaim and promote our theme of "To Know and to Show Christ". Thanks to Jackie Lowder, Davie Coker, Zack Newell, and the "Princess" for their work. Thanks also to Carl Jordan for a Poster so big until it won't fit in the Church! (We're going to hang it on the Fellowship Building Wall). But he did cheat a little- he used the computer I covet!!

These posters are part of our drive to get everyone excited about Witnessing and Working as we head into Revival March 2-7. Begin now to pray for our speakers:

Sunday, March 2	Rev. Mike Jones
Monday, March 3	Rev. Talmadge Brown- Horse Branch FWB Church
Tuesday, March 4	Rev. Ron Moore- Calvary FWB, Georgetown
Wednesday, March 5	Rev. Eddie Riddick- Pamlico FWB Church
Thursday, March 6	Rev. Dan Runion- First FWB, Charleston
Friday, March 7	Rev. Sherwood Lee- Missionary to Ivory Coast

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Our special Gideon Speakers this Sunday Morning will be Mr. Howard Godwin. We also plan to have several special songs. Plan to come-- and come expecting a Blessing.

-----  
Love is not looking IN each other's eyes but FROM each other's eyes.

Love is a Dream of a whole new world built a touch and a moment at a time.

Love is the freedom to leave--with the desire to stay

Love's Goal is to Give-- It is a Journey to enjoy; not a destination to aim for.

Love's Vision is fogged with love- It sees with the heart instead of the eyes.

Love demands constant work- Sometimes it's like a child crying at 3am when we're very tired,,,but worth the effort when it hugs our neck!

Love is Two that are One- Separate but only complete together

Love performs but it's not a performance    I Cor 13:1-3

Love serves without being selfish    I Cor 13: 4-7

Love never Fails--but people do    I Cor 13:8

Loves shows us God (I Jn 4:7) and brings us to God    I Jn 4:9-10

Love is not sought- It is accepted. Have you??    Jn 3:16



# GRACE

A N D

# GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725

Bible Study Hour 10:00  
Morning Service (Live WJOT) 11:00  
Evening Worship Service 6:00  
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30

Vol IV Num 5 February 18, 1986 "TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

## EXCUSES MEN USE TO NOT DO GOD'S WORK

Lack of Money- When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. (Then Andrew brings the boy with the 2 fish and 5 loaves and Jesus uses them to feed the multitude and has 12 baskets full of fragments remaining!). In 6:5-7

In the early days of the newsletter ministry we had virtually no income- no money, no equipment, and very little ability. About all I had was a burdened heart and a vision to do something for God's people to encourage them to get into the Word of God. I had just begun making up Bible Study notes and people were beginning to find out about them. A Preacher wrote requesting some so I put them together and carried them to the Post Office to mail them. It cost \$1.20 and left me with a grand total of 60¢. When I returned home the mail had come and with it another request for notes.

I put together another packet and headed to the Post Office expecting to find a dollar along the road. I arrived at the Post Office without finding the money and walked into the building expecting to find a dollar on the floor. I made it to the window and handed the Postmaster my package knowing I only had half of what I needed. I was talking with him (stalling for time to try to figure what to do!) when he asked what was in the package. I told him Bible notes and he said it could go a special rate- 57¢!!!

The Lord really taught me a lesson thru that. If I would have waited until I had the money I thought I needed not only would I have missed seeing God work but I would also have kept paying twice as much to mail notes. Over the past few years that has saved this ministry many dollars.

I wonder how many people sit on the seat of "do-nothing" waiting for God to meet their "reasoned" needs instead of using what they have for God and allowing God to perform a miracle in their life?? Multitudes go "hungry" while Christians look for funds instead of Faith.

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Permit #8

Lack of Help- In 5:5-7 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. (Jesus then speaks the word and the man is instantly healed.)

When I first began to try to put out a church bulletin and then a newsletter in the church in Florida some of the people were angry but most were simply apathetic. They saw no sense in investing money in equipment to print with so I used an old (handed down from Noah!) spirit duplicator that belonged to the Conference but was stored at the Church. It didn't half work, at it's best, but I wept and worked and kept on trying.

Then one day a couple in the Church (Roy and Jackie Ward. What a Blessing they have been to God's work over the years) caught the vision and purchased a used hand driven memo machine from the Methodist Church. It worked super compared to the spirit duplicator and I rejoiced to get it.

Shortly after this, Mr. Jack Hanna called from S.C. to let me know that the local A.B. Dick plant was closing and selling out it's equipment. I asked him to check for another drum for my memo machine so I could change colors. He found one and bid \$10 on it (New cost \$300). When his bid was accepted he found that they had not only given him the drum but also an electric driven memo machine with 2 spare drums as well! (Best \$10 anyone has ever spent). He gave it all to this ministry and I think of God's Providence in that often. (A 5 page newsletter is 10 sides or 5000 copies. I'd be very arm weary by now with all the copies I've run since receiving the machine!!).

I wonder how many people fail to produce for God because they're waiting for someone else to "get the ball rolling". They sit on the sidelines (complaining) while others get the Blessings. The impotent man found he didn't need help getting to the pool- he needed to look in Faith to Jesus!

Like the Rich Young Ruler (Mk 10:17-22), most people's excuses come from the fact that they want to live like Christians without having to commit to Christ. They want to be respectable without being responsible. They want enough Faith to carry them to Heaven but not enough to cause them to become concerned enough about a world going to Hell to do anything about it.

Did you know that if people spent as much time working for God as they do thinking up excuses not to work that we could turn the world upside down for Christ??

Are you looking for an excuse---or an opportunity?????

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I can hardly wait until Sunday. God has been so good to us recently and it's such a thrill each week to see how He's working in the Church and in the lives of the people. Flu and colds have kept many people down lately but I hope most of that is over and everyone is now ready to enjoy God's Blessings and work toward Revival. God has so much He wants to do for and thru us and I hope we will stop looking at why we can't do things and instead remember that we can do all things through Christ which strengthens us.

God wants to Bless His children--let's let Him!!

## COLOSSIANS: Complete in Christ

### Chapter 3- Christ: The Changes He brings to our Life

We have been examining the fact that Christ is above all things and therefore all we need to have a relationship with God. He does not need to have anything added to Him nor should we subtract anything from Him. This is marvelous Doctrine and great Truth but it must be translatable into a livable life if it is to have real meaning. Paul now shows the Colossians the changes that will come as a result of who Christ is and what He did for us.

I. A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE 3:1-3 There is a tremendous difference between a man who fishes for food to survive and a man who takes off from work to go fishing. To one it is a Job; to the other a Joy.

That's the way it is now in our relationship with God. Christ has provided everything we need to be saved and become a Child of God. Now our works are not "Burdens to earn favor with God" but methods to express our Love for and Faith in God.

Our identification with Christ in His resurrection gives us a new purpose in life- to seek the Heavenly things. There is coming a Physical Resurrection (or Rapture!) for us but now we identify with Christ in a Spiritual Resurrection- to new Life in Christ.

This new purpose in Life is manifested in a new "Mind set" (Affection in vs 2). My attitude is now to look at Life's situations from the Heavenly instead of the Human viewpoint. This give me:

a. Peace in life's circumstances- Is 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

b. Humility in life's service- Phil 2:5-8 Let this (servant) mind be in you which was also in Christ...

### II. A CHANGE IN OUTLOOK 3:4-7

Our anticipation of His return causes us to look for the Pure instead of the "Pleasurable". 1 Jn 3:3 Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Our identification with Christ causes us to "slay" (Mortify) the sinful Passions that seek to control us.

A) What we were vs 5 Controlled by selfish sinful passions

B) Wrath this brings 6 on the children of disobedience (It brings death to the unsaved and chastening to the Christian)

C) Walk it exemplifies 7 Worldly walk (Lot as example)

Things you used to think were Fun you now find are Folly.

III. A CHANGE IN "WARDROBE" 3:8-10 A person who loves the Lord will seek to wear the "wardrobe" of Godly Character instead of worldly control. This means you will:

A) Discard something 8-9 The old man (controlled by sin) who is exemplified by Temper (anger, wrath, malice) and Tongue (blasphemy, bad talk, lies).

B) Put something on 10 The new man (new creature in Christ) who breathes the knowledge of Christ in order to be constantly renewed. The New Man is not satisfied to simply know that Christ died for his sins- he wants to Know CHRIST. That's why Church attendance, Prayer, Bible Study, and Witnessing are so important to the Christian.

#### IV. A CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIPS 3:11 - 4:1

##### A) Our Relationship with Society vs 11

Greek- "Civilized" people

Jews- "Religious" people either circumcised or not (Committed or not)

Barbarian- uneducated

Scythian- undignified

Bond- Slaves to someone or something

Free- Liberated

Christ came to save all-- and all are "equal" in Him.

##### B) Our Relationship with the Church vs 12-15

1) The Way God sees us: Elect - part of God's plan

Holy- Set apart for God

Beloved- Loved by God

2) The Way we should see others in the Church.

With a heart full of:

Mercy- compassion, pity

Kindness- gentle, gracious disposition

Humbleness of mind- lowliness of mind

Meekness- acceptance of God's work

Longsuffering- not "blazing" up in anger

Forbearing one another- Putting up with one another, enduring

Forgiving one another- As Christ forgave us.

The elements that make this work:

Love binds us together

Peace rules our heart- acts as an "umpire" in our lives

Thanks expresses our Faith

##### C) Our Relationship with Ourselves vs 16-17

We have a Joyful Heart because the Word of God dwells there. (Note that the exact same things happens when we allow the Word of God to dwell in our heart as when we are filled with the Holy Spirit (Ep 5:18-19). Both exalt Christ and that is where our Joy flows from)

We have Thankful Lips because our Talk and our Walk glorify Christ- and that's our purpose.

##### D) Our Relationship with our Family vs 18-21

Wives- subject to husband under God's direction

Husbands- love wives as Christ loved you. Be not harsh with them.

Children- Obey your Parents. Respect their authority

Parents- Don't expect more of your children than they can give.  
Develop them- don't discourage them.

##### E) Our Relationship at work vs 22 - 4:1

A) Workers- Do a good job 22

Do a Godly job 23-25

God is who we really work for

God will reward our efforts

God will punish our errors

B) Employers- 4:1

Treat your workers right

Realize you work for God also.

COLOSSIANS: Complete in Christ

Chapter 4- Christ: The Purpose of our Ministry

Paul has been talking about the Changes wrought by being in Christ. Now he wants us to translate these changes into an effect Christian Life.

I. COUNSEL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING 4:2-9

A) Be a Person of Prayer 4:2-4

1. Steadfast Prayer- "Continue". Earnest, unwearied. Pray without ceasing. *Phil 4:6 Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

2. Alert Prayer- "Watch". Awake and intent (See Matt 26:36-41)

3. Thankful Prayer- Over and over Paul stresses this

4. Purposeful Prayer-

a. Open Door- To Proclaim the Gospel (The reason Paul was in Prison. He wanted to get out to do it again!!)

b. Bold Speech- That he might speak boldly, fully, and clearly because of the importance of the message.

B) Behave Wisely 4:5-6

1. Understand your influence upon and judgment by sinners and live accordingly

2. Redeem (Buy up) your opportunities. As a wise "investor" realize that sometimes you only get one chance to "cash in" in your dealings with people and you need to be sure that their "Blood is not on your hands" (Ez 33:6).

3. Control your Tongue. The Tongue has power to Direct (Commands), Destroy (See James 3:6), and Delight (See Prov 25:13) therefore you need to be careful how it is used.

a. Talk Gracefully- Pleasant and winsome

b. Talk Appropriately- Don't talk too much or fail to talk when you need to--just enough talk to "season" the conversation with the "salt" of Christianity.

c. Talk Intelligently- Think before you speak so you will know how to answer every man. (Some are silly, some are serious, some are seeking.)

C) Bear One Another's Burdens 4:7-9 Paul did this by allowing Tychicus to do what he couldn't. Tychicus's example shows us the type of person we need to look for to help in the work:

1. His Information- About Paul's affairs. This was not Gossip or Complaints but information to use in Prayer and Participation.

2. His Character- Beloved Brother (A Christian Paul respected)  
Faithful servant to the Lord (Could be trusted)

3. His Mission- Inform about Paul

Encourage them by sharing God's Blessings

(He had a Purpose; he knew what was expected of him)

4. His Partner- The Partner had a Partner (Onesimus). In the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses shall every word be established. 11 Cor 13:1  
Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses  
1 Tim 5:19

II. THE COMPANIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY 4:10-18 Paul now gives one of the most extensive listings in any of his writings of the people who labored with him. Everyone remembers Paul-- but God wants us to realize that there are many members of the "Body of Christ" and each is important.

A) The Circumcised 4:10-11 (Jews first, then Gentiles)

1. Aristarchus- A Fellowprisoner; not as famous but fellowprisoner
2. Marcus (Mark)- Barnabas Nephew (Importance of Family recognize)  
RESTORED to Fellowship and Work (See Acts 15:36-)
3. Jesus (Justus)- Simply named. Some people are important because of who they are more than what they do.

B) The Prayer Warrior- Epaphras 4:12-13

One of you- part of the group (Human viewpoint)

Servant of Christ- part of the Body (Heaven's viewpoint)

Laborer in Prayer- Type of Prayer: Fervent

Purpose of Prayer: That ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Concerned Christian- Great zeal for all of God's work (You, Laodicea, and Hierapolis)

C) The Physican- Luke 4:14 Ministry to physical needs of Paul

D) The Failure- Demas 4:14 *11 Tim 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,...* (Even Jesus had this problem with His disciples Jn 6:66)  
Don't let desertions destroy you.

E) The Partners 4:15 The Brethren in Laodicea- a sister church  
Send them your letter, read theirs. Share information.

F) The Committed- Nymphas 4:15 He put what he had to use for the Lord (Let the Church meet in his house). You don't need Wealth, you need willingness.

G) The Percautioned- Archippas 4:17

a. Consider the importance of your job- "Take heed to the ministry you have received in the Lord".

Was he allowing the "cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, or the lust for other things" to choke the fruit in his life? (Mk 4:19)

Was he distracted by "things" instead of his work?? (You become more interested in the "color of the ship" than the fact that it's sinking!!)

Were persecutions, or problems, or poverty tempting him to look back?

b. Complete your task- Finish what God told you to do

Conclusion:

Paul's Signature- Stamp of Authenticity (God does not want us fooled with counterfeit writings)

Paul's Sigh- Remember my bonds (Even a man like Paul faced some very long and difficult days)

Paul's Salutation- Grace be with you. (May God's Unmerited and unearned favor go with and guard you)



## END TIME BATTLES

There are 4 major End Time Battles:

1. Immediately after the Rapture Russia attacks a confused America and destroys her. (Rev 6)
2. At the beginning of the Tribulation Russia invades Israel (Ez 38, 39)
3. Antichrist and the army of the East are defeated in the Battle of Armageddon (Dan 11:40-, Rev 14:20, 16:14-16, 19:-)
4. Satan's army defeated at the end of Millennial (Rev 20:7-9. Don't confuse this battle with Russia's defeat in Ez 38 & 39. It is called Gog and Magog here also because evidently Satan will rally his troops in Russia to attack Christ.)

1. RUSSIA'S DESTRUCTION OF AMERICA. When the Rapture takes place most people in America will refuse to believe it because many "Religious" people who aren't really Christians will be left (See Matt 7:21-23). They will assume that Russia has attacked using a neutron bomb or some "secret" weapon. While they are confused and attempting to decide what to do Russia will attack and destroy America. The rest of the world will quickly fall into groups for protection and will belong to one of the 4 major World Powers at the beginning of the Tribulation:

- a. 10 nation revived Roman Empire headed by Antichrist. This will include all of Europe. Antichrist will sign a peace treaty with Israel so it will also be under the influence of this power
- b. Northern Kingdom (Gog and Magog) - Russia and her allies
- c. Kings of the East- Asiatic People from beyond the Euphrates River (China, India, Japan, etc.)
- d. Kings of the South- North African Powers (Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia)

## 2. RUSSIA'S INVASION OF ISRAEL Described in Ez. 38 and 39

### A) The People of the Battle Ez 38:1-7

Russia- Gog and Magog (Meshech= Moscow; Tubal= Tobolsk)  
Iren- Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer- East Germany, and  
Togarmah- Eastern Block Nations (Poland, Czechs, etc. Possibly also Turkey).

This confederacy of nations will be the most powerful in the world after the destruction of America and they will have to be destroyed to allow Antichrist to come to full power.

B) The Time of the Battle Ez 38:8-17 The very beginning of the Tribulation. After the destruction of America (Israel's main ally) Israel will sign a peace treaty with Antichrist and will finally dwell at peace. Russia will seize this time of confusion and shifting alliances to invade the oil rich Arab nations (who have failed to join any of the major powers). As Russia crushes Syria and Jordan on her way to conquer Saudi Arabia she finds herself strangely drawn to Israel (like a fish with a hook in its mouth- 38:4). She sees all of the riches of Israel and worries a little about leaving this "thorn in her side" so the armies decide to make short work of Israel before they continue on their way. (Remember that according to Rev 6, famine will be a major problem after America's destruction. The rich farm land of Israel will look very appealing to Russia.)



C) The Weapons of the Battle. Ez 38:18-23

When it seems as if little Israel is completely surrounded and it's situation hopeless God will intervene and fight their battle. He will use as His weapons:

- A great earthquake Ez 38:18-20
- Mutiny in the ranks of the army Ez 38:21 The soldiers will turn from fighting the army of Israel to fighting among themselves. God has used this tactic several times before (Jud 7:22, I Sam 14:20, II Chron 20:23)
- Pestilence Ez 38:22 Perhaps some type of disease of the blood will break out. Perhaps some type of disease will slay the soldiers as the blood flows.
- Flooding rain, great hailstones, fire and brimstone Ez 38:22 No wonder men will panic and kill each other to try to escape.

D) The Results of the Battle. Ez 39:1-19

- A) All but 1/6 of the Russian Army will be destroyed 39:2. This will effectively remove the Russian group from the picture for the remainder of the Tribulation time and allow Antichrist to become the main character.
- B) The Armament of the Russian Army will be left behind (39:3) and used to heat the homes of Israel during the 7 years of Tribulation (39:9-10). This will include wooden weapons and left over fuel supplies.
- C) Dead bodies will attract multitudes of birds to feast on their flesh (39:4, 17-20). They will be scattered from the Mountains to the fields (39:4-5). It will take 7 months to bury the bodies (39:12). The main "grave-yard" will be the valley of passengers in Edom which will have it's name changed to the "Valley of Hamongog (39:11). At the end of the 7 months men will be hired to do nothing but search the land for more dead bodies to bury (39:14). People will mark these bones for them (picked clean by the birds) in order for them to be buried (39:15)

(Thought- Is the reason the Jews will find a haven in Edom during the last half of the Tribulation because of the fact that it will be a "grave-yard" where pestilent ridden bodies are buried?? Remember that the Christians survived in Rome in the tombs of the Catacombs.)

E) The Reasons for the Battle Ex 39:20-29

1. The marvellous destruction of the Russian Army by God will be a sign to Israel and bring them to God (Ez 39:7, 22) thus ushering in the Revival spoken of in Rev. 7.
2. It will also serve as a sign to the Gentile nations that God is GOD and only He should be worshipped. Ez 38:16, 23: 39:21) *Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord. Ez 38:23*

## END TIME BATTLES (Continued)

### 3. THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON Joel 3:1-2, 9-17 Zech 12:1-6 9-14 Ezech 14:1-3 Rev. 16:12-16 19:19-21

Toward the end of the 7 years of Tribulation Antichrist will face growing opposition. The African Powers will begin to grumble and act like they are going to attack him (Dan 11:40). Meanwhile the remains of the Russian Army will launch a land and sea attack which Antichrist will repel. (Dan 11:40). Antichrist will use this as an excuse to conquer Egypt and destroy the African Powers. He will begin to enter into Ethiopia and Libya when he learns that the King of the East (The Asian Army) is coming to do battle (Dan. 11:42-44). (God will have prepared their way by drying up the Euphrates river- Rev 16:12).

Antichrist knows that he and the Kings of the East are the only real powers remaining so he will return to Jerusalem to plan a battle that will make him ruler of the world. He will plan for the main battle to take place in the plain of Esdraelon (Also called "the Valley of Jehoshaphat" in Joel 3:2 and "Armageddon" in Rev 16:16) (This Plain is located just South of Nazareth and has been the site of many Bible Battles- (1) The victory of Deborah and Barak over the Canaanites in Jud 4 & 5. (2) The victory of Gideon over the Midianites in Jud 7. (3) The Death of Saul in the invasion of the Philistines in I Sam 31:8. (4) The death of Ahaziah by Jehu in II Kings 9:27, and (5) The death of Josiah in the invasion by the Egyptians in II Kings 23:29,30.)

Just before the battle is joined the sign of Christ will appear in the sky (Matt 24:30) and the two armies will form an allegiance to fight God instead of each other. Christ will return to earth (First touching the mount of Olives- Ezech 14:3-5) leading His army of Saints and destroy these armies with the brightness of His coming (II Thess 2:8, Rev 19:19-21). Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 19:20) and the remainder of the army will be slain (Rev 19:21).

### 4. SATAN'S LAST REVOLT Rev 20:7-9

After the Battle of Armageddon, Satan is bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years while Christ reigns on the earth. At the end of the Millennium Satan will be loosed and travel throughout the earth deceiving people into following him in a revolt against God. (It is well to remember that during the Millennium Christ will rule with a "rod of iron"-Rev. 12:5. Unsaved men will still carry the seed of Sinful Rebellion in their heart.)

The gathering place- Russia (Gog and Magog)

The number- as the sands of the sea

The Battleground- Israel and Jerusalem

The Result -Fire comes down from God out of Heaven, and devours the rebels

-Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire

-Sinners are judged and cast into the lake of Fire forever Rev 20:11-15

-The Earth is purged by Fire (II Pet 3:12-13) and New Jerusalem descends from Heaven to the New Earth. Rev 21:1-2

YOU CAN BATTLE GOD OR BELIEVE AND BOW BEFORE HIM.

## THE ESCHATOLOGY OF MATTHEW 24

The QUESTIONS by the Disciples- When shall these things be?

What shall be the sign of thy coming  
and of the end of the world?

Jesus' ANSWER- No time is given but certain Signs are given to help  
people recognize the advancement of God's Timetable.

### I. THE SIGNS 24:4-31

1. False Christs shall appear 4-5 Rev 6:2
2. Wars and rumours of wars but not the final battle 6-7a Rev 6:4
3. Famines, pestilences, and earthquakes 7b Rev 6:5-8
4. Persecution of Christian Jews 9-14 Rev 6:9-11 7:-  
Killed and hated 9  
Betrayed 10  
Deceptive Prophets 11  
Abounding Lawlessness and abating love 12  
Endurance urged 13  
Gospel of the Kingdom preached to all world 14
5. Abomination of Desolation 15-20 (Antichrist in Temple)  
Leave Judea for mountains 16  
Leave with great haste 17-18  
Pray that circumstances do not hinder your escape 19-20
6. Great Tribulation 21-22 (Greatest ever been or will be)  
Shortened days 22 (See Rev 8:12 where days are cut 1/3)
7. False Christs and False Prophets 23-26 Rev 13:-  
Don't be fooled by Signs and wonders 24  
Don't be fooled by rumors 25-26
8. Christ's return will be evident to all 27-30  
Quick as lightning in the sky 27  
As evident as buzzards over a carcass 28 (Again a "sky" sign)  
The "Heavenly" light will not shine 29 (See II Thess 2:8 where  
Christ destroys Satan with the "Brightness of His coming")  
The Sign of the Son of man will appear in Heaven and ALL the  
tribes of the earth shall behold Christ coming in the clouds  
with power and great glory. 30
- 9 The Angel will sound the trumpet and the elect will be  
gathered from one end of HEAVEN to the other 31

### II. THE PARABLES 24:32-51

1. The Fig Tree 32-35  
As the budding leaves foretell summer so these signs show  
His return 32  
When you see the signs Christ's return is at the doors 33  
All will happen in one generation 34  
It's sure because it's God's word 35
2. The Days of Noah 36-41  
Don't set a time- no one knows when it will be 36  
Don't allow life's circumstances to get you to "drop your  
guard" 37-41 Eating and drinking, marrying, working
3. The Goodman of the House 42-51  
Be on Guard- He will come as a Thief 42-44  
Be on Guard- it will be delayed and you will be tempted to  
start living for self instead of the Master-- and reap the  
results! 45-51

## ANTICHRIST IN DANIEL

Daniel was the first to give any detailed description of the Kingdom and Character of Antichrist. These are found in the following places:

Dan 7:7-8 19-27  
8:23-25  
9:26-27  
11:36-45

Daniel 7:7-8 19-27

- 7-8: Antichrist is first revealed as rising out of the terrible Beast of the Roman Empire. He comes to prominence by conquering 3 of the 10 Kingdoms of the Empire. He is known for his Observation (eyes) and Oratory (mouth speaking great things) (Cp. to Rev 13:15 where the main character of the Image is his ability to speak and to see (and slay!) all who don't worship).
- 19- The kingdom from which Antichrist springs is known for being Diverse from all others, exceeding Dreadful, Devouring, and Destructive.
- 21- He will fight with and prevail over the Saints
- 22- The only thing that will stop him is God but God will allow His saints to judge his followers and possess his kingdom.
- 23-24 A diverse kingdom will produce a diverse ruler
- 25- He will malign God, wear out the Saints, and attempt to change times and laws to recognize him instead of God. His rule will be 3½ years (His reign will be 7 years)
- 26-27 In the end he will have built a kingdom for the very God and people he attempted to destroy!

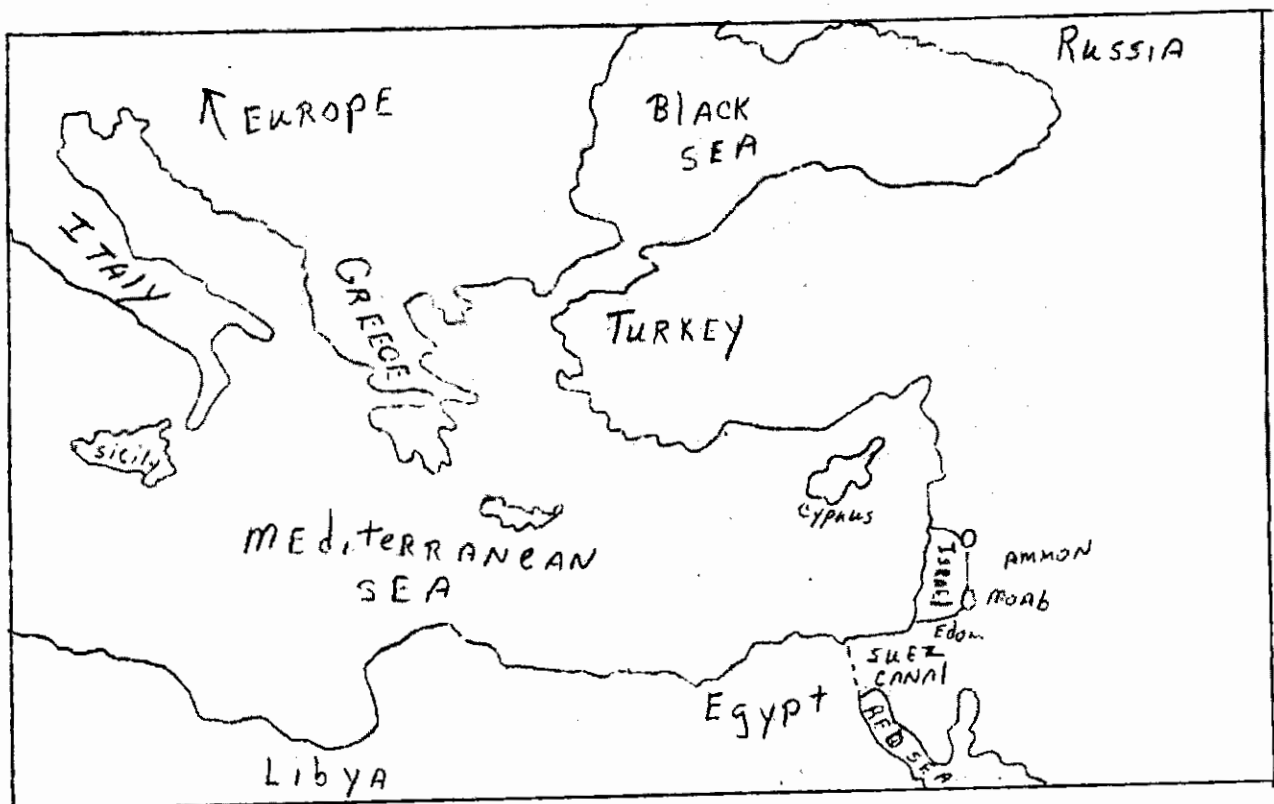
See study on "THE ANTICHRIST" for explanation of Dan 8:23-25

Dan 9:26-27

- 26- Antichrist's people shall destroy Jerusalem and the temple following the death of Christ. Jerusalem's end will come with a flood (of blood) and wars and desolations shall continue to plague it. (The Roman Empire that slew Christ also destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in a great blood bath. Since that time Jerusalem has known only war and desolation. Even today, terror is a constant companion in a city that has major worship places for 3 of the world's major religions.) This shows that Antichrist will be part of the revived Roman Empire.
- 27- Antichrist will establish a firm 7 year covenant with the Jews but will break it after 3½ years and become the Abomination of Desolation as he seeks to force people to worship him instead of God. (The "Type" of this is Antiochus Epiphanes. He was a Syrian who ruled from 175-164BC. He hated the Jews because they would not bow to him and killed over 40,000 of them in 3 days. On Dec. 15, 168BC he sacrificed a sow on an idol altar in the temple. He then forced the priest to eat the sow's flesh and made a broth of the remains which he sprinkled over the temple. A large image of Jupiter was then erected in the Holy of Holies and the death penalty given to anyone who would not worship it.)

Dan 11:36-45

- 36- He will be Self-willed, Self-exalting, Anti-gods, Maligning God, and Prosper for awhile.
- 37- He rejects established Family values in order to exalt self (See II Tim 3:1-4)
- 38- He will establish a new "god" of Force and worship it with his riches. (America's churches are even now promoting strong national defense while America's youth worship at the feet of "Rambo" as they are taught the only answer to a world of terror is force)
- 39- He will worship this "god" of force in an impregnable fortress. He will give this "god" increasing glory and give those who worship with him authority over others and allow them to divide the land as their gain. (Cp to Image of Beast in Rev 13)
- 40- He will be threatened by a King from the South and attacked by a king from the North (by land and sea) but he will win the battle and use it for an excuse for more expansion.
- 41- Israel and many other countries will fall but Edom, Moab, and the main part of Ammon will escape (Edom is where the Jews will hide in Petra for protection).
- 42-43 He will rule these conquered countries, including Egypt, and plunder their riches. Libya and Ethiopia will "fall in line" also although he will not enter them because...
- 44- He will hear rumors of trouble from the East and North and so he will return to Israel where he will determine to wipe out all opposition in his midst.
- 45- He will erect his palace between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea on Mt. Sion proclaiming himself God but when his end comes nothing will hinder his defeat.



# GRACE

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GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725

Vol IV Num 6 Feb 26, 1986

# GLORY

"TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST"

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PLEASE NOTE THE REVIVAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE BACK, COME IF YOU CAN- AND BRING SOME FRIENDS. THE LORD IS REALLY DOING A WORK IN THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND I'M LOOKING FOR A GREAT REVIVAL.

If you would like to discover what's going to happen in the near future when the Lord returns- who will be raptured? Will America survive?? What will the Tribulation be like?? What of the Mark of the Beast?? Can a person be saved during this time??- then be sure and be here Sunday at 11am when I will talk about "End Time Events".

Does Life seem to beat you down?? Have you tried and tried and failed and failed?? Sunday Night at 6:00pm I will be speaking about "Defining and Defeating Life's Problems". Come let God do a work in your heart. (Looking ahead to March 9 I will be speaking about "How to never Fall". So you can come to Revival, get revived, and then learn how to live "revived" all the time!!).

BIBLE STUDY NOTES AVAILABLE- The completed notes on Colossians are now available for anyone desiring them. I have a number of copies already put together and ready to mail.

Beginning in March our Sunday School lessons will be from the book of I Corinthians. I have available chapter by chapter notes on this book also.

These are absolutely FREE to anyone requesting them.

THE LORD JUST CONTINUES TO BLESS OUR MINISTRY. Brother Lew Gowdy gave the Church a copy machine that will help in preparation of bulletins and booklets (Thanks!!). Hillside FWB Church gave us 4 reams of paper for the newsletter (This is printed on one!). And we have recently received gifts to this ministry from Mr & Mrs Jimmy Floyd, Mr and Mrs Herman Hyman, Mr and Mrs Bill McBride, Mrs. Mertie McBride, Mrs Inez Flowers, and several people named "Anonymous". And Mrs. Dot Sullivan "loaned" me an electric stapler to help put together newsletters and booklets (The Sullivans "Loaned" me a folder 7 years ago and I'm still using it!!).

TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE FACT, THAT SOMEONE WILL GIVE THEIR TESTIMONY EACH NIGHT OF THE REVIVAL, WE'RE PUTTING THE "PRODUCT" ON DISPLAY SO YOU CAN SEE WHY WE WANT YOU TO ACCEPT CHRIST.

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. Box 1003  
Lake City, S.C. 29560  
Pastor Mike Jones

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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# REF VIVA!

W A R C H 2-7

7:30PM NIGHTLY  
11AM & 6PM SUNDAY

DATE	SPEAKER	SPECIAL MUSIC	TESTIMONY
SUNDAY	REV MIKE JONES	AM- TODD NEWELL PM- ANN THIGPEN	AM- DARIN MATTHEWS PM- PAULA JONES
MONDAY	REV TALMADGE BROWN HORSE BRANCH FMB CHURCH	MERRY GROOMS	ARNOLD LOWDER
TUESDAY	REV PON MOORE CALVARY FMB CHURCH	MONA MORRIS	JACK HAMMA
WEDNESDAY	REV EDDIE RIDDICK PAMPLICO FMB CHURCH	QUARTET	RALPH MCALLISTER
THURSDAY	REV DAN RUNION CHARLESTON FMB CHURCH	BETSY HULETT??	MARION COKER
FRIDAY	REV SHERWOOD LEE MISSIONARY	JENENE BROWN MARION COKER	

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
348 LAWRENCE ST, LAKE CITY, SC  
PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES 304-3725

*I Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and PRAY, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

*Rev 2:4-5 Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. REMEMBER therefore from whence thou art fallen, and REPENT, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place,...*



**G**od's  
**R**iches  
**A**t  
**C**hrist's  
**E**xpense

**a**nd  
**G**L  
**O**R  
**Y**



PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES

March 7, 1986

VOL. IV NUM 7 • 394-3725 • Lawrence Street • P.O. Box 1003 • Lake City, S.C. 29560

LAST WEEK THE EQUIPMENT FUND BEGAN TO APPROACH \$1000 AND I BEGAN PRAYING ABOUT WHAT EQUIPMENT I SHOULD GET FIRST. BOTH THE STENCIL CUTTER AND THE COMPUTER ARE NEEDED AND NEITHER WOULD COMPLETELY FULFIL IT'S USEFULNESS WITHOUT THE OTHER.

SUNDAY ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN IN THE CHURCH TOLD ME HE HAD CONTACTED A MAN WHERE HE WORKED AND THE MAN HAD TOLD HIM I COULD USE HIS STENCIL CUTTER! I WENT BY MONDAY TO CONFIRM IT AND WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO USE IT "JUST LIKE IT WAS MINE". I'LL BE LIMITED TO THE HOURS THEY'RE OPEN BUT IT SEEMED TO ME TO BE A DIRECT ANSWER FROM THE LORD ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD PURCHASE FIRST. I STILL LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING A STENCIL CUTTER HERE IN THE OFFICE BUT FOR NOW I'M POINTED TOWARD A COMPUTER.

THE HEADING OF TODAY'S NEWSLETTER SHOWS SOME OF THE DIFFERENCE ACCESS TO THE STENCIL CUTTER WILL MAKE IN THE LOOKS OF THE NEWSLETTER. AS I LEARN TO USE IT IT WILL IMPROVE THE NEWSLETTER LOOKS AND ALSO SAVE MUCH TIME. SEVERAL PAGES OF TODAY'S NOTES WERE ALREADY TYPED AND WITH ACCESS TO THE STENCIL CUTTER ALL I HAD TO DO WAS LET THE MACHINE DO THE WORK- SAVING ME TIME AND EFFORT.

Sunday's messages on "End-time Events" and "Defining and Defeating Problems" are available for anyone desiring them. They're free for the asking.

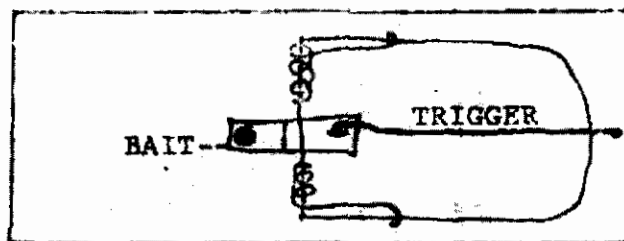
Remember that REVIVAL SERVICES continue thru Friday Night. So far the Singing, Testimony, and Sermons have been simply outstanding. The Lord's Spirit is evident in the services and the work of the people is evident as I visit in our community. I hope in days to come that we can look back on these Services as the beginning of our amazing growth for the Lord.

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## SATAN'S TRAP

*11 Tim 2:26 That they might recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*



When we lived in Florida we had a lot of problems with mice getting into the Parsonage. One night as I was preparing for bed I saw a mouse go scurrying across the floor. I baited a rat trap and set it in a corner and the next morning I had caught the mouse. As I was carrying him out I noticed that he died with a piece of cheese in his mouth. I thought to myself that if he would have just left that piece of cheese alone he'd be alive today-- and God spoke to my heart about people who are caught in Satan's traps.

THE BAIT- There must be something to attract you to the Trap.

1. Something you want- Satan used all his resources when he appealed to Christ. He appealed to the Lust of the Flesh (Food from stones to satisfy hunger), the Pride of Life (Cast self from temple to show world how great you are), and the Lust of the eyes (All you see if you will only worship Satan). Today men are lured to sin to satisfy Self, exalt Self, and Please Self. That's why men must come by the Cross (die to self) on the way to Christ.

2. Something you think is better than other things. (This mouse had passed up a bag of pecans to nibble on cheese). With everything in the world at her disposal Eve thought she was missing something and disobeyed to get it. (Man's craving for knowledge makes anything that is mysterious or off limits very tempting).

THE TRIGGER- Something to cause the Trap to operate.

1. The Bait draws you to the Trap, the Trigger springs it. Pressure or Problems are good "triggers". You would not normally fall but you had a fight with your wife; problems at work; desire to be accepted into the Group; etc.

2. Satan does not always spring the Trap the first time- *Ecc 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*

When I was a boy I used to trap birds. My trap was a box held up by a stick with a string leading to where I was hiding. One of the early lessons I learned was "you can catch 2 birds with 1 bisquit" if you'll just be patient.

THE TRAP- *Prov 6:27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?? Num 32:23 be sure your sin will find you out.*

Just as Satan does not always spring the trap the first time- God does not always "settle up on Friday". But Payday will come someday and you'll find yourself in that vast multitude crying, "I didn't think I'd get caught". Everyone thinks they can "eat the cheese" without springing the trap--and multitudes of Families, Fortunes, and Souls have been lost as a result.

*In 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

## BEING AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS FOR CHRIST

There are 3 basic types of Witnessing:

- A) Walk- What you are and what you do (or don't do!)
- B) Word-
- C) Written- This will physically last the longest.

There are 3 basic types of Witnessing by mouth:

- A) Spot Announcement- 30 second advertisement for Christ or Church
  - B) Story- Testimony about personal Salvation, event in your Christian Life (Victory, answered prayer,...).
  - C) Scripture- Showing a person from the Word how to be Saved
- GET HIM LOST- Rom 3:23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.  
RESULTS- Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
NOT OUR ABILITY- Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.  
FAITH AND COMMITAL NEEDED- Rom 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.  
GOD IS AWAITING YOUR DECISION- Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.  
POWER TO LIVE IS GIVEN- John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

### THE 3 KEYS TO EFFECTIVE TESTIMONY:

1. What God saved you from
2. How God saved you
3. The results in your life of Salvation.

### Some Guidelines:

1. Pinpoint the time you were saved- date, year, age
2. Praise the King- don't glorify sin
3. Plan what you will say-
  - Ask permission to speak, "Could I share with you the most important thing that has happened in my life?"
  - Don't preach at- talk to (Conversation. Be ready for questions)
  - Have High-lite outline:
    - Events that brought you to Christ (Sermon, death, sin...)
    - Scripture basis of what happened. Not just, "I got saved and feel better now", but, "This event caused me to see that I needed help and I realized I couldn't save myself so I prayed to God and trusted in Christ to save me."
  - Learn to discern spirit:
    - If person is touched try to lead them to accept Christ.
    - Talk in Faith (God's word will not return void)
    - Leave Positive word. "I appreciate you allowing me to share this event with you and look forward to God working in your heart."
  - Don't try to "argue" the Bible with a lost person- 1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.
  - Follow up. Check later to see if any "seed" sprouted or continue to help the new convert grow if saved.

WRITE your testimony down. Paste it in your Bible (For your Children's Children to read).

1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

## FISHERS OF MEN

### GOD'S WAY IN SOUL WINNING

*Ps. 126:5-6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

Soul winning should be the main business of every Christian. Jesus Christ came to save sinners (I Tim 1:15) and our goal should be to lift Christ up that men might be drawn to him (Jn 12:32). We don't want to face God with blood on our hands (Ez 4:18-19) so we need to be active witnesses and warners.

In Psalm 126 the writer is telling about the release of the children of Israel from captivity and how that they can now rejoice in freedom for themselves and the ability to plant and harvest a crop. This is a good illustration about what happens in the life of a saved person. He is delivered from the captivity of sin and now he wants to share his source of freedom with others.

The Psalmist gives us 5 requirements to be an effective soul winner.

#### I. THE GO IN SOUL WINNING - "He that goeth forth"

You cannot expect to raise a crop sitting on your porch! You must break up the ground, plant the seed, weed the crop, etc. before you can expect a harvest. Jesus' command to us was to, "Go ye therefore..." (Matt 28:19) and the first requirement of soul winning is to go. This is where more Christians fail than on any other point.

#### II. THE BROKEN HEART IN SOUL WINNING - "and weepeth"

This is needed to make you go and to keep you going. A cold, hard, uncaring Christian will never show the Love of God. Until we can see lost people as lost, and realize what that means, then we will never be effective in our witnessing. When is the last time you wept over a lost person going to Hell??

#### III. THE WORD OF GOD IN SOUL WINNING - "bearing precious seed"

This seed for the soul winner is the Word of God (Mk 4:14). He needs to have it in his heart (Ps 119:11) and on his lips (Rom 10:8-10). We do not "plant" our own good works but the word of God; and the Spirit uses it to convict hearts.

(The Parable in Mark says that the sower sows with "a leaky seed basket". So you should sow the word everywhere you go.)

#### IV. THE CERTAINTY OF RESULTS IN SOUL WINNING - "shall doubtless come again"

This doesn't mean you will get fruit from every seed (some will be devoured by the birds, some will fall on stony ground, and some will be choked by weeds - Mk 4:3-8) but it does mean that the Lord rewards faithfulness with fruit. Go with the knowledge you're doing God's work and God will not fail.

#### V. THE JOY OF REAPERS IN SOUL WINNING - "with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"

There is more joy in heaven over 1 who repents than over 99 who don't need repentance. A soul saved makes a sorry sermon into a joyous service. There is no joy like the soul-winner's Joy. Be one today.

## BEING A CHRISTIAN Acts 26:28, 11:26, I Pet 4:16

The most important decision you'll ever make is your decision about your relationship to Jesus Christ. This is what we mean when we ask people to be Born Again- we ask them to accept by Faith Jesus Christ as Saviour and become a Christian. But many people have misunderstood what it means to be a Christian (Example of mountain climber who fell to his death because he thought a bunch of spider webs was a rock) and they will go to Hell when they die because they're holding to the wrong things.

There are only 3 times in the Bible that the word Christian is used and they tell us what it means to be a Christian.

**I. THE PERSUASION INVOLVED** Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, *Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

Agrippa believed the Bible (vs 27) and knew about Christ (vs 26), but he was not willing to make the step of commitment.

There are 2 things we must be persuaded about if we're to become a Christian:

1. Persuaded about our Sinfulness- We must be persuaded that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God (Rom 3:23) and that there is none righteous, no, not one (Rom 3:10). We must face the fact of our sin (Not mistakes, nor human frailties; but rebellion against a Holy God and his plans for our life.) Too many people are like the Beauty contest for women over 40- anyone pretty enough to enter was unwilling to admit she was over 40!! Do you know YOU are a sinner and that that sin separates you from God???

2. Persuaded about the Saviour- Jesus Christ

A) Faith in His shed Blood as the only way to Heaven (Ep 2:8-9) If you trust in works it's like trusting in a steel chain of 1000 links; all of steel except one that is of paper!!

B) Faith in His ability to save- We must be persuaded He CAN save us and He WILL save us. When we stand before God in Christ we must believe that He will stand in our shoes and we will stand in His- II Cor 5:4 *He hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Don't be Almost Persuaded- But Lost!!

**II. THE PRACTICE NEEDED** Acts 11:26 And when he (Barnabas) had found him (Paul), he brought him into Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the Church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Christianity is not just Believing the Gospel, It is Behaving the Gospel.

A) We Practice His Person- Christ lives in us thru the Holy Spirit. God does not rework the old man, He makes us new creatures in Christ. It is no longer my life to live but the Christ life. We Joy in doing the Father's will as He did. We sorrow over Sin as He did.

B) We Practice His Pattern- The World takes knowledge that we have been with Christ because it sees Christ in our lives. We deny ourselves, take up our Cross, and follow God's Plan for our lives. The world learns of Christ as they see His light shine thru us.

C) We Practice His Purpose- In 17:18 *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE??* I Tim 1:15 *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*  
A Christian not interested in soul winning better check his salvation!!

III. THE PERSECUTION THAT COMES 1 Peter 4:16 *Vet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; let him glorify God on this behalf.*  
It has been truly said that God had 1 Son without Sin but no Sons without suffering. Phil 1:29 *It is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

There are 3 types of Suffering:

1. Natural Suffering: Result of being a person (Aches, Hunger, etc.)
2. "Earned" Suffering (See 1 Pet 4:15)- Result of Sin. (Example of boy who complained about eating Peanut Butter sandwiches every day but he made them!!)
3. Christian Suffering: Result of being for Christ and against the World. If the world is your friend and never persecutes you then you are the enemy of God (James 4:4) (Example of "Christian" logger who lived in woods for a year without persecution because he didn't tell anyone he was a Christian!!)

Peter gives us 3 helps in Persecution in verses 12-14

1. The Purpose of Persecution- "Trial which is to try you" To see if you will serve God in spite of circumstances.

2. The Partnership in Persecution- "Partakers of Christ's sufferings" It allows us to know the Fellowship of His Suffering (Phil 3:10) which brings us into His heart.

3. The Power to withstand Persecution- "The Spirit of Glory and of God rests on you" We can overcome because greater is he that is within us than he that is in the World (1 Jn 4:4).

*1 Pet 4:17-18 The time is come that judgment must begin... And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*

ARE YOU PERSUADED ABOUT YOUR SIN AND THE SAVIOUR???

ARE YOU PRACTICING THE CHRIST LIFE???

ARE YOU SUFFERING PERSECUTION BECAUSE YOU HAVE ACCEPTED CHRIST AND REJECTED THE WORLD???

ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN???



## THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

II Cor 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;

I. THE ENEMY Ep 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places

Many times we fight a person or a problem failing to realize that they're just a manifestation of the real enemy- they're just a shadow and we can't win shadow boxing!! (Like pulling the top off nut grass. It'll grow back every time unless you get the root.)

Paul says we wrestle (wage war) against:

Principalities

Powers

Rulers of the darkness of this world

Spiritual wickedness in high places

Satan and his demons who have a spiritual kingdom and they attempt to use flesh to conquer Spiritual Territory.

They try to destroy lives, families, churches governments

## II. THE WEAPONS

### 1. Personal/Defensive

Feet shod with preparation of Peace

Helmet of Salvation

Breastplate of Righteousness

Loins girt about with truth

Shield of Faith

Sword of Spirit.

### 2. Offensive (Tired of defending the Fort. Want to attack?)

Things to remember: Enemy is always Bigger than we are  
Enemy is always Better equipped  
IN THE FLESH!! So if you go in your own strength you'll be defeated.

WHAT ARE SOME WEAPONS WE CAN USE:

A) Gideon (32,000; 10,000; 300 against Midianites as grasshoppers)  
Trumpets and Torches- Word and Witness

We are the light of the world: we expose Sin in darkness and it flees

We proclaim the Word: Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Souls saved, lives changed)

B) David Slingshot and Song

1. Slingshot- I Sam 17:45 Then said David to the Philistines, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. (Better than a Bomb!)

Jesus is the Rock, we are the building stones of the Church. Thus we can be used to destroy the enemy by Teaching, writing, Praying.

2. Song- God used Music to calm Saul when enraged. How often does Special Music prepare a heart?? A Spirit filled person speaks to themselves in Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

C) Job Pain and Persecution

1. Pain- To show that Job would love God in spite of everything. We defeat Satan by not doubting.
2. Persecution- 3 "friends" who said Sin caused sickness made Job examine his life and draw closer to God

D) Joshua Faith and Folly

1. Faith- to cross Jordan river  
to destroy Jericho

The Just shall live by Faith. Are you willing to believe God for the impossible??

2. Folly- Expecting God to destroy Jericho by simply walking around it. Are you ready to be a Fool for Christ?  
*I Cor 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

E) Daniel and Hebrew Children Faithfulness and Fire

1. Faithfulness- Daniel prayed as He'd always prayed  
They refused the Kings meat to be obedient to God's Word
2. Fire- Jesus was with them in the midst of the fire.  
The way you handle problems will determine your testimony.

WHO'S SIDE ARE YOU ON?? *Matt 12:30 He that is not with me is against me:* Example of man who wore confederate pants and Yankee shirt- Both sides shot Him!!!

# GRACE And GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR	10:00AM
MORNING EVANGELISTIC SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT)	11:00AM
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE	6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE	7:30 PM

MIRCHEAL JONES, PASTOR  
(803) 394-3725

VOL. IV NUM 3

LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560

MARCH 12, 1986. WHAT A BLESSED REVIVAL WE HAD. Noneone was saved and the attendance was about adverage but God really seemed to stir some people to become active for Him. We "planted some seed and hoed some weeds" and I can hardly wait for the crop to come in.

The Preaching, singing, and testimonies all week long seemed to have God's special anointing on them and it was evident Sunday morning in Sunday School and during the preaching service. But the "capstone" to the week was Sunday Night during our Praise and Testimony Service. I told someone we could have cut off the electricity and the lights would still burn there was so much "electricity" in the air!!! It was one of those special services that don't seem to come nearly as often as they should and people have "baked in it's glow" all week. What a great privilege to see God working in our Church as He is.

I am giving away tapes and booklets so fast now until I can't catch up with the requests. Bear with me as I try to get up to date. The Equipment Fund has finally topped the \$1000 mark and I hope it won't be long until I get the computer to help with some of the paper work. (Thanks for Gifts from Florence, Lake City, Tupelo, Miss., Texas, and Crow Corner recently). Access to the stencil cutter has really helped (Thanks to Todd Newell for designing the Heading for today's newsletter and I would really be behind if Brother Norwood hadn't allowed me to use his tape duplicator to copy tapes. What a joy it is to see God working in the lives of people thru the tapes and notes from this ministry. I just wish we could do more.

Remember we have 2 BIG Sundays coming up the end of March. March 23 is ROLL CALL SUNDAY and we want to have our biggest attendance so far this year. March 30 is EASTER and we will have special services: 7am Sunrise Service. 8am Breakfast served by Master's Men. 9am Sunday School. 10am Easter Worship Service. (We'll dismiss early (around 11am) so you can go to Moms then!! Bring Mom with you to Easter Services.)

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## REDEEMING THE TIME

Ep 5:15-16 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We are to Walk (Continuous action) circumspectly (Looking around), not as fools, but as wise (in the proper way), Redeeming the time (Buying up the opportunities we are given), because the days are evil.

(In the Amp. Bible these verses read- Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise-sensible, intelligent people: Making the very most of the time- buying up the opportunity- because the days are evil.)

### HERE ARE 10 GUIDELINES TO HELP US MAKE THE MOST OF OUR TIME:

1. Know what your Life is all about and set your priorities accordingly.  
(For me to live is Christ... Phil 1:21. If that is your goal then everything else will take lesser priority.)
2. Set definite measurable goals. (Are you more like Christ now than you were last year?? How can you tell??)
3. Plan the use of time in regards to your goals and priorities.
  - A) List the things you need to do. *No Vision people perish*
  - B) Heed the Holy Spirit's Leading. Prov 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way; but the Lord directeth his steps.
  - C) Plan your work- then work your plan. Jam 1:22-25
4. Don't wait until every detail of God's plan is known. Do what you know to do now. (The Word is a lamp unto my feet but it only shows a step at a time- as I take that one another is revealed.)
5. Don't become obsessed with Past or Future Success (Last week's "Steak" won't fill today's hunger! And if you starve to death today you won't be able to enjoy a steak next week!)
6. Do the right thing at the right time in the right way. Ecc 3:17  
*There is a time for every purpose and for every work.* If a plane is to leave at 7 oclock and you arrive at 6 you waste an hour. If you arrive at 7:30 you miss the plane!!  
Learn WHAT to do, WHEN to do it, and HOW to do it right (Is there a quicker better way??).
7. Don't allow emotional impulses to dictate to you. (You must learn to work even when you don't feel like it. Ecc 11:4 *He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.*  
(A young boy usually passed out tracts every Saturday. One day it was pouring rain and his father said he probably wouldn't go today. The boy went anyway and gave a tract to a lady who was about to commit suicide and she was saved!)
8. Learn to Learn from mistakes to save time in the future. If you stumble over a rock remember where it's at!!
9. Don't talk about life- LIVE IT!! Don't always plan-perform.
10. Know when to quit:
  - A) When the task is determined impossible
  - B) When the task is determined unnecessary
  - C) When the task is completed- *I have finished my course.*

**G**od's  
**R**iches  
**A**t  
**C**hrist's  
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PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES  
March 19, 1986

Vol IV Num 9 • 394-3725 • Lawrence Street • P.O. Box 1003 • Lake City, S.C. 29560

"Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless til they find rest in Thee" Augustine

The Westminster Catechism asks the question, "What is the chief end of Man?" and gives this answer, "Man's chief End is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever".

The 24 Elders around the throne in Heaven say, *Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive Glory and Honour, and Power: for thou hast created all things, and for THY PLEASURE THEY ARE AND WERE CREATED.* (Rev 4:11)

24 years ago (March 19, 1962) I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I was a 14 year old nobody out of the back streets of Crow Corner, S.C. who accepted by Faith the promises of God and was Born Again to become a son of God. I found Pardon for my sins, the Pathway God wanted me to walk, and the marvellous Presence of the Lord to satisfy the hunger of my soul. The road has sometimes been difficult but I know where it ends! The road has often been narrow, but never so narrow that Jesus couldn't walk beside me. In the valleys of depression and despair; and on the mountains of triumph and victory, His Presence has been my source of Strength and Stability. I have found that eating "husks with the hogs" can't compare to eating the Bread of Life and drinking the Water of Life. I have found that the Liberty the world talks of is actually bondage to sin and self- and that Christ's yoke is easy, His burden is light, and that living FOR Him and WITH Him is how to have Abundant Life.

The World offered me "Things". Religion offered me "Righteousness". Sin offered me momentary "Pleasures". But God gave me Peace- and His Presence. Why should I drink from the World's cup of stagnant water when Christ has rivers of living water? Why should I spend my life searching for Peace and end up in Hell when I can have eternal Abundant Life in Christ??? Why would YOU??????????????????

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GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. Box 1003  
Lake City, S.C. 29560

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## PRAISE AND PROBLEMS

The Bad News first. The Postal Service has just raised our postage to mail newsletters the second time in less than 3 months. In January it went from 6¢ to 7.4¢. Last week it increased to 8.7¢ (The Government thinks it can drive the non-profit mailers out of business and leave the mail to "Playboy" and Profit makers but they don't know how stubborn I am!!). I'm going to look at the number of mailings we have during the year and possibly cut that number some but I'll continue to publish until God tells me to quit. (God still puts Gold on His streets!!).

NOW THE GOOD NEWS. THE LORD CONTINUES TO BLESS. TAPES FROM THE REVIVAL SERVICES "DISAPPEAR" AS FAST AS I CAN PUT THEM OUT. BOOKLETS OF I CORINTHIANS AND COLOSSIANS NOTES ARE STILL AVAILABLE BUT GOING FAST. OUR SERVICES SUNDAY WERE VERY GOOD WITH SEVERAL VISITORS AND THE SWEET SPIRIT OF GOD CONTINUED IN OUR SERVICES.

I APPRECIATE RECENT GIFTS FROM JIMMY FLOYD (TALKING WITH HIM SUNDAY IT SEEMS HIS STEP OF FAITH FOR THIS MINISTRY HAS OPENED GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR HIM ALSO), ARNOLD LOWDER, INEZ FLOWERS, AND GOOD OLD "ANONYMOUS". I ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE A GIFT FROM MY WIFE (Paula and I had been praying about ways to financially contribute to this outreach work. Paula was given some money for her Birthday during a Fellowship supper Sunday and this enabled her to contribute. The Bethel Bible Institute gave me some money for travel expense and I was able to give this.)

I'M ALSO HAPPY TO ACKNOWLEDGE A MEMORIAL GIFT TO THIS WORK FROM MRS. BETSY HULETT IN MEMORY OF MR. PETE THOMPSON.

THANKS TO BUCK FLOWERS FOR CUTTING THE HEDGES AT THE CHURCH BACK SO THEY CAN BE RE-SHAPED THE SAME SIZE. IT'S AMAZING HOW A LITTLE WORK CAN MAKE SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE WAY THINGS LOOK.



Sunday, March 23- Bring a Friend to Church. We have not developed a big "campaign" for Poll Call Sunday this year. We're simply asking that everyone bring a Friend with them to Church and allow them to share the Blessings God has been giving us lately.

Wednesday, March 26- Ladies Aux. Pre-Easter Program. 7:30pm

Friday, March 28- THE SEVEN SAYINGS FROM THE CROSS 7:30pm  
The "Pardon" Sayings- Rev. Harry Cooper, Tabernacle FWB Church  
Special Music- Merry Grooms  
The "Parent" Sayings- Rev. Cyrus Shoffner, New Town FWB Church  
Special Music- New Town Singers  
The "Personal" Sayings- Rev. Mike Jones  
Special Music- Grace Singers

Sunday, March 30-

Sunrise Service- 7:00am Rev. Joe McKnight, Beulah FWB Church

Breakfast 8:00am- Master's Men

Sunday School- 9:00am Special Class Programs

Easter Worship Service- 10:00am Rev. Mike Jones

(We will dismiss around 11am and will not have an Evening Service)

HAVE WE GOT SOME BLESSINGS IN STORE FOR US!! Share them with Us.

**G**od's  
**R**iches  
**A**t  
**C**hrist's  
**E**xpense

**a**  
**n**  
**d**  
**G**  
**L**  
**O**  
**R**  
**Y**



PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES

• 394-3725 • Lawrence Street • P.O. Box 1003 • Lake City, S.C. 29560

What a mixed up two weeks this has been. Sickness has mingled with Success, Burdens have mingled with Blessings, and Deep Valleys have suddenly become high Mountains. Our attendance has been the worst it's been in many months and yet the Spirit has been the best ever. Some people have tremendously disappointed me with their slackness toward the Church - and some have tremendously encouraged me with their dedication and hard work.

Every time it looked as if we were facing absolute disaster God has intervened and worked a miracle and encouraged our hearts. Due to Sickness and Sorriiness we had the lowest attendance on Roll Call Sunday that we've had in 6 months- yet that was the Sunday God gave us a cassette duplicator for the Church!! (The Wednesday before I had asked for 3 volunteers from the Church to help me pray for the duplicator. On Sunday 2 of these volunteers decided to put "legs" on their Prayers and gave \$150 each to purchase a new duplicator. We look for it to arrive in the next 2 weeks and I hope to catch up on the backlog of tape orders I have. We'll try to compile a list of available tapes soon and publish it so you can listen to our services as well as read about them.)

Both of the "head cooks" for the Easter Breakfast took sick before Easter--but other men and women joined in and prepared as good a breakfast as we have ever had at the church.

Almost every Family in the Church had sickness or problems last week--and God finally gave me my computer!! (It cleaned my wife and I's bank account out to the "bare walls" but we've lived like that for many years and have yet to go hungry.) I haven't had time to work with it much yet because of all the sickness but it already is saving me much time and effort and I know that will increase as I learn to use it.

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## TEMPTATION

- I. The Cause of Temptation
- II. The Cases of Temptation
- III. The Cost of Temptation
- IV. The Cure of Temptation

### I. THE CAUSE OF TEMPTATION.

A) The Will of God- Matt 4:1 says that Jesus was "led by the Spirit" into the Wilderness. God's leadership put him in the place of Temptation- BUT GOD DID NOT TEMPT HIM. (See James 1:13). (God allows us to be put to the Test for our good (Paul's Thorn in the flesh) and His glory (Job). Satan tests us to destroy us.)

B) The Work of Satan- It also says that He was "tempted of the Devil". Satan did the tempting by APPEALING to Jesus to do wrong. Note that he could not make him do wrong!! He could only encourage him to submit to his desires.

C) The Weakness of Self- James 1:14 "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away OF HIS OWN LUST, and enticed." God WILL not make you sin and Satan CANNOT make you sin. Note that Temptation is:

1. A Common Problem: EVERY MAN (See I Cor 10:13). Every person inherited the sin nature from Adam and must contend with it's pull.
2. A Varying Problem: HIS OWN LUSTS (One man's worm may be another man's bait!!)
3. An Enticing Problem: Bait is used to lure you. Sin never shows the naked hook! Satan shows you the Bait but not the Bite of sin.

### II. THE CASES OF TEMPTATION

A) The Example of the Temptation of Christ Matt. 4:1-11

Notes: 1. The time of the temptation-

- a. At the beginning of Christ's ministry. Before a man can rule others he must prove he can rule himself (See Prov 25:28).
- b. After the Triumph of the Baptism. The greatest danger is after a victory.

2. The places of the Temptation- In the wilderness, on a mountain, and at the Church. Satan can and will tempt you anywhere.

3. The nature of the Temptation- Fleshly reasoning instead of Faith in the Spiritual.

1. Turn Stone into Bread- Misuse a NORMAL Desire. It was natural for Jesus to feel Hunger (Withstanding the Temptation did not ease the Hunger-After the Temptation the Angels came and ministered to Him.) Hunger is right but gluttony is wrong. Sexual desire is normal but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge (Heb 13:4). The tongue can be used to spread the Gospel or Gossip! Each of these is a good thing that can be used wrong. God can not remove the problem without harming the person. Jesus did not seek to escape the desire. He simply looked at the higher priority based on God's Word.

2. Cast self off Temple to prove God's Care. (Note- Temptation 2 and 3 are reversed in Matt. and Luke. Matthew shows Christ as King and the final trial is about receiving a Kingdom. Luke shows Christ as a man and the final trial is about becoming a "Super" man. Remember that a problem for one man may not be a problem for another. Know what YOUR weaknesses are.)

Tempted to walk by Sight instead of Faith. Faith TRUSTS God, it does not TEMPT Him. (Satan tries to Tempt us to Tempt God!!). God is God because of WHO He is; not WHAT He does. You cannot produce Faith in God by Works (Heb 11:1) nor Wisdom (I Cor 2:5).

3. Worship Satan to receive your Kingdom- Accomplish a good thing at the wrong time in the wrong way. (It's right to want to pass the exam. It's wrong to cheat to do so.)

There are no "short cuts" or "easy roads" to Glory. The Cross must come before the Crown (Most of us will never win a sweepstakes- we will earn our living by the sweat of our brows.).

Satan tries to get us to lose Patience or compromise on Principles- Be careful that you Wait on the Lord and Work His Way.

#### B) Satan's attack on Eve Gen 3:1-7

1. The Restrictions. (God gave Eve access to EVERY thing in the Garden except ONE thing. Satan made her think she was missing EVERYTHING instead of one thing.) He continues to use the same arguments about Restrictions today.

a. Restrictions are unkind- "Ye shall not eat of EVERY tree...". In other words, "You're missing something". "If God REALLY loved you He would never have kept THIS thing from you".

(Note that Eve went farther with the Restrictions than God- "Ye shall not eat, NEITHER TOUCH IT, lest ye die". Flesh tries to make Restrictions sound worst than they are to justify it's rebellion.)

b. Restrictions are unrealistic- "Ye shall not surely DIE!" The Penalty for breaking restriction won't be as bad as you were told. The Pleasure will be worth the Punishment. (Surely, a God of Love would not KILL you just for TOUCHING a tree. He may "spank your hand" but it will be worth it to find out why He doesn't want me to do it).

c. Restriction is unjust- "He knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" You can never reach your full potential under Restrictions. Surely God wants the BEST for me. Maybe God is scared He won't be able to control me if I do this!

#### 2. The Rebellion

a. Begins in the Heart- "The woman SAW that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise."

-Satisfied a normal need- "good for food"

-Satisfied an Emotional need- "pleasant to the eyes"

-Satisfied a mental need- "desired to make one wise"

b. Leads to an act- "She took"

c. Needs company- "Gave also to her husband, and he did eat"

#### 3. The Results

a. Awareness of Self- "Naked"

b. Alienation from God- "Hid"

c. Assignment of Blame- Man blamed Woman who blamed serpent

## SATAN'S ATTACK

I. THE DEVICES HE USES- II Cor 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us for we are not ignorant of his devices. The reason so many Christians continue to fall to Satan's attacks is that they do not understand the weapons he uses nor the methods he employs.

A) Destruction- I Pet 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.

His purpose is to destroy and devour- destroy Christians and their testimony for God. He is "walking around looking" for someone with their guard down that he can devour

Our response is to be A) Sober: Serious minded because we realize Satan is our adversary and he wants to destroy us!

B) Vigilant: Watchful, lest he sneak up on us

B) Disguise- II Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

His purpose here is to mislead you in your Christian life so it will be ineffective (Getting you into a Cult or in some other way confuse you about the Christian life) or cause you to develop lack of confidence in Christians because a false "Christian" fails.

Our response is to Prove all things; hold fast that which is good I Thes 5:21

C) Dissatisfaction- Jn 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.

His purpose is to get you to become dissatisfied with God's Plan for your life by getting you to think you're missing something. He shows you the "Pleasure" (Notice how wonderful beer commercials look) without showing you the "Price" (Beer commercials never show the broken bodies, homes and lives that result).

Our response is to Deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ -- praying- not my will but thine be done.

D) Depression- Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with Power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil.

Satan uses Pressure from every angle (Work, society, home, sickness) to cause us to "turn in on ourselves" and allow the demons of self-pity and depression to take up residence in our home. And once they're in our lives they stop us cold (Remember Elijah).

Our response is to remember that We are more than conquerors thru him that loved us. This allows us to turn Burdens into Blessings, Problems into Pluses.

Satan works thru 3 main avenues:

### 1. The Mind

A) Blinds Sinners- II Cor 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. That's why Preaching must be done in the Power of the Spirit-- You can't convince a man to see; he must be given sight!! Even if the "seed of the word" is sown in a man's heart, if he does not grasp it by faith the devil cometh and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved Luke 8:12.

## B) Brainwashes Saints

### 1. Accusations:

a. Against us- I Jn 3:20-22 This steals our Peace, destroys our Prayer Power, and keeps us from witnessing.

(How do you tell if it's an Accusation of Satan or Conviction of sin:

Accusation of Satan

Conviction of Sin

Demeans you instead of

Specific about the sin

denouncing sin

Confession does not bring Peace      Confession bring Peace

b. Against God- II Cor 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. Satan took a simple fact (God has given you everything in the world except one tree) and brainwashed Eve into believing that God was keeping everything from her!

2. Discouragement: Heb 12:3 Consider him that endureth such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your mind. We walk by Faith and not by sight. (Man would judge Jonah's city wide Revival from one sermon much more successful than Noah's 8 people saved in 120 years. But would God??? My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. [Is 55:8]. And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. [Mk 10:44])

## 2. The Body

### A) Affliction

1. To Test us- Job 2:7

2. To Bind us- Luke 13:16

3. To Humble us- II Cor 12:7

### B) Temptation

1. The Way of Temptation- James 1:14 every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed,

2. The Results of Temptation- Temptation is not sin. It is when you give in to the temptation that you sin. Remember it is a COMMON problem with AN ESCAPE ROUTE I Cor 10:13.

## 3. The Emotions

Ep 4:18-19 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. [See also Rom 1]

## DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH I CORINTHIANS 5:-

This chapter deals with sin in the CHURCH. It involves CHURCH Discipline. Principles of Personal Discipline are covered in Matt 5:15-22 (You offended) and Matt 18:21-26 (You were offended).

### I. THE SIN vs 1-2

- A) Of the Member- Fornication with Step-mother vs 1
  - B) Of the Church- Pride over liberal stance instead of sorrow over what sin was doing to the person and the Church. vs 2  
(Many "Christians" boast that their superior Love keeps them from dealing with sin but Prov 13:24 says it's really hate!!)
- NOTE: This was open, flagrant sin. The man had not been overtaken in a "fault" (Gal 6:1) but was doing a known sin, willfully.

### II. THE SENTENCE vs 3-5

- A) The Sin was obvious enough to be sentenced without face to face meeting- "reported commonly" vs 3
  - B) Judgment was done under the authority of Christ- not man vs 4
  - C) The man was to be "delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh" (For the purpose of) saving the soul. The man was to be excommunicated from the Church in order to show him the seriousness of his sin and deprive him of false hope.
- NOTE: -This is not a case of me judging you over what I THINK is wrong.  
-Delivering to Satan for the destruction of the flesh:  
a. See I Cor 11:30 where many were weak and sickly and even died for not judging sin at the Lord's table.  
b. See I Tim 1:20 where two put away Faith and were delivered to Satan to learn not to blaspheme.

### III. THE SEPARATION vs 6-13

- A) If sin is not dealt with it infects the whole Church vs 6  
(It hinders Preaching, Member Purity, and Church Reputation)
- B) Dealing with Sin is never EASY vs 7 (Not supposed to enjoy it!!)
- C) This does not mean we isolate ourselves from the world vs 9-10  
(The boat must stay in the water but the water must remain out of the boat)
- D) It does mean THE CHURCH must purge out sin: (Note sins listed:  
Fornication= Sexual Sins  
Covetous= Greed of others gain  
Idolater= Worship anything other than God  
Railers= Slanders, Gossips  
Drunkard= Drunkards  
Extortioners= Swindler, Robber (Will a man rob God??)
- E) Don't worry about judging the world- God will do that. We must "clean up our own back yard"!

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### FWB Treatise "The Church: Its Disciplinary Authority" (Sec VIII)

The local Church occasionally finds itself responsible to exercise its solemn right to discipline members. In such cases, the regular procedures of the local Church are followed in keeping with Scripture.

- A) Cases involving personal offences are handled according to Mt 18:15-17
- B) In some cases, the church may have to effect a "break" in fellowship with a disorderly brother who is yet not an "enemy" II Th 3:6-16.
- C) In other cases, the church may have to expel a member because of conduct or profession irreconcilable with the nature of a Christian.
- D) Withdrawal of fellowship from a member can take place only by majority vote of the congregation and should take place only after every effort is exercised in a humble Christian spirit to restore the member and give him adequate opportunity to be heard.

## DISCIPLINE

### I. THE PURPOSE OF DISCIPLINE

- A) To Preserve the honor of God's Name (God is a HOLY God!)
- B) To assure the purity of the Church (Remember Achan's sin and it's results for the entire nation)
- C) To Reclaim and Reconcile the offender ("That the spirit may be saved" I Cor 5:5). (He evidently repented and is reclaimed in II Cor 2:6-8).

Discipline is not supposed to be fun!! It hurts the one giving it and the one getting it. It is never done to show how good one person is compared to another- it is to deal with sin and bring back into fellowship.

### II. THE PLAN OF RECONCILIATION

- A) If you are the Offender Matt 5:21-26

1. Get it taken care of BEFORE you approach God. I Jn 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

- 2. Do it quickly! Don't let it linger (and fester!) for even a night. It's serious. Deal with it immediately.

- B) If you were Offended Matt 18:15-22

1. Go to the Offender privately and try to get it streight. (This is not a one time thing. Go until you are convinced you can do no more. You're not trying to satisfy the Law. You're trying to reconcile your brother!!)

2. Take others with you to reconcile the difference- not to stand WITH you AGAINST him but to be witnesses about what the Bible says about your difference.

3. Bring it before the Church that the Church may make a Biblical decision. If he still will not be reconciled then the Church breaks fellowship with him (excommunication). (Excommunication is not just for the sin committed. It's for refusing to repent or it. It's purpose is to show the seriousness of the sin and the need to repent).

The Need for Unity in the Church is found in vs 18-20:

Because of what we do- vs 18 "Loose and Bind"

Because of how we pray- vs 19 "Two agreeing"

Because of whose we are- vs 20 "Christ in midst"

XX

How often should my brother sin against me and I forgive him??  
"Until seventy times seven" Matt 18:21-22

*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matt 6:14-15*

God has given unto us the ministry of reconciliation and we are ambassadors for Christ so forgiveness for us is a way of life.  
(II Cor 5:17-20)

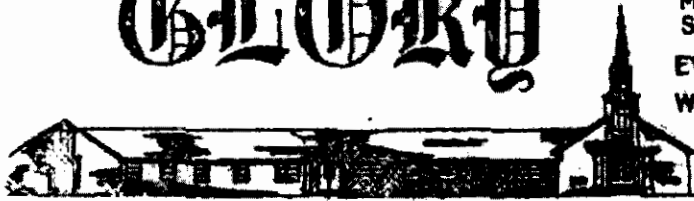


# GRACE And GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM  
MORNING EVANGELISTIC  
SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT) 11:00AM  
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30 PM

MICHAEL JONES PASTOR  
(803) 394-3725



VOL. IV NUM 11 4/16/86 LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560

I feel like Christmas came in April this year! I have been working on setting up the computer and learning to operate it and every day it helps me more. I was able to spend nearly 4 extra hours visiting last week because of the extra time I had by using the computer (Time I would normally have spent re-typing and re-editing messages). Then the new cassette duplicator came in Monday and I've been trying to copy some tapes that have been "owed" for several weeks now. Once I get this "backlog" out of the way I'll be able to get tapes to people as soon as they request them and that will really be a Blessing. (I'll try to publish a listing of some of the tapes we have available in the near future so you'll know how to request them.).

We received a number of very kind comments last week on every one of the outreach ministries- newsletter, cassettes, Hymn-time, Morning Devotions, Sunday Morning Broadcast, and Bible Study Booklets. I never cease to be amazed at how God takes our puny efforts and uses them to bring Glory to His name. Thank you for your Prayers and support

We are planning a number of Special Services and hope many of you will be able to share God's Blessings with us during these events:

April 20 6:00pm The Teen Class will have a special class on "Family Relationships" during the Evening Worship Time. Then Everyone will join together for a "Salad Supper" (Egg, Chicken, Green, Tuna, Fruit, etc). Bring something to drink also.

April 27 Time Change. Don't be late for Sunday School  
6:00pm Special Sing featuring a Quartet from the First FWB Church in Florence along with our singers.

Special Sunday Schools:

May 11 Mother's Day (Gift for each Mother present)

May 18 Teen Day (Teens lead and teach Sunday School)

May 25 Honor Day (Honor all Grads- Public and Sunday School)

June 1 Everyone's Day (Each Family will bring a SPECIAL item!!!)

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## WHAT MAKES A GOOD CHURCH?

There are a number of things a person could list here but I believe there are 7 things that "Stand Out" in a good Church. Let's make them part of OUR CHURCH.

1. Worshipping:- Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (1:14 says they were Praying. Then Peter and the rest were Preaching and Praising.). (Who do we Worship, How do we Worship?)
2. Praying:- Acts 1:14 says they were with one accord in Prayer (Seeking Direction). Acts 3 says Peter and John were going to Pray (Prayed for Sick). Acts 4:24 says they lifted their voices to God with one accord (Prayed in Distress.) (A Preacher who isn't Praying is Playing and a Church that isn't Praying is Straying.)
3. Soul Winning:- A Good Church should be a Growing Church. And a Church grows thru Births. (Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.)
4. Fellowship:- A Good Church has people in it that "get along" with each other. They enjoy doing things for the Lord together. (Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.)
- Sharing:- Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.
5. Miracles:- If you can explain everything that happens in your church then something is wrong! Acts 3- the lame man healed; Acts 5- Ananias and Sapphira died for robbing God.
6. Giving:- Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold. (35) And laid them down at the apostles feet; and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need
7. Learning:- Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. The Bible is our final Authority. We need to learn it and make it a part of our lives as we face Satan and the false doctrines he will send our way. The Bible exposes Sin and enables us to grow (instead of staying carnal babies!)

What areas are we weak in??? What can we do to strengthen Them???

ARE WE A GOOD CHURCH?? Let's become a GREAT CHURCH for God!!!

## THE ENEMY

### I. HIS NAMES:

1. SATAN (ADVERSARY)- 52 times
2. DEVIL (SLANDERER)- 35 times
3. LUCIFER (LIGHTBEARER, SHINING ONE) Is. 14:12 Lucifer, son of the morning.
4. PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR- Ep 2:2.
5. PRINCE OF THIS WORLD Jn 12:31
6. GOD OF THIS AGE II Cor 4:4
7. LEVIATHAN THE SERPENT (One who dwells in sea of humanity) Is 27:1 Job 41
8. DRAGON Rev 12:7
9. WICKED ONE Matt 13:38
10. TEMPTER I Thess 3:5
11. ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN Rev 12:10 Before God, day and night.

### II. HIS CHARACTER:

1. Liar Jn 8:44 Deceiver Rev 20:10
2. Murderer Jn 8:44
3. Enemy Matt 13:39
4. Roaring Lion I Pet 5:8
5. Angel of Light II Cor 11:14
6. Oppressor Acts 10:38
7. Subtil II Cor 11:3

### III. HIS ACTIVITIES:

1. Sows Tares among "wheat" Matt 13:38
2. Blinds Sinners II Cor 4:3-4
3. Hinders Christians I Thess 2:18
4. Weakens the nations Is 14:12
5. Lays snares for men II Tim 2:26 I Tim 3:7
6. Afflicts men Job 2:7 Luke 13:16 II Cor 12:7
7. Tempts men Mt 4:1

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## THE 16 DEADLY "D" THAT THE DEVIL USES TO DEFEAT CHRISTIANS: (From Willmington's Guide to the Bible)

1. Disappointment
2. Discouragement
3. Despair
4. Doubt
5. Disbelief
6. Distraction
7. Doublemindedness
8. Dishonesty
9. Deceit
10. Dullness
11. Deadness
12. Discord
13. Delay
14. Defilement
15. Defaming others
16. Disobedience

## DEFEATING SATAN

The Christian has 3 things he needs to be aware of when he deals with Satan:

1. His Clothes- The Whole Armor of God:
  - a. Feet- Preparation of Gospel of Peace (Foundation)
  - b. Helmet- Salvation (Protects the Mind)
  - c. Breastplate- Righteousness (Protects the Heart)
  - d. Loins- Truth ("Holds up" everything else)
  - e. Shield- Faith ("Hide" behind to escape Satan's Darts)
  - f. Sword- Word of God (Only Offensive weapon)
2. His Conduct- Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
3. His Cross- Mk 8:34-35 Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. for whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

XXX

When going into battle there are 4 basic things you need to do:

1. Distinguish the Enemy. Who are you fighting??? "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against ...Ep 6:12"
2. Determine the objective. What do you hope to accomplish or prevent? "that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ep 6:11
3. Evaluate the Forces. What are:
  - A) YOUR Weaknesses- Self
  - B) YOUR Strengths- Be strong IN THE LORD and in the power of his might. Ep 6:10
  - C) ENEMY'S Weaknesses- he is already defeated in the Cross. Faith is the "Method" we use to avail ourselves of that weapon.
  - D) ENEMY'S Strengths- Temptation, Sin.
4. Pursue a Plan of Attack. Go from the Drawing board to the Battlefield. God did not call us to be "Hothouse" Christians. We must live and work in a sinful world. We can ignore Satan while he builds Strongholds in our life- or we can live the life of Victory in Christ.

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Rev 20:10 (We know the outcome of the Battle. Don't become one of the Casualties of the Conflict.)

## SATAN'S HELPERS- DEMONS

The Word DEMON is not found in Scripture. The basic guideline about determining if the scripture is referring to the Devil or Demons are:

- A) Devils (Plural with "s") is always referring to Demons
- B) Satan does not possess a person (only known exception was Judas)  
A person possessed with a devil (Matt 9:32) or a person having a devil (Luke 7:33) refers to Demon Possession.
- C) When the king of Demons is in view it always means Satan (Lu 4:6)  
I Pet 5:8, Rev 20:2)

I. THEIR ORIGIN. The Bible nowhere plainly tells us where Demons come from. There are 3 main views as to the origin of Demons:

1. They are Disembodied Spirits of a Pre-Adamite Race.

A) Those FOR this theory say Demons only work thru People. The reason the Demons want to control people is to ~~get back~~ where they were. (Gen 1:28 Adam is told to REPLENISH the Earth. Ps 104 :30 "Thou renewest the face of the earth").

B) Those AGAINST use I Cor 15:45 "The FIRST MAN Adam...". Also Gen 1:2 says the Earth was void.

2. They are Spirits of Monsterous Offspring of Angels and women before the Flood. Gen 6:2-4 The sons of God (Normally used to designate Angels in the Old Testament) saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose....There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown

Jude 6-7 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. EVEN AS Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Those AGAINST this theory say that:

a. The "sons of God" here means the sons of Seth and refers to the mixing of the "Godly" line with the "Ungodly"

b. Demon Possession does not produce a "Child". Especially a Giant.

3. They are Fallen Angels that rebelled with Satan.

The Greek word most often translated into what we call Demons is "Daimonion". It was used to refer to an inferior race of divine beings, less than God but more powerful than man (A good description of angels).

Those AGAINST this theory point to II Pet 2:4 and Jude 6 which says that the Angels that fell with Satan are now imprisoned in "chains of darkness" in hell (Tartarus)

While it is difficult to determine their origin it is abundantly clear that THEY DO EXIST and that they are engaged in warfare with Christians- Ep 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

## II. THEIR ORGANIZATION (Ep 6:12)

Satan is our Enemy and he wants to destroy Christians. He is not Omnipresence (everywhere) so he has to have help in accomplishing his work. He has a "seat" (Rev 2:13) from which he rules a Kingdom (Matt 12:26) of Demons that carry out his bidding. They work in every area of our life.

A) Principalities (First ones, leaders)- Evil spirits who try to influence and control world rulers. (Even Daniel experienced a delay in answer to prayer because of this kind of evil spirit- Dan 10:11-13). Evidently they control Territory in the atmosphere that corresponds to earthly kingdoms- The "prince of the kingdom of Persia" withstood the Angel bring Daniel's answer. (Some demons seem to have a territory that they control and have no power out of that territory (Mk 5:10))

This is one of the reason Christians are commanded to pray for those in authority I Tim 2:1-2.

B) Powers (Authorities)- Evil spirits who have great energy and forcefulness. They attack the personal feelings and thought life of Christians- Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ: (II Cor 10:5).

They work thru Music, books, movies, gossip, false teaching, etc.

C) Rulers of the darkness of this world (Master spirits of Evil)-

These are evil spirits who get people involved with sin, sensuality, superstition (fortune-telling, Witch-craft, etc) and suggestion.

WITCH- one who practices magic by using special evil formulas, spells, or charming with words and mystic mutterings.

WITCHCRAFT- refers to the use of power gained from the assistance or control of evil spirits.

God forbids witchcraft- Deut 18:9-14 (It was the main sin of Manasse that brought God's Judgment on Judah. II Kings 21:6. It was one of the reasons God slew Saul- I Chron 10:13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it;)

OCCULTISM- belief in, and reliance on, magic, spiritism and supernatural powers of darkness. (Ouija boards, Astrology)

The FORTUNE TELLER in Acts 16:16-18 was demon possessed

D) Spiritual Wickedness in high places- Evil spirits in the "heavenlies". These work thru "Good" Morals or ideas--just good enough to keep you from coming to God!!

## III) THEIR ABILITIES:

A) Recognize Christ Mk 1:23-24 James 2:19

B) Receive Worship I Cor 10:20

C) Instigate Error I Tim 4:1

D) Recognize People Acts 19:13-15

E) Know of Future Punishment Matt 8:29 James 2:19

F) Possess Human beings Matt 8:33 Mk 5:1-16

#### IV. THEIR VICTIMS

In Demon INFLUENCE there is no loss of consciousness (The Demon is unable to take over the will of the person.). They can only attempt to get the person to listen to and heed their instructions. In Ep 4:27 we are told not to "give place to the Devil"; and in James 4:7 we are told to "Resist the Devil" so he will flee.

In Demon POSSESSION the Demon takes up residence in a person and uses them as they want; when they want. The word POSSESSED in the Greek means: To be exercised by (or to be under the control of). Think of a man "exercising" a horse- He makes the horse do what he wants him to do.

A DEMONIAIC is a person whose personality has been invaded by one or more demons (In Mk 5 the demon was "legion" (6000, that entered 2000 hogs) and Matt 12:43-45 says a man takes 7 more into himself. Mary Magdalene had 7 cast out of her Luke 8:2), who at will can speak and act through their human victim, deranging both his mind and body.

The Devil or Demons are not able to possess a Christian (I Jn 4:4) but they can:

- A) Shift you as wheat Luke 22:31-32
- B) Be allowed to bring disaster and sickness as Job
- C) Give us a thorn in the flesh II Cor 12:7

He tempts us to evil tempers (Ep 4:26-27), hasty words (Lu 9:54-55), carnal reasoning (I Cor 3:1-), fear of death (Heb 2:15), etc.

Demon possession can be manifested by:

1. New Personality- Mk 5:15 "in his right mind" after demons out.
2. Nudity- The man in Mk 5 was clothed after demons cast out. In Acts 19 the demon possessed man left his tormentors naked
3. Extraordinary Strength- Mk 5:4 he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. The man in Acts 19 beat up 7 men by himself.
4. "Supernatural" knowledge- Acts 16:16
5. Desire to harm self- Mk 5:5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. The boy in Mk 9:17-27 "cast himself into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy himself".

#### 6. Bodily infirmity

- A) Dumbness (Inability to talk) Matt 9:32-33; Blindness (Matt 12:22); or combination of both.
- B) Curvature of the Spine (Lu 13:11-13).
- C) Vexation (Torment) Matt 15:22

A WORD OF CAUTION: This does not mean that anyone who has any of the aboved is necessarily Demon Possessed. Jesus was able to tell the difference-- Can You???)

(Some ways to determine Demon possession rather than sickness:

1. Demon possessed are often able to speak in foreign language.
2. When the demon speaks it will many times sound as if it comes from in the stomach and not from the throat. (Sometimes different voice.)
3. Hatred of Christ and Christians (A possessed person may say he believes Christ (James 2:19) but will deny He came in Flesh (I Jn 4:3)



## V. THEIR EXPULSION

### CASTING OUR DEMONS:

1. Unsaved people can cast out demons- Matt 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

(Cp to Matt 12:25-29 where Jesus says that if Satan cast out Satan his kingdom cannot stand. Also note that only a Stronger demon can cast out a weaker demon- vs 29.)

2. Better to be a Soul-winner than an "exorcist"- Lu 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

3. Demons must obey orders given under the authority of the name of Christ-Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us THROUGH THY NAME. Mk 16:17 In my name shall they cast out devils... (Christ never "exorcised" a demon by ceremony; He always cast them out by command). (Make the Demon tell you his name so you can command him- Mk 5:7-9. Jesus told the demon to leave but he did not until Jesus got his name.)

What type of person should work with a demon possessed person:

a. Child of God- Dangerous otherwise. See Acts 19:13-16

b. Cleansed Heart- Jm 4:7-8

c. Definite Faith, mixed with Prayer and Fasting- Mt 17:20-21 Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

What should the demon possessed person do?

1. Totally surrender to Christ- Matt 6:24 No man can serve two masters.... Also remember that you can be possessed by more and worst demons if you do not allow Christ into your life- Luke 11:24-26

2. Cast away anything that remains from the demon possession- books, records, drugs, drink, idols, etc. Acts 19:18-19

Demons are not to be taken lightly. They are nothing to "Play" with. We need to be informed about them so that we will RECOGNIZE their attack, REJECT their teachings, and RECLAIM those they have captured. Don't allow them to Frighten you (Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world) or Fascinate you (Everyone who doesn't act the way you think they should is not demon possessed!).

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 24-25)

# GRACE And GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM  
MORNING EVANGELISTIC  
SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT) 11:00AM  
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30 PM

MIRCHEAL JONES, PASTOR  
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VOL. IV NUM 12 4/30/86 LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560

Oh, the Power of Prayer! The Ladies renewed their Tuesday Prayer Day 3 weeks ago and the results have been spectacular. Every Sunday for the past 3 weeks someone has either been saved or joined the Church! Our attendance has been up, the Spirit has been great, and more people are working than ever. Keep up the good work, Ladies. (You too can join in this important ministry. Each Tuesday we put out Prayer lists and Prayer helps and people come by before work, during their lunch break, or after work and have a season of Prayer. They pray as long as they want and then leave. Some that cannot come to the Church have their Prayer time at home. If everyone that receives this newsletter joined us in prayer for 1 week we probably would not be able to seat all the people the next week. Let's try it!!!)

We WELCOME into the fellowship of the Church Todd Newell and Patricia McKnight. We're expecting at least 25 new members this year and appreciate these getting in on the "ground-floor". There are many many things that we want to do for the Lord and we look forward to training these to help us reach our town for Christ.

Special THANKS to Anonymous for their Faithful giving. I was able to purchase a "Spell" program the other day because of their help--and if there has ever been anyone that needed a program to check their spelling it's me!! The Cassette Tape ministry is really beginning to bloom, every week we get more addresses for the newsletter, and the Bible study notes are being used by numerous people. Those of you that have prayed and helped during the "birthing" of this ministry are now beginning to see some of the fruits of your "seed". The machinery I've been able to obtain has taken over some of the mechanical work and freed me to do more visiting, praying, and studying and I appreciate it. I wonder what God has in store for us next???

I'm going to see what the reaction is to the Birthday/Anniversary calendar (see Back) and if it's favorable I'll try to publish one each month.

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# MAY ☆ 1986

(B= Birthday  
A= Anniversary)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.</p> <p>Proverbs 31:10-12</p>		<p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>B-Tracy Evans</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>B-Marion Coker</p> <p>MASTER'S MEN</p>	<p>7</p> <p>B-Deanna Lowder</p>	<p>8</p> <p>B-Lew Gowdy</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>MOTHER'S DAY</p>	<p>12</p> <p>LADIES AUX</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>TEEN DAY</p>	<p>19</p> <p>B-Lela Mae Wise</p>	<p>20</p> <p>B-Jenene Brown</p> <p>B-Hubert Lowder</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>B-Theresa Young</p>	<p>24</p> <p>B-Lila Tisdale</p>
<p>25</p> <p>B-Norma EVANS</p> <p>A-Lew &amp; Sylvia Gowdy</p> <p>HONOR DAY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>A-Jack &amp; Devonne Hanna</p>	<p>29</p> <p>A-Don &amp; Kathy Lewis</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul Winning

The Gospel of John has been called the most important book in the Bible (Thus making it the most important book in the world!). It has brought comfort to more grieving families (In my Father's House are many mansions), Salvation to more lost souls (Jn 3), and dedication to more Christians (Abide in the Vine and be fruitful) than probably any other book in the Bible.

### 1> THE AUTHOR- John

John was born in Galilee, the son of Zebedee and Salome. He had a brother named James. His family was engaged in the fishing business on the Sea of Galilee. They were probably people of some means because they had servants (Mk 1:20). Some scholars believe that John attended the Rabbinical schools in Jerusalem because John was acquainted with the officials and notable leaders of the city. (As shown by his access to the palace of the high priest on the night of Jesus' arrest-Jn 18:15-16. It was he who was able to get Peter into the courtyard where he failed to stand for Christ.). So John was raised with good Family, Social, and Financial standing--yet, like a lot of people with "everything", he realized something was missing from his life.

One day John heard of another John- John the Baptist. His preaching caused such a stir that John got his friend Andrew to go with him to hear him. What an impressive sight John the Baptist must have been; clothed in rough Camel skin robes, his skin darkened by the desert sun, he looked nothing like the people John associated with. And his Preaching, such preaching as John had never heard before. He had heard the Doctors of the Law argue over the fine points of the law, he had heard the local elders of his town mumble thru the scriptures, but he had never heard a man thunder against sin like this man. He called the multitude a "generation of vipers" and warned them of the wrath to come; and then he told them it didn't matter that Abraham was their Father if their tree was fruitless!! (Who had ever preached this before? John had always heard he was right with God simply because he was a Jew). Then he told the tax collectors to only collect what was right (When everyone knew you became a tax collector to legally "rob" the people!) and he told the soldiers to quit brawling, lying, and quarrelling about their pay!! (Luke 3:1-18). Either this man was Mad...or Magnificent; and John found his heart stirred as never before.

They evidently stayed several days, listening and wondering, until one day John heard John the Baptist make a marvelous proclamation- "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world". Immediately John's attention was changed to this new person and he and Andrew followed him the rest of that day. What marvelous truths they must have heard that day, how excited John must have been.

Soon, however, his duty to family called and he had to return to the fishing business. When he arrived back at work all he could talk of was the wonderful teachings of John the Baptist and this new man Jesus. One day as they were finishing up the day's fishing there suddenly fell a shadow across the boat and Jesus stood there! He looked at John with eyes that saw into the very depths of his soul and simply said, "Come, follow me". John knew that his course in life had been determined. All of his riches and comfort could not replace the ache in his heart- yet this man Jesus could speak a word and it felt as if someone had given his thirsty soul a cup of cold water. He found himself leaving his family and fortune to follow Christ- and when he looked around he saw his brother James following right behind him!

What a faithful pair of disciples these brothers were. They became part of the "Inner circle" of disciples (Along with Peter) that went everywhere with Christ (Remember that it was John that was intrusted with caring for Mary when Jesus died on the Cross.). They were very energetic for the Lord- He nicknamed them "The Sons of Thunder"-and sealed their dedication to the Lord with their lives- James was the first of the apostles to die and John was the last (But not before he was imprisoned on the isle of Patmos and allowed to see and record God's complete plan for this world.).

John is called "The Disciple whom Jesus Loved" (Jn 21:20) but he might well be called "The Disciple who loved Jesus" because he dedicated his whole life to telling people that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and they could have life thru Him. It was John that wrote the most quoted, most loved verse in the Bible- For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (Jn 3:16). It is John that reaches beyond Jesus' teachings and doctrines and shows us Jesus as the Light in a Sin darkened world; Jesus as the Bread of Life to a world gorging itself on the "husks" of sin and dying of hunger; Jesus as the Water of Life to a world thirsting for meaning amongst the madness; Jesus as the Door to Life, as the Good Shepherd of His Sheep, and as the Way to the Father, the Truth about the Father, and the Life the Father wants us to live. Thank God He used John to tell us about Jesus!!

## II. IT'S PURPOSE:

It is important because of it's purpose- These were written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (Jn 20:31).

It is Christ who quickens us- Jn 5:21 The son quickeneth whom he will  
It is Christ who washes away our sins- Rev 1:5 He loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood  
It is Christ who gives us Peace- Jn 4:27 Peace I leave you, My peace I give unto you  
It is Christ who gives us Eternal life- Jn 10:28 I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish.  
It is Christ who grants us repentance- Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted to be a prince and a Saviour to give repentance.  
It is Christ who enables us to become God's Children- Jn 1:12 To as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God  
It is Christ who shows us God the Father- Jn 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.  
It is Christ who contains all the fullness of god- Col 1:19 It pleased the Father that in Christ should all fullness dwell.  
It is Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith- Heb 12:2

It is Christ that John proclaimed, and it must be Christ whom we proclaim. He is the answer to all of the world's problems. Let's lift Him up today, that all men may be drawn to Him.

A young Pastor one day found a message on the pulpit-"We would see Jesus". It angered him at first but later it convicted him of his Preaching. He began to major on Jesus and one day as he came to the pulpit he found this message- "Then were the disciples glad when they had seen the Lord"

Does the World see Jesus in you??

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul Winning

### IN THE BEGINNING. Jn 1:1-14

God begins the Bible by telling us how and why He created the world. The rest of the Old Testament deals with how man disregarded and disobeyed God and how God kept pointing out the proper way for man to go. Finally (almost in Exasperation) the Lord says, "Let me show you what I mean" and God became a man to show us how to live and have life!

Someone wrote this poem about the material in John and I find it more and more true.

My pail I've often dropped  
Deep into this well,  
It's never touched the bottom,  
However deep it fell;  
And though I keep on dipping  
By study, faith and prayer,  
I have yet to measure  
The living waters there.

Most especially is it true when you consider the first 14 verses of John. The other Gospel writers sort of eased into the life and ministry of Jesus. John "jerks" you up and sends you into the heavens right off the bat.

We live in a sin tossed world- Libya (Is this the beginning of the end??), Terrorism, drugs, disease, death,... Teens commit suicide now more than ever, Adults look for more and better "Toys", and homes are "exploding" like firecrackers on the Fourth of July. What does the Church have to offer in these troubled times? Why should we study the Life of Christ when we need to know how to pay our bills, resist temptation, etc.. The answer is found in John's opening message. It is one of the most profound messages in the world as it describes Who Jesus is, What He did, and How he helps us today.

#### I. Christ is Eternal: 1-2

He was Pre-existent: In the beginning was the Word. As long as God is; He was (No after thought). When God spoke the world into existent Christ was there. There was never a time that Christ was not.

This gives us Stability: He is the same yesterday, today, & forever. There will never anything "come up" that we are not prepared for in Christ.

He had Fellowship With God: In Him we too can have fellowship with God- and that is what our heart craves.

He was Divine: "He was God". How can God be 3 in 1. (Fire-Heat-Light; Ice-Water-steam.) I don't know all the "hows" but I do know that it's true. The God of the universe became a Man and lived and died on earth for MY sins. (As a Man He suffered being tempted like us- tempted to satisfy His body, His Pride, and His desires-yet without sin). Can I ever doubt God's love after what He's done for me??

He is God's Communication: "The Word". How can a God who is not bound by ANYTHING communicate with man who is bound by time, space, and distance?? Only by becoming a man and showing us what God would do in our place

II: Christ is Creator- (Col- By Him all things consist- are held together) All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. If he can create a new world out of "nothing"; can't he create a new creature out of you?? Without Him everything you attempt to make will fall like houses build on the sand!! He wants to give you a new purpose to life. Will you allow Him today to create a new heart in you??

III: Christ is the Source-

A) Of Life: 1. Physical life- There are no "accidents" of birth. God has a purpose and plan for everyone. (Jer. John) ' 2. Spiritual life. None other name under heaven given among men whereby ye must be saved.

He give us new life thru Faith- In 3:16

He IS Eternal life- Jn 17:3 And this is life eternal that they know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. He that hath the son hath life

B) Of Light for all men- "The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, the light of the world is Jesus". In the blackness and despair of a sin-cursed world where man had struggled to find life in the dark suddenly a light shone from God to direct men to Him. No longer must we stumble trying to find the way- Christ is the Way (direction), the Truth (Trustworthy), and the Life (Peace and Purpose). I know in my own life, the night I was saved the stars in the sky seemed to be different- a light had broken in on my soul that keeps getting brighter and brighter!!

But what of those who continue to stumble on in darkness? The light continues to shine. The darkness cannot overpower it, put it out, or absorb it.-- It can only be unreceptive to it. You can refuse to open you eyes when the light shines on you. You're still exposed but you try to fool yourself into believing that no one sees you.

Or you can refuse to appropriate it- Knowing the light is available you continue on in the darkness of sin. This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. (In 3:19)

I don't know all your questions today- but I know all your answers- As many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

Will you stumble on in sin until you fall into the pits of Hell. Or will you come to the light today???



The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul Winning

John now describes the ministry of John the Baptist- a ministry similar to the one you and I should have.

JOHN'S WITNESS 1:15-28

I> Of Christ 15-18

A) His Priority (15)- He takes rank above me because he existed before me. He is my Chief. Do YOU Put Christ Number 1??

B) His Fullness (16)- Amp Bible "For out of His fullness (abundance) we all received- all had a share and we were all supplied with- one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, and even favor upon favor and gift heaped upon gift." We are complete in Him. He has everything we need.

C) His Gift (17)- The Law by Moses but Grace and Truth by Jesus Christ. Moses showed us how Life must be restricted- Christ shows us how Life can be lived!!

D) His Revelation (18)- He declared (interpreted) God for us so we could understand Him. How sad it is that we become Thomas' and miss seeing God even though we see Christ.

II> Of Himself 19-24 "Who art Thou?"

A) Not Christ

B) Not Elias or a Prophet (Although He would have been had the Jews received Jesus)

C) A Herald of the coming King telling everyone to prepare for His coming- the same Job you and I have today.

Do you know who you are?? Do you function in the body?

III> Of His Baptism 25-28

A) His Task-I do what I can- baptize with water

B) His Authority- There is one among you whom you know not (Someone had to tell them that the sun was shining!!) who is my authority-

C) His Attitude- I am not worthy to do the most menial job for Him (untie His shoes!) yet He allows me to announce Him. Are we willing to do anything God calls us to do - no matter how small the task???

Do you realize that the ministry of this Church is to "Herald" the coming King?? The reason we use Radio, Newsletters, tapes, and any opportunity available to talk about Christ is due to this. We're not the biggest(Yet)- but we have a job to do and we want to be faithful in doing it.

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul Winning

### JOHN PRESENTS JESUS In 1:27-34

Having laid the "ground-work", John now gets to the Heart of his message- Jesus.

1. Proclamation 29 "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.". John was aware of the fact that Jesus' had come to die as a Sin Sacrifice for mankind. He did not come to make a "better" world; He came to pay man's sin debt and deliver him from Satan's Prison. Men today try to make Jesus into some great Social reformer while refusing to accept Him as Saviour. Our Message must continually be, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

2. Humiliation 30 "After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.". What an humble man John was! Crowds of people flocked to hear him, Religious leaders came to question Him, and Governors feared him; yet he continually pointed to Christ who was to come after him. He did not want people to think of Christ as a "Johnny come lately" that was reaping what John had planted. He wanted them to know that everything he did was done with Christ in mind

3. Expectation 31 "I knew him not; but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water".

Seldom do we hear men preach of the Faith of John the Baptist, but he must have been a man of extraordinary Faith. He did not know WHO the Messiah was, WHEN He would come, or WHAT would result but he steadfastly preached and worked and baptized in eager expectation of His arrival. (I wonder if he really realized the full significance of the Baptism- Death, Burial, and Resurrection??).

Do we have that same spirit of expectation today? Do we work with the same Faith??

4. Realization 32-34 "I saw the Spirit descending, and remaining on him,...and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John had been given a sign to look for so he would know for sure when Messiah had come- someone that the Spirit descended on and remained on. (John knew about the ministry of the Holy Spirit because he had been filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb!! Luke 1:15). What "Sign" do WE look for today? How can we tell the false from the true??

When John saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus in the shape of a dove and heard the Father's cry, "This is my beloved Son; in whom I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22), how his heart must have leaped for joy. Finally He had come!! Expectation had become Realization!!

Are we eagerly telling the world about a coming Christ today?? Do we humbly seek to exalt Him as we expectantly await His return??

Sunday, May 18 is TEEN DAY. The Teens will be in charge of Sunday School and we are looking for an exciting day. Remember to pray for and support these Teens as they participate in the Lord's work

Neal Lowder - Opening Assembly  
Tosha Flowers & Michelle Spring - Mini-Sermon  
Todd Newell - Adult Class  
Brad Thigpen/Robert Braxton - Young Adult  
Michelle McAllister/Susan Broach - Junior Class  
Michelle Spring & Tosha Flowers - Primary Class  
Betsy Lee/Tosha Wimberly - Nursery Class

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you a Christian today??? If you died right now would you go to Heaven with God?? If you aren't absolutely sure why don't you Repent of your sins (Realize you have sinned against God and decide to turn from sin) and Trust Christ as your Saviour (Belief- Trust in, rely on, depend on the sacrifice Christ made for you at Calvary).

Once you make the most important decision in your life- to accept Christ as Saviour and follow His will for your life; then you need to "study to show yourself approved unto God. Send me your name and address and I will send you (Absolutely free) some study material to help you get started. We have available Prayer Booklets that show how to pray and enable you to get started on a daily Prayer Program. Also available are chapter by chapter notes on many of the books of the Bible (These are free to anyone desiring them. You will never receive any request for payment nor will any be expected). Revival tapes and regular Sunday Services tapes are also available.

We believe that getting people to know Christ as Saviour and then to Show Him in their changed life is the most important work we can do. Let us help you do both.

# WAKAULI And GALADIA



VOL. IV NUM 13 5/7/86 LAWRENCE STREET - PO BOX 1003 - LAKE CITY, S.C. - 29564

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS LOVE FOR US. IT'S SO GREAT KNOWING YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN, YOUR MANSION IS BEING PREPARED, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR GUIDE WHILE YOU MAKE YOUR PILGRIMAGE THRU THIS PRESENT WORLD, TRULY THE PEOPLE OF GOD NEED TO GIVE GLORY TO HIS NAME.

WE ARE BEGINNING THE FIRST OF 4 SPECIAL SUNDAYS THIS WEEK (MOTHER'S DAY), WE HOPE TO ADVERTISE THE HIGHEST MONTHLY ATTENDANCE IN OUR HISTORY- BUT IT'S ONLY A DREAM WITHOUT WORK AND PARTICIPATION. GOD IS JUST WAITING FOR US TO GET READY SO HE CAN DO A VERY SPECIAL WORK HERE AT GRACE (I'M READY, MYSELF!!!). PRAY, PESTER, AND PLAN TO BE HERE YOURSELF FOR ALL THESE SPECIAL DAYS.

THANKS TO THE NEWELLS FOR THEIR HELP IN GETTING MORE OF THE EQUIPMENT WE NEED FOR OUR TAPE MINISTRY WE HAVE A ROOM BEING SET UP NOW SO EVERYTHING CAN BE ORGANIZED. PRAISE ITEM ALSO ABOUT MAILING COST. THE POSTAGE JUST DECREASE FROM 8.7¢ to 8.5¢ PER PIECE. THIS WILL HELP ALMOST A DOLLAR A MAILING (IT PRESENTLY COST FROM \$50 to \$75 PER MAILING. DEPENDS ON HOW MANY WE MAIL AND HOW MUCH PAPER WE USE. I'VE CUT BACK TO 3 MAILINGS A MONTH AND TRY TO MAIL ON THURSDAY SO I CAN DISTRIBUTE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE DURING PRAYER MEETING). THANKS AMON ALSO.

Grace F.W.B. Church  
P O Box 1003  
Lake City, S C 29560

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Grace F.W.B. Baptist Church  
"To Know and To Show Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR 10:00AM  
MORNING EVANGELISTIC SERVICE 11:00AM  
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 7:30 PM

MICHAEL JONES, PASTOR  
(803) 944-3725



Like many things that seem a great idea when they are conceived the solution to this problem some became a monster of a problem itself. Someone suggested that the Priest begin to stock animals fit to be sacrificed so that those that needed them could purchase them when they arrived in Jerusalem. And since the Roman coins could not be used to buy Temple products then someone had to be given the "Money changers concession". I imagine it worked pretty well the first few times. Then the Priest began to see that they were left "holding the bag" with the number of lambs they had purchased so they became a little more "zealous" in finding faults on the ones the people brought. And the Money changers couldn't be expected to pay their rent to the Temple if they couldn't increase their profit!! Soon the Temple budget counted on this "profit" each year and no one knew how they would exist without it.

Now instead of coming to the Temple to Pray men came to Pay and Worship became a Burden instead of a Blessing. The Priest strained at gnats and swallowed camels while the common people tried to find ways to meet their ever increasing demands for more money II> The Anger. This is the situation Jesus found that day in the Temple. Instead of the Reverence of Worship He found the chaos of business; instead of the men seeking to Pray He found them seeking a Profit.

This caused Him to take Action- He took a whip to them and drove them from the Temple (Note the common sense He used- He drove the sheep and oxen from the temple (The owners could recapture them), He poured out the money changer's money (The owners could reclaim it), and he told the sellers of doves to leave the Temple (He didn't release them because they could not be captured again like the sheep and oxen)).

JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Souls

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SON OF GOD? Jn 1:12

The most important decision a person will ever make is the decision to accept Christ as Saviour. What does that mean to a person?

1. SAVED- Jn 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of men, but of God.

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the Children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (Born Again by Faith in Christ. Repented of Sin, Received Christ as Saviour.)

2. SPIRIT-LED- Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God. (The Leadership of the Spirit: He Glorifies the Son. Leads by the Word.)

3. SEPARATED- II Cor 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean things; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (We are Holy because He is Holy. They took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus.)

4. HAVE SON-RIGHTS- Gal 4:6-7 Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a Son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (Answered Prayer, Future Promises.)

"Meaning of Son of God" Page 2

5. SHINERS- Phil 2:14-15 Do all things without murmuring and disputings; that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;  
(The Light of the World. We show the world the way out of darkness.)

6. SPANKED- Heb 12:6 Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.  
(When we do wrong God will forgive us- but He will also spank us so that we will know not to do it again.)

ARE YOU A CHILD OF GOD? DO YOU LIVE LIKE ONE? DOES THE WORLD KNOW WHOSE CHILD YOU ARE?

The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Souls

"Selling" Christianity Jn 2:13-17

One of the saddest indictments of Christianity today is that when men think of the Church the first things they think of is someone wanting money from them! Everything in the world is offered now "for a free will offering" of "X" amount of money. Let's see what Jesus' attitude was toward this type of thing.

1> The Arrangements. The feast of Passover was one of the most important symbols God had given His people. It remembered His delivering His people from the bondage of Egypt by applying the Blood. Each year the children of Israel were to remember this event by ceremony and sacrifice. (The same way we are to observe Communion today). But it was not long until the symbols became more important than what they represented and problems began to develop.

1. The Distance that some men traveled was so long until they could not bring a sacrifice with them. Therefore a means needed to be devised to allow them to purchase an acceptable sacrifice when they arrived to worship.

2. The Law required that the sacrifice be "a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year" kept separate from the rest of the flock for 3 days (Ex 12:5-6). The Priest were the official "inspectors" and they found many sacrifices that were not acceptable.

3. The money of the land was Roman coins but they could not be used in the temple because they were engraved with a picture of the Roman emperor and that was considered an idol to the Priest.

1. The two disciples of John the Baptist: John and Andrew 35-39

The Method of Conversion: Preaching of John the Baptist. First day He preached and received no response. The next day he preached the same message and got 2 converts. (Sometimes we must proclaim the same message over and over until the person finally hears it and responds to it.)

Their Actions- 1) They followed Jesus. (True Conversion!)

2) They desired to be with Jesus. You want to be with someone you love. (Try keeping Teens apart!!). True followers of Christ will WANT to be with Him.

These were "Religious" men who were seeking something. They listened to John the Baptist's Preaching and became his "disciples". (John was Ideal Preacher- the better he preached the smaller grew his congregation!! They left him to follow Christ that he pointed to.). Christ can change "Good" people into Saved people that live good!!

2. Andrew wins Peter 40-42

The Method: Personal Witness of Brother (Family Member)

The Action taken: 1) Came to Christ

2) Had his name changed- Simon to Peter. This signified he had new Character. Christ is able to change people when they become committed to Him. What a joy it is to approach the future expectantly, knowing you have the capability to change it and to become a different person. The new Birth does not just change our Destination- it changes our Determination. (Peter became a "rock" for God.).

3. Philip 43-44  
The Method: Sought by Jesus. The Good Shepherd seeks Sheep

The Action: Influenced by Peter and Andrew (The Bible is careful to say he was from the same town as Peter and Andrew. Was he brought to Christ's attention by Andrew or Peter??).

This represents prayer in Soul winning. It can also represent "Letting our light shine" for Jesus in our community.

4. Nathanael 45-51

The Method: Philip finds and witnesses to but does not win. Christ preaches to and wins

The Action: Confession of Faith. You must come by Faith.

(Christ promised greater things if he continued to follow. The beginning of the Christian life is just the Beginning of seeing God do great work!!)

A man of Prayer but not Salvation. (Have you noticed yet that each of these were "Good" people who had never committed themselves to follow Christ??? Are you, Guys or are you SAVED???)

Whatever your personality or problem Christ can help you:

Peter needed help with his character (Unstable). That's what Jesus needed him. (Power to become- "Thou art, thou shalt be")

Nathanael needed help with his prejudice- "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?". Jesus showed him that he saw everything about him (Even where he prayed) and then promised him that he would do greater things in the future- and Nathanael responded to "Judge a book by it's cover". Now we may think that Christianity is too "simple" to solve your problems. God sees your innermost being and has help and hope for you.)



John and Andrew needed assurance that they were making the right decision in switching "Allegiance" from John the Baptist to Christ. (Don't get "hung up" on the preacher. Look at the message he proclaims and cling to Christ.). You hear so many different "Doctrines" today from a multitude of "Preachers". How can you know that I'm pointing you right?? "Spend the day with Christ" and you'll never be the same again.

Philip simply needed Dedication. He needed someone to confront him with his need- and then tell him where to find Help. (Later he used this idea to reach others- Nathanael; the Greeks (See Jn 12:21)).

Whatever YOUR need is today, Christ is your answer. You can continue your juggling act- and walk on squashed oranges!! Or you can come to Christ, take up your Cross, and Follow Him. What will you do???

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Souls

### FIVE WHO FOLLOWED Jn 1:35-51

Life is sometimes like a "Juggling act" Constant motion and any sort of "bump" causes a great deal of trouble!! How can we learn to live and keep all the "oranges" in orbit?? That's what Christ came to show us.

There is a Scandinavian saying, "The North Wind made the Vikings". Simply put it says that "Circumstances developed Character". That is true to some degree. We are partly creatures of our environment- Southern drawl, certain foods, etc. as well as of our circumstances- parental care or lack thereof; Fatness and Fatigue often come from laziness; "hot house flowers" seldom survive the cold of winter, and "time and chance happen to all men". But, Thank God, regardless of our circumstances there is hope for change.

One of the things John tries to get us to understand in his Gospel is that Christ did not come simply to save us FROM something but also to save us FOR something- New life in Christ. Following Christ can and does make a difference in you. Thank God for that!!

Today I want to look at the first examples of Soul winning John gives. These are 5 men who make the decision to follow Christ. Each of them was different, and God used different methods to reach them, but each of them was changed (and in turn changed things around them) because they became followers of Christ.

(Notice 3 things in each of these cases when people meet Jesus:

1. There is a desire for Fellowship with God. vs 39
2. There is concern for Others (Soul-winning) 40-41
3. There is new purpose to life (Simon to

# GRACE And GLORY



Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
"On Knees and On Knees Christ"

BIBLE STUDY HOUR	10:00AM
MORNING EVANGELISTIC SERVICE (LIVE OVER WJOT)	11:00AM
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE	6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE	7:30 PM

MICHAEL JONES, PASTOR  
(803) 394-3725

VOL. IV NUM 4 05/21/86 LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560



What a Blessing the Computer continues to be. I typed up some notes that were 17 years old the other day! (I try to always take notes when I hear someone preach and these were some notes from Revivals and Meetings I attended when I first began Pastoring. I had moved them from Church to Church in boxes all these years. I now have them where I can get to them when I want them.). I also typed up labels for tapes that have been stacked on my desk for over a year. I knew that if I didn't label them before I put them up I'd never figure out what they were. Now they're labeled and copies have been made and they're ready to help spread the Gospel.

(More about them later in this newsletter.). Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible for this ministry to get some of the equipment I desperately needed. I was getting futher and futher behind each week but now that I have some of the equipment I needed I'm looking forward to actually catching up.

Thanks to Mandy Moore for typing the newsletter addresses into the computer for me. That enables me to put them on address labels (like the one on today's newsletter). This enables me to update and correct addresses much quicker and easier. Please look at your address today and drop me a card with any corrections or misspellings. (I will continue to use the old address machine we have from time to time for economic reasons but I'll keep the master list in the computer and use it sometimes so I can be sure the addresses are correct).

Thanks to several here in Lake City for recent contributions to our work. The computer had drained us dry and it's good to have some extra funds to begin working on other phases of our outreach. I wish there were some way for me to share all the comments and Blessings I receive each week from people about the various parts of this ministry. You'd understand then why I consider it so important. Please continue to PRAY for God's direction and Blessing.

GRACE FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. Box 1003  
Lake City, S.C. 29560

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LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAY THE NEWSLETTER LOOKS TODAY. I DID NOT REALIZE THAT THE STENCIL CUTTER WAS MAKING THE WORDS "FUZZY" UNTIL I STARTED RUNNING THEM OFF-- AND BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. ONE DAY WE'LL HAVE ONE HERE AT THE CHURCH AND THINGS WILL BE MUCH BETTER (WE WILL HAVE ONE HERE AT THE CHURCH ONE DAY, WON'T WE????).

THANKS TO THE TEENS FOR THEIR FINE WORK SUNDAY. WE HAD A GOOD DAY AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TIME ALL THE TEENS TAKE PART IN SHARING THE GOSPEL.

XX

WE NOW HAVE A TAPE RACK IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICE AT CHURCH. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TAPES IN THE RACK NOW AND MORE WILL BE ADDED EACH WEEK. THESE ARE FREE TO ANYONE DESIRING THEM. SIMPLY LIST THE TAPE YOU BORROWED ON THE PAPER PROVIDED AND THE DATE (SO WE WILL KNOW TO REPLACE THAT TAPE). FEEL FREE TO BORROW AS MANY TAPES AS YOU WANT AS OFTEN AS YOU WANT. YOU DO NOT NEED TO RETURN THE TAPES-- PASS THEM ON TO OTHERS IF YOU DESIRE. THIS IS ANOTHER OF OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES AND ANOTHER GOOD WAY TO GET THE GOSPEL TO PEOPLE THAT MIGHT NOT HEAR IT OTHERWISE.

THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE NOT ABLE TO VISIT THE CHURCH AND PICK UP YOUR TAPE ARE INVITED TO WRITE AND REQUEST THEM (AGAIN THIS IS A FREE SERVICE. THE TAPES ARE ALREADY PAID FOR AND GOD WILL SUPPLY THE POSTAGE AS NEEDED.) YOU WILL NOT NEED TO RETURN THE TAPES YOU ORDER SINCE IT IS AS CHEAP TO PURCHASE A NEW TAPE AS IT IS TO MAIL THE OLD ONE BACK. SIMPLY USE IT AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND THEN PASS IT ON TO BENEFIT OTHERS.

THIS WEEK WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING LAST SUNDAY'S MESSAGES: "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN" (THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT YOU'LL EVER LEARN) AND "DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT" (SUNDAY NIGHT'S MESSAGE THAT LISTED THE VARIOUS GIFTS AND SHOWED HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR PART IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.). BOTH OF THESE MESSAGES ARE ON ONE TAPE AND SEVERAL COPIES ARE ON MY DESK AWAITING SOMEONE TO REQUEST THEM.

ALSO AVAILABLE ARE:

STIRRED UP/ WILL OF GOD (PREACHED BY REV SHERWOOD LEE IN REVIVAL)  
FIVE WHO FOLLOWED/ NO SECRETS

SEVEN SAYINGS FROM THE CROSS (GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WITH PREACHING BY

REV HARRY COOPER, REV CYRUS SHOFFNER, AND MYSELF)

MEANING OF BEING A SON OF GOD/ INTRO TO JOHN

IS YOUR SWORD BLOODY?/ DID WHAT COULD

TREE OF LIFE/ DEPRESSION

TROUBLE IN VINEYARD/ ABIDE TO BEAR FRUIT

FRIENDS/ FOUR WISE THINGS

MORE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON. WRITE REQUESTING A SPECIAL SUBJECT AND I'VE PROBABLY GOT A MESSAGE ON IT SOMEWHERE. I'VE GOT ABOUT THREE HUNDRED TAPES OF SERMONS AND STUDY COURSES AWAITING TIME TO LABEL AND COPY.

=====

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR YOU TO MISS NO EXCUSE SUNDAY JUNE 1 !!!!!

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "The New Birth"

The MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION you can ever receive is now to have a right relationship with God. The purpose of Church Services, Sunday School, Newsletter, tapes, and Radio outreach is to impart to you knowledge about God so that you might become properly related to Him.

We are today faced with a multitude of different beliefs and Doctrines about most of the issues of life. The most important of these issues is being BORN AGAIN. We need to be absolutely sure that we know what it means ourselves and that we know how to tell it to others.

#### I. The Seeker- Nicodemus 1-2

A) His Character- Nicodemus was a member of the strict religious sect called the Pharisees. He was so distinguished in his character and conduct until he was also a member of the Sanhedrin (Jewish Religious "Supreme Court").

B) His Coming- At night. Wanting something but not willing to let others know of his need.

Nicodemus came to Jesus with the belief that Jesus had something special (We know that thou art a teacher sent from God; for no man can do the works thou doest except God be with him. Jesus "produced the Proofs"). He came to find out what this was and add it to his life. DID YOU COME TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD AND ALLOW HIM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR HEART?? God can only fill the hungry heart. Do you realize your need of Christ today??

#### II. The Seriousness- Necessary 3-5

A) New Birth necessary to SEE (Recognize) the Kingdom of God (vs 3). God must open your blinded eyes before you can see the Kingdom of God. The reason for this is because of what the Kingdom of God is? (Rom 14:17) "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (These are the three things men crave above all- right standing with God, Peace with God and Self, and Joy.).

B) New Birth necessary to ENTER the Kingdom of God (vs 5)-

There are many Kingdoms:

Mineral- stones and jewels

Vegetable- trees, plants, and flowers

Animal- all living creatures, including man

Physical- certain countries as America and Russia

The greatest of all is the Kingdom of God- the "passport" needed to enter, there is being "Born Again".

Suppose you took a fish out of water, put him on a golden plate, surrounded him with sweetest flowers, sprinkled him with costly perfume and filled the air with music- would the fish be happy?? No, he would be out of his environment and die. So a lost man would not be happy in Heaven. God has to change him.

III. The Salvation- New Birth 6-21

A) The Marvel of it- vs 7 That men don't realize the need of it! Yet they have tried every way possible to reform and change their lives (with each failing more miserably than the last.). (Look at Solomon in Ecc.. He tried Wealth, the World, Women, and Wisdom and found nothing filled the empty spot in his heart except God.)

The Problem is that man simply refuses to admit that he can't save himself- he refuses to bow to God and accept God's terms. vs 19 This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

B) The Mystery of it- It cannot be explained in Human terms 8-12. The natural man is unable to understand the things of the Spirit of God. Just as the wind blow without our seeing where it came from or where it's going so we have to simply accept God's word on what He has done for us. It is a supernatural event that goes beyond man's reasonings or reason.

Why would God WANT to save us?? HE could create others.

Why would God demand a sacrifice that only He can give? LOVE

If man can explain everything about the new birth then it is simply a human invention- no bigger than the man who invented it. But if it is a supernatural work of God it is beyond man's understanding and must be accepted by FAITH. A Religion without doubts is a doubtful religion!!

C) The Method of it

Things it's not: Jn 1:12-13 But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name, which were born not of Blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1. Not Human Worth- vs. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Not because you're an American, or Church Member, or have good parents. Every wife is a woman but every woman is not a wife. There must be an act of turning from other men and deciding on one to commit yourself to.

2. Not Human Will- vs 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit. The Spirit must draw you to God. You hide from God and must be coaxed to His house to learn of Him.

3. Not Human Wisdom- vs 9 How can these things be? The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Never have we had more education; never has the world been so dangerous.

4. Not Human Works- vs 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven. Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us; by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Can a fig tree bear olive berries?? You call call it an Olive, put it in the middle of an olive orchard, give it food for an olive tree-- but it's still a fig tree!!!

**How then can you be Saved?** vs 14-15  
And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. Men were saved by a simple act of Faith in God's Word- They did not rub ointment upon their sores, they did not fight the serpents, they did not send an offering to the serpent on the pole, they did not pray to the serpent or to Moses. They simply looked in Faith according to God's word and were saved. Today this is the simplicity for us:

1. Repentance- (Realize you're "Snake Bit"! ). Not simply ceasing to do wrong or beginning to do right but a JUDGMENT ON SELF as unable to please God and desiring to do so. (Godly sorrow worketh repentance). This will manifest itself in turning from sin to Christ but it must be a genuine sorrow that you can't please God in Self.
2. Receiving- Christ as Saviour. Believing the Gospel, that Christ died for your sins, was buried, arose the third day from the grave, and is coming again. (The Word BELIEVE means "To Swallow". Men used to fear being poisoned so they would taste the wine but then spit it out. If they swallowed it they were said to "Believe" in their hosts. God asks you to trust in and rely on Him today.
3. Renewal- Brought to life through the ministry of the Holy Ghost by the means of the Word of God. The Holy Spirit convicts us, The Word shows us Christ, and by Faith the change is wrought. (The example of Ezekiel's valley of dry bones- Spirit gave life.)
4. Resurrection- You are a new creature in Christ. Power for Life, and Hope at Death.

The new Birth is not Reforming the Old Life; It is beginning a New Life in Christ. II Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

The Christian life then become the outliving of the the inliving Christ. Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Have **YOU** been Born Again?????

## JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "NO SECRETS FROM GOD!!"

In 2:23-25 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

Ever since Adam in the Garden tried to hide from God, man has tried to think that God does not know about his sins or his circumstances. Through out His ministry Jesus let people know that He knew them and that THEY HAD NO SECRETS FROM GOD.

I. He knows about Your Sins- Told the woman at the Well of her past. Jer 17:10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

II. He knows about Your Sickness- Healed the nobleman's son a day's journey away. Heb 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (He knows whether it's Cancer or a cold!! He can cure either.)

III. He knows about Your Sorrow- Knew when Lazarus died, 50 miles away, in Bethany. (Not even a bird falls to the earth without His knowledge.)

IV. He knows about Your Situation- Told 2 of His disciples where they would find a colt tied and what the men around it would say.

Physically-1 Sam 16:7 But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. (One man plunges a knife into you to Kill you; another to cure you. God sees what we do AND WHY WE DO IT!)

Financially- Knew that the widow had put in ALL she had.

Circumstantially- He Knew just where to "fish" to catch a net full even if you've tried all night and failed.

What does He use to Reveal your thoughts today? Word of God- Heb 4:12 The Word of God is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. That's why men avoid the Bible and Church--they don't want the "searchlight" of God turned on in their soul!!

Christ does not need to commit Himself to you- but You need to commit yourself to HIM. When He rolls back the screen and allows all men to see you as you really are, will it be black as sin or white as snow because the blood is applied??

Do you think He's forgotten you?? He still knows how many hairs there are on your head!!

He Knows YOU. Do you know HIM??



## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "Saving the Best until Last" Jn 2:1-11

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth and put man on the earth. Then God realized that something was wrong and He created woman for man- (If Adam would have simply needed someone to amuse or entertain him God could have left him with the animals; If he simply needed someone to talk to and work with God could have made another man; If he would have needed someone to worship God was available--But man had a heart need and a physical need and only a woman was able to meet these needs. Remember that man was created from the dust while woman was created from man. This makes them different Physically, emotionally, and mentally--and if you don't believe it ask any husband!!!). He also had a job to do- replenish the earth. This took the cooperation of both--and God made women so that they could become MOTHERS, which makes them very special.

In this case the Lord saved the Best until Last (Adam had looked over and named all the creatures before God made Woman). Today I want to look at another case where the best was saved until last and see how God is able to change the common into the uncommon, disaster into blessing, and even change "Meddling" into Miracles. (I started to entitle this- "Meddling Mothers"!; But feared for my safety!!!)

1. The Mother 1-5 The importance of Family- Jesus went to and performed first miracle at a Wedding. He loved and respected His mother.

A) Her Pushing- For 30 years now Mary had borne the "stigma" of everyone thinking she was making excuses for her "mistake" when she told them about the miraculous birth of her son, Jesus. Now He had announced himself and she wanted everyone to know she was right. There have been many people who were successful in life because their Mother's "Pushed" them into doing what they might not have done otherwise--and there have been many people who were ruined for life by a Mother's Pushing!!! There comes a time when you must "cut the apron strings" and let them live their lives with the training you have given them; mistakes and all. Jesus lightly "rebuked" his mother here (vs 4) and performed the only miracle we know of that was mainly for the "entertainment" of others (Although we know that the main reason He did it was to build Faith in His disciples.).

B) Her Presumption- What ever He tells you to do, do it. (Good advice for any mother to give her child!!). She just naturally assumed that He would obey her--so Jesus must have been a very good child; something every Christian child needs to remember.

II The Miracle 6-10 (Be AWARE of the fact that this "wine" was not like modern liquor. It was more like Pepsi without the fizz! I Cor 6:9 says that drunkards will not go to Heaven and Prov 23:29-35 shows the "Rite" of the poison of alcohol. It harms you mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually and Jesus would not condone or encourage it's use.)

A) The empty vessels for the Master to use- 6 waterpots used to store water for washing guest's feet. Each was about 9 gallons. Are you a vessel for the master to use- or are you filled with Sin or Self. No matter how "Common" you are God can fill you with His Spirit (Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess but be ye filled with the Spirit) instead of Self if you'll become available.

B) The "Human" ability- fill with water (What you have). Fill to brim. God wants to save you and use you but you must be willing to give Him what you have (Give God everything. Don't keep any for self). God can make something out of you if you will let Him.

C) The Faith- Take to the governor of the feast. Trust God to accept what you give and change it into something of value.

D) The wrong assumption- That the groom had saved the best for last. Man gets credit for many things that God does!! Do YOU think you have been blessed thru your own ability?? Do you give "Mother" the credit God deserves?? Do you recognize your need of, and dependence on, God

III The Meaning vs 11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Underneath the pretty clothes and smiling face of many people is a "Hurting Human". God wants to change you into the BEST today also. If He is to change us, we too, must believe in Him and acknowledge that He has saved the "best for last" for us also. Come to Him by Faith today and let Him make a New Creation out of you.

# GRACE and GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 15 May 28, 1986

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
(Live over WJOT 1260 AM)  
Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

Out of the darkness the Lord shines forth the light! Last week was so frustrating as the stencil cutter I was using did not work properly. Now I know why the Lord allowed that to happen. I was talking about that problem to a computer person later in the week and they told me that I could cut memo stencils with my computer printer--and I can!!!! Now anything I can put on my computer I can put in the paper without having to wait or make extra copies. It will probably take awhile to learn how to coordinate the various programs together so that I can print headlines where needed but it's a lot easier this week than last.

Now I can put out notes knowing I can get extra copies in a matter of minutes instead of hours or days. And with revision so simple, I can continually update notes as I continue to study. I'm glad the Lord is so much smarter than I am and didn't give me an extra piece of equipment that I didn't really need. The Lord also used this lesson to teach me to look at what I've got before I try to get anything else (The problem with the average Christian is that they aren't willing to use that they have. They think they need something more before they can work--More education, more zeal, more equipment, etc. What they really need is to use what they've got for God and He can make it do more than they would ever imagine!).

**NO EXCUSE SUNDAY** is this Sunday. Each family in the Church should have received a letter by now telling them what to bring for their "Excuse". These will be explained Sunday morning at the beginning of Sunday School and then placed on the "Excuse Table" at the front of the Church. We're looking for **EVERYONE** to be here Sunday as we begin a Summer of Excitement instead of Excuses.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHER FOR 1986-87

Superintendent/Assist	Robert Sullivan Jr./Todd Newell
Secretary/Assist	Michelle McAllister/Jenene Brown
Adult	Rev. Mike Jones/Wyman Lowder/Carl Jordan
Young Adult (19-25)	Ronald Knight/Marion Coker
Teen (13-18)	Buck Flowers/Sylvia Gowdy
Junior (9-12)	Susan Spring/ Ann McKnight
Primary (6-8)	Marjorie McAllister/ Paula Jones
Beginner (0-5)	Beth Broach/Althea Coker/ Billie Ard

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The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and more...

"The Greatest Verse" In 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

So simple a child can understand it and so complex scholars have studied it for years and never exhausted its depths.

The greatest Lover- God  
The greatest degree- so loved  
The greatest number- the world  
The greatest act- that He gave  
The greatest Gift- His only begotten Son  
The greatest invitation- That whosoever  
The greatest simplicity- Believeth  
The greatest Person- in Him  
The greatest deliverance- should not perish  
The greatest difference- but  
The greatest certainty- have  
The greatest possession- everlasting life.

The Originator- God  
The Motivation- So Loved  
The Scope- The World  
The Action- He gave His only begotten Son  
The Requirement- That whosoever believeth in Him  
The Result- Should not perish but have everlasting life

Knowing the verse in our mind does not mean we know it in our heart. Have you ever set down and spent 5 minutes meditating on this verse???

There is another John 3:16--I John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

The demonstration of God's love for us was what Jesus did for us on the Cross. The demonstration of our love for fellow Christians is that we are willing to give our lives for them. It is fairly simple to accept Love- do we give it as freely???

Our motive- 11 Cor 5:14 the love of Christ constraineth us... (I wouldn't do it for \$1 million dollars but I'd do it for the Love of Christ.). 1 Cor 13 says that anything I do must be motivated by Love or it is useless.

Our Command- Matt 22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

John 15:12-13 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends

How can you get this Love? 1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us. We learn to trust the Father- 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. Gal 5:22 says love is a fruit of the Spirit.

Rom 5:5 says that the love is God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

"Gifts From God" John 3:16

GIFTS GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU. James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning

1. The Holy Spirit's Power to perform -

a. To those that desire it. Luke 11:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

b. To those that are saved: I Cor 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. Ep 4:8 He gave gifts unto the Church.

2. He wants to give you worry free sleep- Ps 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

He Wants to give You Rest- Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

3. He want you to really enjoy Life- I Tim 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy

4. He gives Rain and fruitful seasons- Lev 26:3-12 (Disobedience makes us earn wages to put into a bag with holes...) God even feeds the birds and clothes the flowers.

5. He give us Breath and Life- Is 42:5 Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth; and that which cometh out to it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein; (God Holds Breath in Hand- Dan 5)

6. He wants to give us Wisdom- Jam 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be give him.

BUT THE GREATEST GIFTS OF ALL ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

A) His SON- Jn 3:16 begotten, unique. God became flesh and dwelt among men. Rev 5. only one found worthy.

B) Salvation- Ep 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast.

C) Living Water- Jn 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. (Satisfaction)

D) Eternal Life- Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jn 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

WHEN YOU GIVE A GIFT TO GOD.

God looks at your relationship with others as well as your gift-

A) Your relationship in the Church: Matt 5:23-24 If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

B) Your relationship to your family: Matt 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

XX

**Beware of Human Gifts.** Ecc 7:7 Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

a. Affects our Judgment- Ex 23:8 Thou shalt take no gift (bribe); for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

Prov 21:14 A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

b. Affects our Home- Prov 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

c. Affects our outlook- Prov 17:8 A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

God's Gift (Christ) affects HIS judgment of Us- It Pacifies His anger about our sins.

Accepting God's Gift of Salvation affects our Home- It gives us foundation and guidance.

Accepting God's Gift affects our Outlook- Every way you look at it it's Great- Holy Spirit to guide in this life and Heaven with Christ in the next!!

God wants to give you some Gifts today---Are you willing to accept them???????

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "Reciprocal Honor"

In 5:22-23 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the son: That all men should Honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.

This is the time of the Proud Parent- Parents look at children graduating or receiving honors in school and "swell with pride" at what "THEY'VE" accomplished. When one part of the family receives Honor every part accepts that Honor. (Sadly, this works in reverse also- If a child in the family suffers failure or problems then everyone else in the family suffers with them. "I Cor 12:26 Whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it ."). Jesus says in today's text that that same principle applies to the Spiritual realm also. Let's look at how this "Reciprocal Honor" works and then apply it to our lives.

Reciprocal Honor works in:

1. Family life- Ex 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Practice- Honor your father and mother (Respect for parents)

Result- days may be long upon the land

2. Business life- Gen 30:27 And Laban said unto him(Jacob), I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake.

Gen 39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him (Joseph) overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord Blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake: and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. (See also 39:23 Joseph in Prison).

Practice- Godly dedication. (This is supposed to apply to even Preachers! I Tim 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine)

Result- Godly Blessings upon you and those you work with.

3. Social life- Luke 14:8 When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him: and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. Prov 15:33...before Honor is Humility. Paul told the Romans that Christians were to "in honor prefer one another" (12:10); that is, build each other up, not tear each other down!

Practice- Seek not to exalt yourself. Remember to Honor those who deserve Honor- Rom 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Result- Ye will be exalted IN DUE TIME



4. Religious life-

A) Salvation: Matt 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him shall I confess before my Father which is in Heaven  
Ps 91:14-16 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

B) Service- Jn 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

DOING GOD'S WORK HONOR'S GOD- "DUCKING" GOD'S WORK DISHONORS GOD.  
I Sam 2:29-30 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honor me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

C) Sacrifice- The example of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego- They did not know if God would deliver them but they Honored God and God honored them.

D) Substance- Prov 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruit of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

1. BE REALISTIC- --Faith does not put us in the driver's seat giving orders to God on how to run the universe or what to do about a specific part of the universe that concerns us. Rather, Faith is believing the promises of God. ("Prophets of Prosperity" Page 21)

God does not always give us the Honor we expect or want- the 3 Hebrew children were delivered; multitudes of other Christians died in the fire and God honored them as martyrs. Tithing every week will not make you a millionaire overnight. ( Are you seeking to HONOR God or HOARD things for yourself???)

2. BE REAL- Mark 7:6 Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

DOES YOUR LIFE HONOR GOD??? WILL YOUR DEATH HONOR GOD- or will it be another sad case of rejecting God's free Gift of Salvation thru Christ?????

## "THE RESTLESS CHRISTIAN"

Ps 37:1-11

Christians are supposed to be examples of the Peace and Stability of God. Instead, many of them have "fretting" hearts and, like restless ill children, they cannot be satisfied. ("From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" James 4:1). Let's look at the Cause and Cure for these "Fretters".

### I. THE CAUSE OF FRETTING:

A) Our Own Foolishness- Prov 19:3 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord. We Fret about-

1. Our Weakness: Lack of Strength or Wisdom to handle a situation
2. Our Waywardness: "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it". It's EASY to backslide!! We must keep our body under subjection to be faithful.
3. Our Wickedness: "When I would do good evil is present with me"

B) The "Pleasures" of the Wicked- Ps 37:1 Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. We're supposed to have Abundant Life but they have FUN!! (Sleep late on Sunday, "Party" all the time, etc.)... (If it was so much fun why were we so glad to leave it???? Ever notice now even bad things begin to look good when you're away awhile??).

C) The Riches of Others- Ps 37:7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Sinners seem to get rich while many Christians have to pray for Daily Bread and miss most of the comforts of this life. ("Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Heb 11:26 Depends on where you want your mansion!!!).

D) Because of Affliction- Ps 119:75 I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness has afflicted me. Why do some suffer great pain while others are well?? ("Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." II Cor 12:10).

E) Because of what MIGHT happen- Ps 112:7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. The Just shall live by FAITH.

### II. THE CURE FOR FRETTING:

A) Look at the Long Road- Ps 37:2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. vs 7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Will You sell your "Birthright" for a mess of pottage because of a little hunger now???

B) Have Faith in God's Love- 37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. (I'll trust Him even if the Boat sinks!!! Mark 4.)

C) Let Sinners enjoy all they can now because Hell is long and hot! 37:10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

D) Remember vs 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; FRET NOT THYSELF IN ANY WISE TO DO EVIL. Don't allow Satan to make you Fret instead of have Faith.

Are you Restless?? Or Resting in Christ???

## MORE NEWS

### June Events:

June 1	"No EXCUSE Sunday"
June 3	Master's Men (Todd & Sully Cook!) Elect Officers
June 7	Jack and Wilma Gaskins Anniversary
June 9	Ladies Aux. (Billie Ard & Beth Broach)
June 14	Mrs. Maybelle Booth Birthday
June 15	Father's Day / Debbie Coker Birthday
June 16-18	Vacation Bible School
June 20	Rebecca Coker Birthday
June 22	Joe Henry Lowder Birthday
June 24	Camala Coker Birthday/ Debe Matthews Birthday
June 27	S C Quarterly Conference- First FWB Hartsville
June 29	Betsy Lee Birthday

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As you can see from our list of new officers, several of the young people in the Church have begun to take an active roll in Church work. I PRAISE THE LORD for this. I believe it's a good sign for future progress and I'm excited about it. It's also a good opportunity to express a great big **THANKS** to those that have carried the burden for so many years. With but few exceptions, Marion Coker, Ralph McAllister, or Carl Jordan have been the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School since it's beginning 25 years ago. They have carried on during the lean times and foundational times and I know the Church really appreciates their faithful work. We look forward to their continued effort as they encourage these young people in their work and give them the benefit of their practical experience.

It is really a Blessing to have more qualified teachers than I have places to put them--I hope new growth will soon cause us to need every one of you!! Thanks to everyone who has served so well during this past year. I appreciate everything you did.

Special PRAISE also to David Gowdy and Ron Knight for PERFECT ATTENDANCE for an entire year. Wouldn't it be great if we had 10 people with perfect attendance instead of 2?!

\*\*\*\*\*

I was thinking back over the past 18 months of this Faith Ministry. Knowing the the Church could not help support it, I'll admit that there were times I was scared and discouraged. No one knows the hours I have worked or the tears I have shed but it's worth it all now to see what God has provided me to work with and to hear the reports of Blessings received thru our outreach each week. The Physical things that have kept me going are like those that happened last week- A Widow gave of her meager earnings because she wanted to help spread the Word. A Blind man gave so that others could hear the Gospel on tape. And someone every week sends an anonymous gift that has carried us thru many a tight fit.

Let me know if I can Help YOU. If you're interested in a specific Bible Subject, Bible Study Booklet, or tape let me know. Our Goal continues to be to get people

**TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST**

# GRACE and GLORY

A Ministry of:  
GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725

Sunday School.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

Vol IV Num 16 June 11, 1986

"TO KNOW AND SHOW CHRIST"

## "Why is this Happening to Me???"

Rom 8:28 And we know that ALL THINGS work together for GOOD to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

As many of you know, a tremendous tragedy struck Paula and I on Monday night. Paula was assaulted and almost killed. We had just returned from seeing her heart doctor and visiting some of the church sick and I was working in the office while she prepared for Ladies Aux. meeting when suddenly our world was turned upside down. It is times like this that determine if your Faith and commitment are real or just words.

Rom 8:28 list 2 requirements for all things working together for good- 1) Love God (Paula and I both love God the very best we know how) and 2) called according to his purpose (We believe we are where God wants us to be; doing what God wants us to do; seeking in the things we do to bring Glory to God). If we meet those requirements then this horrible happening must ultimately produce good for us- and we believe it has and it will. Our opportunities for effective Christian witness have been tremendous this week. We have been able to show Christian love when many expected hate; we have been able to show confidence in God even when it seemed the "boat" would sink (Mk 4); and we have been able to point to God's care in the midst of terrible pain. We realize that the road to recovery has just begun but we are confidence about where the road is taking us and we trust in God's ability to give us the strength to continue to walk for Him.

There are several reasons God allows Bad things to happen to Good people:

1. TO SHOW US OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD. II Cor 12:7, 9b. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure...most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." It is only when we (Continued on back)

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learn that "when I am weak, then am I strong" (11 Cor 12:10) that we can ever be an effective worker that brings Glory to God and not to self. (We simply don't know how anyone could go thru such a situation without God's comfort and strength. We have received MANY many phone calls and cards since the incident and every one of them confirmed the fact that they were praying for us. Paula and I cannot express what that has meant to us. We have always leaned on God for strength but never like we have in the past week. It is God who has brought us this far and we know we must continue to lean on Him in the difficult days to come.)

2. TO SHAPE US INTO THE VESSEL WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE. The Sculptor hammers at the stone- not to harm it, but to make it into a thing of beauty. It was persecution that drove the early church from the "safety" of the "nest" at Jerusalem to spread the Gospel around the world (Acts 8:1). It is the file, and not the feather, that sharpens the ax!!

Heb 5:8 Though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.

Ps 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

(This incident has already had a tremendous impact on my part of our ministry and I know that the days ahead will show me changes that I haven't even imagined yet. There is RELOCATION- I'm in the process of moving my office from the Church to the Parsonage now so I can be with Paula. We will make the front room of the Parsonage into my office and "direct all traffic" thru me. There are RESTRICTIONS- If you see me, you will see Paula for awhile. I used to come and go as I pleased. Now I will have to plan events much more carefully. But this may be just the way that God wants to mold me into a more effective Pastor and husband- and that is what I want more than anything in the world.


And Paula and I both believe that God is going to use this to give her a ministry of comfort and care for many others. I have been amazed at her growth in strength and determination this week. Satan thought he would destroy her but instead God is using this to make her into a more dedicated and determined witness.)

3. TO SAVE US FROM OUR OWN CARELESSNESS Ps 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word.



Heb 12:10 But He (Chastened us) for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

(Paula and I both would like to believe that (like Job) "we were not in safety, neither had we rest, neither were we quiet; yet trouble came" (Job 3:26) because we were "busy" working for the Lord when this came upon us. Yet we know that it has caused both of us to examine our hearts and motives as never before. And we DO want to be exactly where we should be with God).

It's very hard to smile in the valley sometimes. But I do KNOW that ALL things work TOGETHER for GOOD to them that love the Lord... and I really love the Lord. Faith is the ability to trust in God's Love even when you don't know Why.

**THANKS**  
 **FOR YOUR** 

**PRAYER**

 **AND**   
**CONCERN**

**THE PEOPLE  
VERSUS  
MR. V GOOD CHRISTIAN"**

This play will be presented this Sunday (June 22) at 6:00pm in the Church. Directed by Mrs. Sylvia Gowdy and written by Rev. Robert Rose, this play takes the average "Christian" into "Court" where an "ALL-STAR" cast will seek enough evidence to convict him of being a Christian. Bring all your friends to this special event.

This is the first of our many Special Summer Events. We decided to have a number of special activities involving everyone possible this Summer instead of having a single week of Vacation Bible School. Because of last week's events I am behind in contacting people about their activity but I'll try to correct that this week. So far everyone I have contacted have readily accepted their responsibility and I REALLY appreciate that.

Our next event will be a "Patriotic Picnic" scheduled for Wednesday Night July 2. It will begin around 6:00pm and include outside and inside activities for everyone. Wyman and Karon Lowder and Todd and Cam Newell are in charge.

On tap for the weeks ahead are Concerts, slide presentations, puppet programs, etc.. We're looking for an exciting summer of growth in number and in the Lord.

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This ministry has received several gifts in the past few weeks and I will try to acknowledge them as soon as possible. Because of God's Pre-Provision, it is possible for me to move into the Parsonage and still continue reaching people thru notes, booklets, and tapes. All of you who have prayed and supported this work in the past have made this possible. Six months or a year ago if I would have been faced with these circumstances I would have had to seriously consider ending this part of the work. Now, I not only see it's need more than ever but hope to be able to use the equipment God has provided to continue or even increase in the days ahead.

If someone could have reached the man who assaulted my wife with the Gospel of Christ then she would have been spared. And there are multitudes of other people who still CAN be spared if we can just reach lost people with the life changing message of Christ. I want to use EVERY means possible EVERY time possible to try to reach people for Jesus--and I appreciate your prayers as I try to use the feeble ability God has given me to do what I can. (I realize that most have more talent or ability than I do but I don't believe they have any more desire to do something for God!!)

Many of the messages I am sending notes on today are also available on tape. Request any of them you would like.

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "True Worship" John 4:19-26

We live in a "religious" society today. Most people do not go to Church but they know about God and claim some "Religious" affiliation. Their beliefs are wide and varied ("Social" Christians who believe it's "well mannered" to make a show of morality- They are just as concerned with Seals as they are with souls. In their mind all of "mankind" are children of God and they are always ready to jump on any Popular Cause bandwagons. "Seekers" after wisdom who hop from guru to guru seeking a new method of controlling their flesh and arriving at perfection by meditation or application of some new technique. Science worshippers who believe that man can solve all of His problems (and the problems of the world) by increased knowledge and research.). These all seek "Peace and Love and the good of mankind"-- yet each is sure that their method is right and everyone else's is wrong.

Even among those that attend Church there are many widely held beliefs--that produce many different denominations and churches. Within these denominations (or even Churches) there are a number of differing beliefs (Is baptism necessary for salvation? When will the rapture take place (If at all!)? What is the roll of women? Should you Shout or be Silent to worship God? etc.). It is confusing to the average person and used by many to try to cover their unwillingness to deal with their sin. The Samaritan Woman in today's text was like this. As soon as Jesus exposed her sin she began to run the "rabbit trail" of different Religious beliefs. She hoped this would divert Jesus away from her sin (Just like Adam and Eve tried to hide from God when they sinned. Isn't it strange how men in the darkness of sin try to hide from the light instead of come to it??). Instead of being diverted Jesus used this as an opportunity to show her what True Worship is so she could stop making excuses and allow God to change her life. (This is a very pressing need in today's Church. Many make "Professions" of Faith but don't even make it back to the Evening service. They don't really know what Repentance is. Most people repent of the fact that THEY have "made a mistake" that God calls sin and they must ask God to forgive them. They repent of their ACTION but many never change their ATTITUDE (Godly sorrow worketh repentance. The Holy Spirit must convict a man before he is genuinely saved. Many are "Convinced" in their head but never "Converted" in their heart. Like the Pharisees, they are only interested in what OTHER PEOPLE think of them and not the fact that they have offended a Holy God.). They determine to be BETTER PEOPLE ; not SAVED SERVANTS!!!

Because of confusion over what God expects from you and what you can expect from God there are many "Samaritan women" in churches and communities today. Let's get some basic facts down and determine what "True Worship" is--so we can do it, and show others how to do it.

Worship: To fall down before; To show reverence to or awe of. Worship comes from the word "Worth-ship". It is actually an expression of the right to honor which man feels is due God. We should respect many things but reverence only God. To worship anything other than God is to worship nothing- for God is the only God! The Angels always stressed "Worship God"



There are several facts that we can gather from Jesus' words: 21-24

1. It is possible to worship without knowing who you worship. "Ye worship ye know not what"- Acts 17:23 "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." (Do YOU know who you came to worship today?? The Church?? The Pastor?? Because Family or Society pressures you??)

2. The place of Worship is not as important as WHO you worship "The hour cometh when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet in Jerusalem, worship the Father."

3. Some worship falsely- "The True Worshipers". These False Worshipers worship one of two false "gods":

A) Satan- Normally not as the "demon of darkness" but as the angel of light. He promises them Possessions (Jesus was promised the world to worship Satan. Luke 4:7-8) or Power (Eve in Garden-knowledge to equal God. The ability to discern between right and wrong. If YOU make the choices then YOU "make Policy". This means YOU believe YOU know better than God!!!!!! The heart of the message Christ proclaimed was DENY SELF and take up cross (die to self and accept God's will). (Translate this into the "Real World". If you have cancer don't you think God has made a mistake?? If you lose your job don't you think God has failed to see your needs?? If you have to suffer in any way don't you assume that YOU know better than God and God ought to do things YOUR way!!!!). Satan promises the ability to control or change these things by increased Mental power, or "Magic" formulas to success--which all boil down to the ability to manipulate God or control your own destiny as God. (The only supernatural powers a Christian is to exhibit are the "fruits of the Spirit". They are not given as men command God but as the Spirit decrees. I Cor 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will).

B) Self- Self as God: The sin of Satan becomes the sin of his followers (Is 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.)

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil.

Gen 3:22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

When Jesus began His work He had to face and overcome the same "human" temptations you and I face: He was tempted A) to satisfy Self (stone into bread: meet Body needs instead of Spirit needs.), B) to Prove God (Make God do your bidding- man becomes "God" and God becomes the servant as we expect our Faith to FORCE God to do what we want. Remember this, "God answers prayer on the basis of His sovereignty, wisdom, mercy, and grace, not because some "law" compels Him to act. He cannot be manipulated by man or angels through mental processes, spoken words, or any other device." and C) by pass the Cross (Worship Satan for world instead of deny self.). Man was created in the image of God (Gen 1:26). As the mirror reflects an image, so man is to REFLECT GOD. (What a difference this should make in the way a Christian thinks and acts and dresses. He's not seeking a way to "Win the world" with his own abilities--instead he's reflecting the world's only hope: Christ!!)

4. Who and How and Why we worship are very important: "The true worshipper shall worship"-

WHO- The Father: Men have forgotten the basic things about God-

1. "God is a SPIRIT; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (God's kingdom is not of this world. He is not interested in entertaining the flesh, He wants to redeem the Soul.).

2. God is JEALOUS- Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (I believe God is called Jealous more than He is called Love. Men emphasize the Love because it meets THEIR need.)

Ex 20:5 ...I the Lord thy God am a jealous God,...

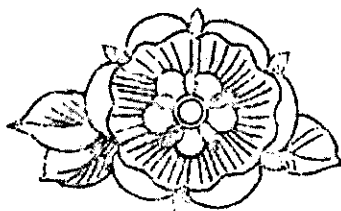
Ex 34:14 thou shalt worship no other gods: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Josh 24:19 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the Lord: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

HOW- "In Spirit and in Truth." God seeks people to worship Him Spiritually and Truthfully (without pretense: about ourselves or God). The act of worship is of little significance. The intent behind the act and the belief that fosters the intent is what God looks at. We think the song is worship, God looks for the adoration in it. Paul described this type Worship in Phil 3:3 "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." (Spiritual worship; Son honoring; self denying)

WHY- "The Father seeketh such to worship Him." That God should allow his creatures to have fellowship with Himself is wonderful enough, but that He desires it, that it brings to God satisfaction, is as far beyond human understanding as God's ways are above the ways of men.

When we stand before God and all our excuses fade as the morning fog, the question God will ask us is, "Who did you Worship?". Did you bow to Public Opinion and Personal Pleasures; or did you accept God's way of Salvation in Christ?? Remember this, we do not FIND Christ by obtaining Wisdom, donating Wealth, or forsaking the World. We INVITE Him into our heart by Faith as we are genuinely sorry that we have offended a Holy God. ONLY THEN are we able to truly Worship.



## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "The Source of Energy" Jn 4:31-38

Jesus had just won this wayward woman when the disciples returned from their "trip to Hardees" to get dinner. They marveled that Jesus would be seen talking with a Samaritan Woman in Public and they were slightly embarrassed. Finally one of them remembered about dinner and asked Jesus to eat. He told them that He did not need to eat because he had a source of energy that they didn't know about. They naturally assumed he was talking about Physical food and they questioned where he had obtained it. Jesus then shows them the source of His energy- and the source of ours as well.

"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" vs34

**GOALS ENERGIZE US- Do the WILL of him that sent me... (Purpose)**

People need to know WHERE they're going (Where there is no vision people perish) and WHAT they hope to accomplish. Without this vision they tend to wander off and lose heart.

They need a long range Goal and short range victories.

The goal must be obtainable and worthwhile (Something you're willing to work at and sacrifice for.).

Christ listed several things about His Purpose:

- A) The Spiritual more important than the Physical ("MY MEAT") (Remember the first Temptation He faced- rocks to bread).
- B) It meant Involvement ("DO") Participator- not Spectator
- C) It acknowledged God's Right to lead ("WILL")
- D) Responsibility means Accountability ("SENT")

**COMMITMENT SUSTAINS US- Finish his WORK. (Perseverance)**

A) Accept need of Dedication ("FINISH")

B) Recognize it as God's Work- ("HIS") Jn 6:29 This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

C) Accept the fact of Toil- ("WORK").. It's not a game we play but a life we live. It's not supposed to be "Easy" or "Fun".

How does this turn into a source of energy??? Purpose gives life meaning and gives us "Heart" to carry on. Commitment causes us to "Stick-to-it" when the road gets difficult and Purpose battles with Pleasure.

Jesus looked on the fields and saw them "white unto harvest" and found His "Food". The Disciples looked at the Samaritans and saw Problems instead of Potential.

A shoe salesman was sent to Africa to sell his shoes. After several weeks he returned in defeat saying no one wore shoes in Africa. Another man was sent in his place and immediately sent a telegram asking for more shoes to be sent because no one wore shoes!!! in Africa. One man saw a hopeless situation; the other an unlimited potential. How do YOU see our Church?? Our Community???

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "Familiar Faces" John 4:39-45

How easy it is for us to "Take for granted" those around us. (And how hurtfull!). "Familiarity breeds contempt" is an old saying that is too often true. We are always looking for something new and exciting to eat, drink, or do. This is good when it causes men to explore and find new worlds and new wonders (What if everyone still lived in the Middle East with it's deserts and nomadic life style?? What if you had to eat the same food every meal? Wear the same clothes every day?? How drab and dreary our lives would be.). But there is a bad side to this also. All too often we find ourselves ignoring someone or something because it is familiar (How often do you put something in a corner with the intent of doing something with it and then pass it by so often until you don't really see it?).

Today's lesson contains two examples of "Familiar Faces" that people ignored to their hurt.

#### 1. The Samaritan Woman 39-42

A) Some believed her report and requested Jesus to stay

B) Others believed because they heard the words of Christ. 41-42. What if Christ would have been too busy to stay??

What if the ones who believed hadn't persuaded Christ to stay?? Because of the fact that this woman was so familiar to these people they almost missed trusting in Christ as Saviour. I wonder how often WE miss hearing God's speak to us because He does it thru the common instead the miraculous. (Remember Elijah's "Still small voice"). George Washington Carver spent much of his life developing multitudes of products from the peanut because he always tried to look at it in new ways. Issac Newton discovered the force of gravity when an apple fell on him!

Most people would ignore 2 fish and 5 loaves but Jesus fed the multitude with them.

God asked Moses, "What do you have in your hand?" (Ex 4:2) and proceeded to change a stick into a snake!! and with that staff Moses parted an ocean and led a nation.

What do you have in YOUR hand?? Have you ignored the voice of God because it came thru the Familiar instead of the Famous??

#### 2. Christ at "Home" 43-45

Instead of producing Faith, Familiarity produced unbelief in Jesus' home town- Jesus "did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matt 13:58). He had to go to Jerusalem and "cause a stir" before the people who were familiar with him would take an interest. (Joseph was despised and ridiculed by his brothers at home but mightily used of God in Egypt.)

Do we miss the "miracles" because the person performing them is familiar? Is it possible that God could "Bless" you as much thru your Pastor as thru some great TV Evangelist?? Could He use your money HERE to accomplish as much good as some "Great" ministry would?

Have you missed a Blessing because it's Familiar???

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "A Father's Love" Jn 4:46-54

In this second miracle that John writes about we see a Father's love and a Saviour's ability. The 4 main "Characters" are:

#### I. The Sick Son. (The Lost Man)

His Condition- Sick, at the point of death. (A lost man is dead in Sin).

Unable to help himself- Father had to go for him. (Lost should seek help themselves but someone who loves them must bring them before God).

Saved with his father when God's power was seen. (The Philippian jailor was saved with whole house. Rahab's whole house was saved. God's power shown in a home will convict EVERY person in the home and convert many of them.

#### II. The Confirming Servants. (People and events that confirm our Faith.)

Anxious - met him. Unwilling to wait for his return because they knew how concerned the Master was. (Delay brings defeat many times. An "open door" can close while you delay)

Good News- "As cold water in summer so is good news to him that receiveth it" Thy son liveth (The same thing Jesus said).

Knowledgeable- Knew when the son was healed (seventh hour- 1pm). Shared the concern of the Father.

#### III. The Seeking Father. A Nobleman was a town "Councilman".

Looking for help- heard Jesus was come into his area.

Prayer- besought Jesus for son.

Would not be put off- come down ere my child die.

Willing to accept by Faith what could not be seen- The distance from Cana to Capernaum was less than 20 miles. Jesus gives the man the assurance he needs and the man goes off in Faith in the word of Jesus- Faith evidently so strong until he spent the night in Cana instead of returning to Capernaum immediately. Faith comes by Hearing and hearing by the Word of God

Believed Jesus' WORD then saw the WONDER. Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence on things not seen. (Every man who has made a mark for God has been this way- Abraham)

Told of his faith to His family- himself believed and his whole household (Servants and son!!!). With the heart man believes and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

#### IV. The Healing Saviour-

Accessible- Nobleman could present his need to Him.

Accurate- Told him his son was well and he was!!

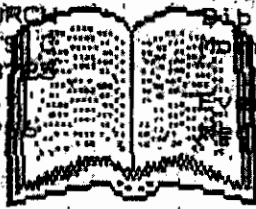
Able to handle the situation- no matter what it was.

Are you a Father with "Sick" children?? Have you brought their case to Jesus??

Are you willing to take God at His word today--and live by what He says regardless of what you can see???

# GRACE & GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C Morning Service.....11:00am  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725 Live over WJOT 1260 AM)  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Vol IV Num 17 June 27, 1975 Prayer Meet.....7:30pm



## PAULA'S PART

Dear Friends and Loved ones in Christ;

Words cannot express what your prayers, love, and concern have meant to me during this time of trouble. Only the Lord can adequately reward you for this.

I have felt your love and prayers surrounding me and my heart overflows with love for each of you. Many of you have called or sent cards and gifts, and I know there have been many that I don't even know about that have prayed for me. All of this has meant so much and I pray the Lord will bless each of you in a special way.

What I have been through has been a horrible experience, but I can only Praise the Lord because He has been so precious to me during this time. He's drawn me closer to Him and given me strength, and grace, and love, and the help I needed beyond measure.

Much of this help has come thru my Family. How does a person go through a tragedy like this without the Lord's strength and a Family's support. The Lord has used my wonderful Husband and family to be a source of healing for me. The way Mike has loved and cherished me and the way my family has surrounded me with love and care has been like a safe haven in a terrible storm. I thank the Lord every day for being Blessed with them.

Another source of strength and help has been our Church Family. They too have surrounded me with love and care. What a Blessing to be a part of such a wonderful Church. I'd like to express a very special thanks to them for their love and concern. I want the Lord to use me now to be a help and blessing to them.

I pray (and I want you to pray with me) that the Lord will fill my heart with love and forgiveness and that I'll honor and glorify HIS name in everything I do.

Paula Jones (Heb. 4:15-16)

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**SLIDE PRESENTATION-** This Sunday night (June 29) we will have a special Slide Presentation during our Evening Service. These are some slides Brother Buck Flowers had made up and will be very "entertaining" as well as instructive. Each person who attends Sunday night will receive a free gift of the booklet the slides were made from. Bring your friends to this Special Service- it might make a life changing difference!!

**PATRIOTIC PICNIC-** Wednesday July 2, we will celebrate our Nation's Birth with a special evening of games, Patriotism, and a "Fourth of July" meal. We will begin at 6:00pm with some outside games (3 legged race, water balloons, etc) and then come inside around 7pm for some more games; the Patriotic Rally (Poems, Pledges, Songs, etc.); and the special meal (Watermelon, boiled peanuts, hot dogs, hamburgers, etc.). We're inviting everyone to join us as we "stand up for America".

**NEW PROGRAMS-** Beginning this Sunday we will have some new programs here at the Church. Brother Buck has done such a good job with the "Mini-sermon" at the beginning of Sunday School until we decided to let more people get involved in this work. We now have a rotating list that includes individual Presentations, Puppet Presentations, and each of the Sunday School classes presenting a program. It will give many more people a chance to present the message of Christ.

Also this week, we will begin a program of "Church Greeters". Each family in the Church has been assigned a week and will be responsible to arrive early, greet each person as they arrive, and distribute the bulletin. They will also make sure visitors have a visitor card and an adequate place to sit. We want to not only be the best church in town but also the friendliest!!

**GOLD STARS** to Buck Flowers for scattering the dirt behind the church, to Sully Sullivan for burning off our ditch bank, to Marion Coker, Arnold Lowder, and Russel Lowder for helping me move my desk and filing cabinets from the Church to the Parsonage, and to Marjorie and Darin for hoeing around the Church shrubbery. (Also to the Ladies for preparing supper for Paula and I. You've been so good to us and you'll never know how much it's meant to us.)

I need to give a SPECIAL "Gold Star" to the Church for their understanding during the past few weeks. My ability to visit has been almost "nil" and I appreciate the way everyone has understood this. Paula is doing very well but she still doesn't feel up to being left by herself. We hope we're through with most of the doctors now and will be able to visit together soon. Thank you for your continued Prayer and understanding.

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During June this ministry received gifts from Mississippi, Florida, and all over South Carolina. These gifts allowed us to distribute many tapes, tracts, and booklets in addition to the newsletter. Thank you for your help. Lives are being touched for Christ and I thank God for that.

## GRACE AND GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 18 July 11, 1986

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
Live over WJOT Radio 1260  
Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

He maketh no Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn,  
My heart may throb and ache,  
But in my soul I'm glad I know  
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,  
My hopes may fade away,  
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead,  
For He doth know the way.

Though night be dark and it may seem  
That day will never break,  
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,  
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,  
My eyesight's far too dim;  
But come what may, I'll surely trust  
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift  
And plain it all He'll make;  
Through all the way, though dark to me,  
He make not one mistake.

-A M Overton.

Psalm 119:75 "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me." During the past few weeks the underlying question that many people have asked us is, "Why didn't the Lord love you enough to prevent this trial?". Our answer to them has been, "WHY DID THE LORD LOVE US ENOUGH TO ALLOW US TO GO THROUGH THIS TRIAL?". David said it was "Faithfulness" on the part of God to allow him to be afflicted. This means it would be wrong for it not to happen!! Because it has been extremely difficult and very painful does not lessen its value nor its need. In fact, we, like David, can now say (119:71) "It is good for me that I have been afflicted;" because we grown in our relationship with the Lord, with each other, and with the Church. I'm glad the Lord makes NO mistakes!!!

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GALATIANS BOOKLET- Our Sunday School lessons will be from the book of Galatians beginning July 20. I have a 21 page booklet on Galatians that is available to help you in this study. Most of my preaching is chapter by chapter on the books of the Bible and this booklet is the notes I used in our study of Galatians. It is absolutely FREE (as all our materials are) and should be a help to you in teaching or studying this book. These booklets will be available at the church or I will mail them to you upon request. The booklets do no one any good sitting on the shelf so take advantage of this offer.

CHURCH CONFERENCE- During regular Church Conference, Wednesday night, the Church decided to re-carpet the Parsonage (Most of the carpet is worn out and some was damaged by the fingerprint powder.). We also plan to put a shower in the Master Bath if possible (We only have one shower right now). Total cost of all this should be around \$4000 - \$5000 and that means we're taking a step of faith to expect the Lord to supply the need.

But we've already seen what a step of Faith can mean. In Oct. of 1985 the Church had \$38 in the bank and every bill had to be evaluated so that we could be sure we could pay it. The Church decided to begin tithing it's income in spite of this (1/2 to Foreign Missions, 1/4 to Children's Home, and 1/4 to Promotional Office). Wednesday night we had \$900 in the bank and had payed over \$2300 in tithes since Oct.!!!! I believe God's Plan will work and I believe He honors those who follow HIS Plan.

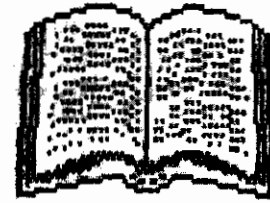
TAPES- We have several people taking advantage of our free tape of the Sunday Morning Service here at Grace. I generally try to put 2 Services on each tape (1 on each side) so they are mailed every other week. If you would like to become part of our "tape family" simply get me your name and address and we'll let you share in some of the Blessings we've been having lately.

I've also been giving away a number of TRACTS thru this ministry lately and the Lord has really used them. If you would like to have some tracts for distribution check the tract rack at the Church or write and ask for some. We're determined to use every method possible to tell people about the Love of God and the Salvation found in Jesus and you can help by using the material we make available to you.

We've had a number of VISITORS in the Church lately and I thank God for each of them (It's almost like God has said He would visit for me since I couldn't!!!). So far this summer our attendance has held up very good in spite of vacations. Let's keep up the good work and enter the fall on our way to the largest attendance we've ever had.

I appreciate the Interest and Involvement I've seen in the Church recently. Many more people are taking an active part in working around the Church and for the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord is really moving in people's lives and hearts. I see it in increased activities for the Youth, in increased interest in the appearance of the Church, and in the fellowship I'm observing among people before and after Church. The Lord has great things in store for our Church and I can hardly wait to see what's next.

# GRACE & GLORY



GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 19 July 16, 1986

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
Live over WJGT 1260 AM)  
Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

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**PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY-** The Pastor was greatly surprised Sunday morning when the Church presented a Pastor Appreciation Program. It began with a huge banner proclaiming that the Church appreciated the pastor. Then the Pastor's mother (from Crow Corner), best friend (from Woodinville, Washington), Wife, and several Church members gave short talks about what they had learned of the Lord from the Pastor. A beautifully carved wood covered book containing pictures and letters from the Pastor's early ministry was then presented to the Pastor (The wood carving on the front of this "memory book" was of the Tobacco packhouse where the Pastor preached his first sermon.). Several special songs were rendered by various members and then the Pastor was presented with a Love Offering of \$1081!!!!!! (Yes, that's ONE THOUSAND. It took the Pastor several minutes to realize it was not one Hundred eight dollars.). All of the Pastor's family were invited guest and many of his wife's family attended also. A wonderful fellowship meal capped off the morning's activities. It was a BIG day and one that the Pastor will never forget.

(Paula and I cannot find words to express our appreciation to the Church for this Special Day. The outpouring of Love from this Church as well as the letters from former Churches meant more to us than we can say. The Love offering will help us with the Doctor bills we have accumulated and also enable us to take the "dream trip" we've always wanted to take. We plan to take a week or so off in early August and "just plain loaf!!!!".

**THANKS** to everyone who planned and took part in this special day.).

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## HEBREWS: Unfailing Faith

### "Boldness in Prayer" 4:12-16

One of the greatest untapped resources in the world today is the Prayers of God's People. Many do not pray at all and others pray with little or no expectation of receiving an answer. We need to see Prayer as God does and exercise ourselves in it's practice

The writer of Hebrews list 3 important things about Prayer:

**I. THE PERCEPTION-** vs 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. "Pierced" by the Word (vs 12) we see ourselves as God see us. We can drop the pretense and see our need of Repentance.

Notice in Dan. 9:3-11 how Daniel begins his great prayer by acknowledging sin. Most people today are so busy asking God for things until they disregard their unworthiness to come into the presence of a Holy God.

**II. THE PRIEST-** vs 15 Our unworthiness means we must have some means of access unto God. We need someone to "plead our case" for us; someone with ability and authority.

Jesus is the Heavenly High Priest we need because:

1. He was tempted like as we are, yet without sin 4:15 (4:15 Amp Bible For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a fellow feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning.)

2. He understands the infirmities of the flesh 5:2

3. He was chosen by God to do this 5:4-6

4. He has gone through the discipline of suffering 5:8

Jesus can stand at the right hand of the Father and Plead our case as no one else can.

**III. THE PRAYER-** vs 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Who- let US (Elijah was a man of like passions)

How- Come BOLDLY (fearlessly and confidently)

Where- unto the THRONE OF GRACE (Unmerited Favor)

Why- that we may OBTAIN MERCY (for our failures), and FIND GRACE TO HELP (in our battles)

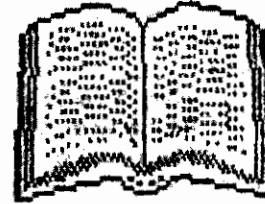
When- in time of NEED (Seasonal Help, Appropriate Help)

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AS GOD SEES YOU??? Is Repentance a part of your Prayer??

DO YOU COME TO GOD IN YOUR OWN ABILITY AND WITH YOUR OWN "AUTHORITY"??? Or do you realize that every Prayer must be made in the "name of Jesus"???

DO YOU PRAY?? DO YOU PRAY BOLDLY??? DO YOU OBTAIN HELP???????

# GRACE & GLORY



GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 20 July 31, 1986

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
Live over WJDT 1260 AM)  
Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

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WHAT A DIFFERENCE A WEEK MAKES. Last week this time we had just begun the work on the Parsonage and now most of the main work is done. The Shower is installed, the Carpet has been put down, much of the parsonage has been repainted, new lights have been hung, a new walk has been laid to the front door, and the Preacher is about to die of exhaustion!!! (It'll take me a week of my week of vacation just to rest enough to enjoy my vacation!!!). Thank God for His goodness in allowing us to do most of this work before we take our vacation. We'll be coming back to an almost new house on the inside and I know it will make a difference to Paula and I. We have tried to do as much of the work ourselves as we could in order to save as much as possible and it's been 10 and 11pm every night before we stopped work but the results are well worth the work.

We plan to leave for vacation Monday, Aug 4. Brother Norwood Gibson will be the special speaker here at Grace on Sunday, Aug 10. We plan to go "til the money runs out" and then head home. We hope that will be a week (depending on how much my wife eats!!!). The Deacons will have a number that they can contact us if needed.

We hope to come back rested and ready for an exciting Fall schedule. Bethel Bible Institute Classes will begin here at Grace in early September and we plan to double our Sunday School this fall so there will be much work to do and a job for everyone.

God is closing one door of outreach for us (Hymntime and Morning Devotions end Aug. 1) but I know there will be another available if we'll just look for it. Even in the midst of all the work going on around here lately I have still managed to give away numerous tapes and Bible Study booklets. Continue to Pray for God's Direction and Provision.

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## "The Man God is Seeking"

The Marines have a slogan- "We're looking for a few good men tough enough to be a Marine". God too is looking for a few good men with the determination to be MEN OF GOD.

LOST MEN: Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. God is looking for men who are willing to admit their need and their inability to save themselves. Jesus came from Heaven to find the lost sheep wandering in the wilderness of sin and bring him to the green pastures at the Father's house. (Isn't it strange that God seeks us instead of us seeking God? Rom 3:11 "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God". Aren't you glad God came looking for You!!)

OBEDIENT MEN- I Sam 13:13-14 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou has not kept that which the Lord commanded thee. The Beginning of Saul's Kingdom was the "beginning of the end" for Saul's Kingdom. In the first test Saul had he became impatient and disobeyed God by offering sacrifice instead of waiting on Samuel. The circumstances looked bad (Saul's army was disappearing while the enemy was growing stronger and Samuel was later than he said he would be) but God was looking for a man of Faith that would trust Him regardless of the circumstances.

Are YOU willing to be an obedient servant of God today?? Are you willing to obey God in the Good and the Bad?? God is looking for some men like Joseph who will obey His commandments in spite of Temptation and like Daniel who will obey His commandments in spite of personal Danger.

DEDICATED MEN- Ez 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord. Is there not a man that sees the multitudes going to a Devil's Hell without God and without hope? Is there not a man who will sacrifice his Profit and his Person in order to "make up the gap". God is still calling Fishermen and Tax Collectors today to leave everything and take up their cross and follow Him.

WORSHIPFUL MEN- John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. God is not simply interested in what you can DO--He wants your Love and Adoration. God is looking for men who's desire is to fellowship with Him through the Word and in the Spirit.

Can you think of a greater cause to dedicate your life to than that of Serving God??? God is seeking volunteers today. Will you join His Army??

"The TRUTH(?)"-- When Church time came during our vacation we were in a place where we were not near a Free Will Baptist Church so we rode around trying to find one. We passed several "off brand" and liberal Churches until we finally came to a Baptist Church shortly before 10am. To our dismay, these "back-slidden Baptist" did not have Sunday School!! So we drove some more and found a small Presbyterian Church that was beginning services. Once we arrived inside the church we found that they were not having Sunday School either(!); they simply started preaching(?) services at 10am during the Summer. The people were dressed VERY informal but we decided to make the best of things. The organ music was good, and the singing was okay-- and then came the "message". Parts of it were alright but when the "preacher" said everyone was going to Heaven regardless of what they believed because "God is Love" I had all I could stomach. Luckily that was the end of the "message" so they sang another song (no invitation-- who needed it if you're going to Heaven anyway!!!).

Sometimes I believe the greatest Mission field in the world is in our Churches!! Someone needs desperately to get the message to these people that Hell is real and Salvation is necessary. I believe in our Church and the need of ministries like this one now more than ever. Someone has got to get the word to these people before it's too late.

Lord, Thank you for Bible Believing, Bible Teaching people who plainly showed me from the Word of God my sin and the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Help me to never "tickie men's ears" but instead clearly proclaim the Gospel. Help our church to reach multitudes.

## GRACE AND GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 21 August 17, 1986

Vacation was great but it sure is nice to be back home!! Paula and I had a very enjoyable time but we both were ready to get back to our "new" home and the work here-- and our home-coming was made doubly happy when we returned to find posters and balloons welcoming us home as well as supper waiting in the refrigerator!!! It sure is great to have members who are so considerate and thoughtful.

Everywhere we went on our vacation we found LARGE crowds of people; many of whom needed to know Christ as Saviour. I saw the need of our Church and this ministry reaching out with the Gospel more than ever on this trip. Many people seem to only have a "form" of Christianity; and many others don't seem to have anything at all!! May God help us to reach further and do better than we ever have.

It's so very good to have a friendly Fundamental Church to attend and I appreciate everyone who continued the work during our absence.

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## VACATION VISIONS

"The TREES"- Starkly it stood, spinely branches thrust skyward. Majestic in it's size, yet heart breaking in it's meaning. Between Lancaster and Rock Hill a huge oak tree stood beside the highway, dying but not yet fallen. What caused it's death? Was it a bolt of lightening that suddenly and dramatically ended it growth and greenery? Was it a tiny bug boring deep into the heart of the tree trunk? Was it simply age? Whatever the reason the results were plain for all to see-- no leaves, no fruit, and no hope. Soon a stray gust of wind would break the weakened trunk's resistance and it would come crashing to the ground.

Along the walls of the flower gardens of Biltmore House there stands a number of odd shaped fruit trees. A gardener has carefully pruned the limbs and disciplined the branches by tying them to wires until the tree is very "thin" along the wall of the garden. These trees produce shade for the wall, beauty for the garden, and they were loaded with fruit.

Lord, Help me to remember that I am the branch and you are the vine. Away from you I will swivel and die. Help me to remember that it matters not how big I am if I have no function or fruit. Keep me ever mindful of your love as you prune me and train me to be what YOU want me to be.



but they'd manufacture it with diesel engines for their cows. It was wrong to cut flowers and bring them into the house because they didn't serve a useful purpose yet their yards were full of them because they were so pretty. (Once you start living under the rules of the Law you keep backing yourself into corners, don't you?).

Mount Vernon: Washington's Plantation home was very plain compared to Monticello (Thomas Jefferson's Home) and like a sharecropper's home compared to Biltmore house! It make me feel pretty good to know that our first president was a plain sort of fellow (as Plantation owners go!!). I enjoyed the home and the tour of the grounds but the thing that struck me was that George Washington died of a "sore throat". Death comes to the great and the good and from many different directions.

Lord, keep me ever aware of your control in life's situations. Help me never to doubt your ability to determine events; and help me never to fail to heed your leadership. Deliver me from captivity to Tradition and man pleasing forms so that I can worship you always in Spirit and Truth. Keep me ever aware of the fact of death; and keep me ever ready to meet it.



"The THOUGH! Provoking"-  
Gettysburg Battlefield: You begin your tour by sitting above a huge map while a narrator leads you thru the events of the Battle using colored lights. Then you follow a trail where you actually see the places you heard described (There are more monuments per square foot in Gettysburg than anywhere else in the world!). Over and over in the narration you hear the wonder in the voice of the narrator at why someone as brilliant as General Robert E Lee would make the obvious mistakes he made. At this turning point in the Civil War I could see God's control of this world's situations with amazing clarity. I could almost feel Him looking down on the battle field that day and leading General Lee to make the decision he made. Truly, "The powers that be are ordained of God"!

Amish Village, Pennsylvania: We toured a working farm where the Amish people were still operating the farm but allowing tours of portions of it. It was old and quaint and interesting but somehow very sad. Most of the distinctives of these people are not based on Religious principles but on past Persecution (No lapels on coats, no buttons showing on clothes, no mustaches; all because these things reminded them of the Germans who persecuted them in the past. I wonder how much of OUR services are Traditions instead of Truth???)

They also showed me the greatest physical example I have ever seen of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel". They wouldn't use gas if it was piped into their farm but they used it all the time in tanks. They wouldn't allow electricity in their homes

"The TRAIL"- Dwarfed by the hugeness of the trees, overwhelmed by the majesty of the mountain, I stood beside the rushing stream and thought of those who'd come before me. The sign had warned us in capital letters "UNIMPROVED ROAD next 8 miles". Having become accustomed to the ease of modern driving, we thought this meant there would be some bumps in the road every now and then; instead we found narrow ruts that wound almost straight up along the edge of the mountain and then plunged straight down again. Nowhere could we see over 100 feet in front or back without a curve blocking the way, while the mountain was almost close enough to touch on one side of the road and a wall of greenery hid the sharp drop off on the other side.

We had stopped beside a stream (No bridges, you had to "ford" each stream) to allow the car to cool some before tackling the next mountain when I began to consider the courage the early pilgrims must have had. I knew how far I had to go, I was driving a car stocked with food and clothes, and I knew that eventually someone else would come along if I broke down-- yet I admit I was a little scared. What courage those early men must have had to climb to the top of a mountain, see nothing but mountains ahead, and still keep going. The mountains are so huge and intimidating. How did they rest each night when the oppression of the darkness added to their feeling of insignificance? How did they find the courage to cross each stream when their instincts kept yelling, "Turn back, Turn back"??

Lord, Give me the courage to follow you down any path, under any circumstances, trusting in your love and wisdom.



"The TOURIST" - My wife and I have always considered the Smoky Mountains "Our Place". We'd plan trips that would drive us 200 miles out of the way just to be able to drive thru the mountains. Sitting atop a mountain overlook listening to the almost "holy hush" of quietness; looking out on the constantly changing clouds and shadows, we could almost "drink" in calmness of soul. If we knew we were going to be in the Mountains we would save our devotion time until we could sit on a mountain rock and marvel at the greatness of God's work as we worshipped Him together.

This time was different. The "tourist" have finally "found" the mountains. That is, someone has told them that the mountains are a great place to find that something they're desperately looking for. So they drive thru; throw out all their trash; blow their horns; play their loud music, and yell at each other; and decide to go back down to the "tourist traps" where the action is. This year we had to sit in our car to have our devotions as cars and crowds pressed in on us. When we decided to take one of the "Quiet Trails" into the forest we found ourselves stumbling over trash and refuge as we "admired" the artistry of tourist on trees and rocks.

Lord, Help me never to take your gifts for granted. May I never abuse what you've given me. May I never simply use things without realizing the source they came from.

Help me to be considerate of others; and increase my concern for a world that is "starving" to death for the bread of life and water of life, while eating the "husk of the hog pen" and drinking "saltwater" that increases their thirst instead of quenching it.

# "The TOWNS" -

Hagerstown, Maryland: The most consistently neat town I have ever seen; House after house, block after block. We drove from one side of town to the other and everywhere we looked the houses were neatly painted and the lawns well cared for.

Philadelphia, Penn.: The most consistently awful town I have ever seen; House after house, block after block. It looked like the worst kind of slum from one end of town to the other. It had the worst directions on it's signs I have ever seen (We spent nearly 3 hours (!) trying to find a hotel and finally ended up getting back on the Freeway and staying in New Jersey. Over and over you would follow the directions given on signs to end up in dead ends or opposite from the way you wanted to go. (I would have thought I was just having a bad day reading directions if it were not for the number of other cars I saw end up just like me)). And to make matters even worst, when we finally got to "Independence Square" we found that you could see all there was to see in 1 to 2 hours (The Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and Betsy Ross's home). Take my advice, avoid Philadelphia like the plague!!!

Williamsburg, Virginia: A "Tourist Town" living off the past. Mile after mile of motels and restaurants so you could walk thru a recreated colonial town. A VERY expensive place to visit where many of the exhibits tell you how to do something the hard way instead of the way we do it today.

Lord, Help me to be aware of the impression I give people. May they consistently see Christ in me. Help me to give correct directions so people will know where I'm trying to lead them. Help me to never start living in the past as if it were the present

# GRACE & GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
Pastor Mircheal Jones

394-3725

Vol IV Num 22 August 27, 1986

TO KNOW AND SHOW CHRIST

WHAT A GREAT JOY IT IS TO BE A CHILD OF GOD! Hope for the Future, Help for the Present, and forgiveness for the past! No wonder my heart wants to burst forth in song sometimes (But my head knows how my mouth sounds so I just silently sing!!!!). I hope this Joy of Christian Living can become real to everyone. So many people are hurting and need help but they don't seem to lean on Jesus as they should and can. That's part of the reason for one of the articles in today's letter. I wrote "Dealing with Disaster" several months ago but I didn't know if I should publish it or not. This week I have talked with Numerous people who have problems that are almost overwhelming them and the Lord kept leading me back to this article: I want so very much for people to learn that Christianity is not a Lesson you learn in Church but a Life you live every day (and many Christians don't seem to believe or practice that). Many people seem to come to Church and learn about God and the Bible but they don't think it applies to THEIR situation. If the Biblical Guidelines don't work in real life then we need to stop "playing" with them; if they do work (AND THEY DO) then it's time we started applying them to life's situations.

We have to realize though that the Bible not only gives us Principles to live by but also shows us how to have Power to live these Principles. This is the Power of the Holy Spirit (which most people either stay away from altogether or else try to turn into some personal "plaything" to satisfy their fleshly cravings for excitement). That's the reason we are going to spend 5 or 6 weeks dealing with the MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT in our Adult Sunday School class beginning this Sunday (We did not order any literature for our Adult Class. I will give out "hand-outs" each week to study for the next week's class. After we finish dealing with the work of the Holy Spirit we will study some of the practical problems that hinder the average Christian. These are not going to be just "Lecture Lessons". The class members are going to be asked to participate and prepare. I want this quarter of Sunday School to be a time of real spiritual growth in people's lives.).

I want every member of our Sunday School to try to be here every Sunday, if possible, and I hope we can invite many more to join us. When we invite you to Sunday School now it won't be just to have a larger number on the Board. We really believe that something is going on in our Sunday School that YOU ought to be a part of. (This Sunday we will conclude our study in Galatians by looking at some of the Practical results of being Spirit filled. The morning message will be on how have "Rivers of Living Water" flowing from your life and the Evening message will be on the "Basis of Confidence".)

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SUPER SEPTEMBER- School's begun, vacations are over, and we've got lots of things to do for the Lord.

Sept 2 Roxanna Young Birthday

Sept 6 Arnold Lowder Birthday

Sept 7 Adult Classes begin Holy Spirit Study (10am)

OPEN HOUSE Parsonage (after evening service).

Sept 8 Ladies Aux. Meet (7:30pm Church)

Sept 9 BETHEL BIBLE INSTITUTE begins (7pm -9pm each Tuesday until Dec. 9). See notice in newsletter for more information. We're expecting a great Institute.

Sept 14 Ila Lowder Birthday

Mitchell Lowder Birthday

HOME COMING/OLD-FASHION DAY. All our friends and loved ones are invited to help us celebrate God's Blessings on us in the past year. We're going to Dress old fashion, sing old fashion, preach old fashion, eat old fashion and expect God to make some "new creatures" in Christ.

Sept 16 Elise McBride Birthday

Calvin Spring Birthday

Sept 17 Johanna Lowder Birthday

Sept 21 David Gowdy Birthday

[I know that I am probably missing some Birthdays and Anniversaries in the Church but I am listing all I have on my list. PLEASE contact me if I miss yours and I will update it next year.]

Also time to begin PRAYING for our REVIVAL October 6-10 with Rev. Ronnie Jones (Pastor of Black River FWB Church, Andrews) as Evangelist. (If everyone in the Church would spend 5 minutes a day in September Praying for Revival and 10 minutes a day witnessing for the Lord we'd have the best Revival we've ever had).

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The contributions for this outreach ministry have held up well during the summer. I have been able to purchase the material I needed, mail as many newsletters as I had time to prepare, distribute many tracts, and give away nearly 100 tapes. I appreciate everyone who has given so that this work could go forward. Every week I receive calls or comments from people about the various parts of this work and the Blessing it has been to them. Thank God for allowing me to do it-- and THANK YOU for helping.

I am in the process of evaluating new programs and helps for the newsletter right now and I hope to improve it's content and appearance in the near future. I want to have something that lost people Luke warm Christians will read so that God can use it to convict their hearts and get them to see the need of making Christ Saviour of their souls and King of their lives. I believe the Lord will return soon and it is VERY important that people get right and live right NOW.

By the way, We did not broadcast our Morning service Sunday because someone at the Radio Station had forgotten to turn on a switch. Maybe you forgot to PRAY as you should!!!

## "Dealing with Disaster"

It all began like any other Monday- Busy!. I had done my Hymntime program, worked on the Newsletter, and then had to take my wife to the Doctor (She had been battling a slight heart problem all spring). We visited one of the ladies in our Church that was sick on the way home so it was almost 5:30 when I was able to return to the office. While the Doctor was looking at my wife he had found some moles that needed to be removed so he had scheduled surgery on them the next day. This meant that I would have to spend another afternoon away from the office so I was trying to do as much as I could. My wife had Ladies Aux. Meeting and she was working on a new Hostess list at the house.

Around 6pm my wife called and told me someone was coming over to the office (My office was in the fellowship building beside the Church) for some information. (It was standard policy with Paula and I that she send anyone who came to the house over to the office where I could handle them). A young black man came in and asked if I knew a certain person that had promised him a job. I didn't but I spent around 10 minutes looking in the local and Florence phone books trying to locate him. I was unable to locate the name and the young man left. He was very polite and I didn't think anything amiss because we have people coming by the church all the time wanting help or information. We always try to help the best we can.

I returned to work knowing that it would not be long before the Ladies would begin arriving for Ladies Auxiliary meeting and wanting to accomplish as much as possible before they arrived. Unknown to me this man had returned to the parsonage where Paula, assuming I had sent him, opened the door to him. He said he wanted some water so she made him stand at the door while she got it. When she brought it to him he attacked her, molested her, came within a "heartbeat" of killing her, and robbed the money she had.

One of the ladies came in about that time to prepare for Ladies Auxiliary and asked me to make the coffee for her. I was filling up the coffee pot in the Fellowship building when I looked out and saw this young man run by. I knew something was wrong but before I could leave the phone rang and it was my wife calling for help. I immediately came to her and the lady that was at the fellowship building came with me. This allowed her to stay with Paula while I called the police. Soon we were in an ambulance headed for the hospital. Some of the wonderful members of the Church stayed and took care of things at the Parsonage while some of the Ladies came to the Hospital (where their presence proved of tremendous comfort to me).

The next several days were somewhat of a "blur" as I tried to spend every minute I could with Paula, help police apprehend this man (Mug shots, sketches, reports), and allow the hurt in my heart to heal. There is simply no way to describe the terrible pain this brings to your heart as you try to cope--- and there is no way to describe the Tremendous Peace that came from God's Presence during those days. The prayers and concern of our friends and family meant more to us than we will ever be able to express in this life.

Paula has recovered physically, had coped remarkably well mentally, and has grown greatly spiritually. She still does not want to be left alone but we believe that she will cope with that more and more in the coming days (Besides, I have no desire to leave her alone any more than I absolutely have to myself.). We are learning to cope with unfounded and false rumors and we hope that after the trial most people will find something else to be curious about.

There are three main things you have to deal with after a terrible tragedy like Paula and I went through- FEAR, FRUSTRATION, and FAITH. FEAR of another attack (The rapist lived within a half mile of our home. His "Helper" [The home he ran to] lives within 200 yards of our home right now!), fear of disease, fear of pregnancy (We are that "fraction" of Fundamentalists that believe that Abortion is wrong PERIOD. That preaches much much easier than it lives!!!), and fear of fear (We can allow ourselves to become "prisoners" in our own home).

Then there is the FRUSTRATION: (1) Over people's lack of understanding (My wife is one of the most pure and modest Christian ladies I have ever met. She did everything in her power to prevent this; yet everyone [who know nothing about the facts] seems to know how she could have avoided it); (2) Over the law's unwillingness to deal with this (The "sentence" for rape is life, for kidnap [he dragged her from one room to another to rob her money] is life, and 10 years for robbery [This is his second offense] but that will probably translate to less than 10 years of real time in jail before he is paroled), and (3) Over the fact that we are having to pay hospital, doctor, and medicine bills for something he did while he is coddled in a jail cell being pampered with our tax dollars.

Finally there is FAITH. (1) Faith to believe that ALL things do indeed work together for GOOD to them that love the Lord (Rom 8:28). We expect God to use this to bring Glory to Himself--otherwise it would be almost impossible to stand the heartache. (2) Faith to allow God to handle the punishment according to Rom 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Sometimes when I think of what he did I feel like someone kicked me in the stomach. I want to "kill his dog and poison his cats" but then I remember who I belong to and who vengeance belongs to.). (3) And Faith to approach the future with an absolute dependence on God for Strength and Direction.

In times like this, the "rubber meets the road" as far as your Christianity is concerned. And if your Faith and Commitment can't stand a trial like this then you need to reexamine it. I believe in God's Love for me even more today than I did before this happened. I'm determined to serve Him more now than ever. I don't understand all the "whys" but I do trust God and will continue to do so.

Your Tragedy may be different from ours (a Child problem, a Mate problem, sickness, etc.) but I want you to know today that you can lean on God for Strength and Help. Christianity is not just a Church you go to; it's a life you live. It can stand the hard times; and it can help YOU stand the hard times. Lean on the Lord today. Live for Him with all your being and you will find real life--even in the midst of disaster.



## Bible Institute

ARE YOU CONCERNED WITH LEARNING WHAT THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT???  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO UNDERSTAND THE OVER-ALL PLAN OF THE BIBLE???  
THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY-----

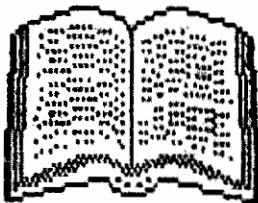
WHAT: "Bible Doctrine" 7:00pm-7:45pm Rev Joe McKnight will give a detailed description of the major doctrines of the Bible.  
"Bible Survey" 8:15pm-9:00pm Rev Mike Jones will cover methods of Bible Study as you survey every book in the Bible. We will over-view the entire Bible and then find the central message of each Book of the Bible.

A Devotion/Fellowship time will occupy the half-hour break between these classes. This will give time for Inspiration as well as allow time to discuss questions about the lessons.

WHEN: Each TUESDAY night from Sept. 9- Dec. 9 7:00pm until 9:00pm

COST: \$25 per student (This covers ALL costs for BOTH courses including weekly hand-outs in each class.)

WHERE: The Classes will meet each week in the Fellowship Building of:



GRACE  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH



346 Lawrence St.

Lake City, S C

For More Information Contact:

Rev. Mike Jones 394-3725

Rev Joe McKnight 493-5066

REGISTRATION APPLICATION  
Bethel Bible Institute  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C 29560

PLEASE PRINT:

1. Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

3. Church Background:

A) Church now attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor of Church \_\_\_\_\_

B) Offices held or presently holding in Church \_\_\_\_\_

C) Are you a Minister? \_\_\_\_\_ Ordained(Date) \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

D) Are you planning to enter full time Christian Ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what field? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Present Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Will this conflict with class schedule? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

5. School Background:

Grade completed \_\_\_\_\_ College: # of Years attended \_\_\_\_\_

6. Briefly give your Testimony: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why do you desire to attend Bethel Bible Institute? \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The cost is \$25 per semester per student. This covers tuition and materials for both classes. This is due on Opening night

Bible Doctrines	Rev. Joe McKnight	7:00pm - 7:45pm	(493-5066)
Devotion/Break time		7:45pm - 8:15pm	
Bible Survey	Rev. Mike Jones	8:15pm - 9:00pm	(394-3725)

Classes meet at GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH (348 Lawrence St. in Lake City) Tuesday nights; Sept. 9 - Dec. 9

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### "Doubting Thomas"

Jn 20:24-29

One of the most infamous titles a man ever "earned" is the one given to Thomas because of this incident. From this moment on anyone who shows doubts or misgivings about anything is immediately called a "Doubting Thomas".

Many times in life we also are faced with a "trial" that effects the way we look at ourselves and the way others look at us. Let's see what caused Thomas to fail and then examine some ways WE might "fail" Life's tests.

We cannot doubt Thomas' courage- When Lazarus was sick the disciples urged Jesus not to go to him because they were afraid he would be stoned by the Jews (Jn 11:7-8). When He told the Disciples He was going anyway Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16). Doubt will many times lead to loss of courage but it is not caused by being a "coward". Thomas was willing to fight "stones" he could see but was unwilling to believe a Saviour he couldn't see. Faith is not a matter of "Manliness" or strength- It is not the ability to face some seeable danger; it is being willing to walk into the dark with confidence in God's Power and Protection. Many people blame their stamina or strength on their failure in faith but you'll have to look somewhere else.

We cannot doubt Thomas' desire to understand- Jn 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"...yet this very desire may have led to his downfall. If Thomas could not understand something he seemed to have difficulty accepting it. Faith is the ability to trust God "Not knowing where you're going" (Heb 11:8). When you become completely confident in God's Love you know He will never lead you wrong so you don't have to understand everything He says. So you can't blame your lack of education for your failure in Faith.

What brought about Thomas' doubts then??

1) Absence from fellowship with God's people- Jn 20:24 Thomas...was not with them when Jesus came! We need the Spiritual Food and Fellowship found in God's House. When we begin to miss we become weak and open ourselves for Satan's attack. Faith come by Hearing the Word of God; that's why regular church attendance is vital to build your Faith.

2) Dependence on the Physical- vs 25 "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." We live in a world that shouts at us all the time, "Prove It!!". It's so easy then to demand seeable proof about everything-- yet this is exactly opposite to what a Christian is expected to do. "The Just shall live by his Faith." (It seems easy to talk of Abraham's Faith-- but will you leave your home and job and go somewhere you've never seen because you believe God has called you to do so??????).



What are some areas WE might become "Doubting Thomas" in:

1. Doubting God's Ability to Keep us- Peter came to Jesus on the sea but when he began to look at the Circumstances instead of Christ he began to sink (Matt 14:24-33). There is NEVER a time that God cannot or will not keep us. "He that keepeth thee shall never slumber nor sleep". Ps 121:3

I couldn't live it because of: A) Temptations- Banks are full of temptations; yet how many people rob banks!! "In that he has suffered being tempted He is able to succor them that are tempted".

B) I'm not Strong enough to hold out- CHRIST is our Strength!

2. Doubting God's Love- Job was able to say, "Though He slay me yet will I trust in Him" because he knew that God loved him. If you ever doubt that Love simply look to Calvary and see what God was willing to do for you.

3. Doubting God's Power- Matt 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. What are 2 fishes and 5 loaves among 5000 men?? How can you defeat a city simply by marching around it for 7 days?? You do not have a situation God cannot handle!!! IF YOU WILL LET HIM.

4. Doubting Christ's Return- II Pet 3:4 Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. The world doubted Noah also--until the rains came!! If you expect the Lord to return it will cause you to live Pure (I Jn 3:3) and be Productive as you await the Master's examination of your talents.

5. Doubting God's Word- Eve "saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise" (Gen 3:6) so she disobeyed God's Word. Most people today believe the Bible as long as it goes along with what they want to do. After that they tend to believe it doesn't really apply in their case. (Do people dress in modest apparel or comfortable clothes?? How many young people put "being unequally yoked" above being in "Love"??).

Thomas was a man of Courage and Conviction but he allowed flesh to overrule the Spirit. How about YOU??? Are you willing today to step out on Faith and Trust Christ as Saviour and Lord?

## The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

### WHAT CHRIST EXPECTS (JN 21:1-25)

When the Children of Israel arrived at the Jordan River on their way to Canaan they also arrived at a "Cross-roads" situation in their life. They were faced with 3 choices: (1) Go Back to Egypt and Captivity, (2) Continue to wander in the Wilderness and die, or (3) Cross Jordan with Faith in God's Promises. The Disciples in today's lesson are at the same place in their lives. Would the Disciples forget what Christ had done, continue to live in fear, or "Turn the world upside down for Christ"? Many in the Church are at this "Cross-roads" also- Some will "drop out" and go back to serving Self and the World, Some will be satisfied to be Lukewarm Christians (wondering why God gets so sick around them!!); and Some will deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Christ. Which course have YOU chosen??

#### I. THE ERROR 21:1-14 Leaving God's Plan for your Life. Choosing "Sense" over the "Spiritual".

A> Peter was a leader- but in this case he led the wrong way! Leaders need to be aware of this. Every Privilege has a Responsibility; and the greater the Privilege the greater the Responsibility! Peter should have been leading these men into service for the Lord; instead, he leads them back to where he started from. WHERE ARE YOU LEADING PEOPLE TODAY??? Some people in Church are "natural" leaders. Their responsibility is great.

This responsibility is especially great for a Pastor. People today need someone to show them the right way and lead them confidently in that way. This means a Pastor must: (a) Preach the Word of God, (b) Live the Word of God, (c) Provide Leadership (People need a leader, not a signpost. A sign tell you what is ahead. A leader shows you how to get there), and (d) Love his people.

B> "That Night they caught nothing."- When you get out of God's will for your life life becomes barren and unfruitful. You work and try but life has no meaning and you accomplish nothing of lasting value.

C> The Revelation of Christ- Christ reveals Himself to us many times as we go about our activities- Do we look for Him? Do we see Him in our Work, do we Honor Him in our Homes, do we Love Him with our life??

D> The Provision of God- (The "Divine Dinner") When they arrived on the beach they found that Jesus had already made provisions for them. (When we get to Heaven and the Marriage supper of the Lamb we'll find everything in readiness but God will ask us to show our crowns just as these disciples were asked to haul in their great catch of fish.)

## II. THE EXPECTATION- What does Christ expect from us?? Jn 21:15-22

1. A Complete DEVOTION- Lovest thou me? A deep love for Him. A boss doesn't HAVE TO CALL you and invite you to work every day!! It's your duty to be there and his to fire you if you aren't!!

A) A Question: Do you LOVE me? Not like, not admire, not put up with; do you LOVE me.

B) A Comparison- More than your old life, your own ways, your self

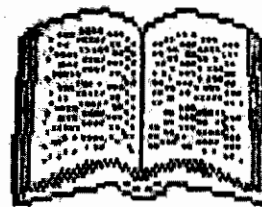
2. A Determination of DUTY- Feed my lambs, tend my sheep- An awareness of His commission to us. When the Children of Israel arrived at Jordan they were an untrained, untried, unequipped people that could only win if they joined together to obey God's plan. (March around Jericho). (Have you ever wondered why geese fly in their famous "V" formation. Engineers found that when they are in this formation each goose creates an upward lift for the goose that follows. When all the geese do their part the whole flock has 71% greater flying range than if going alone. That's why when one of the geese begins to lag behind the others will "honk" him back into place. Christians need that type of cooperation and concern).

"Birthing the Baby" is just the beginning of new life!! That baby must learn to eat, talk, dress properly, etc. There are 2 main reasons today that Christians are living so defeated and worldly: (1) Teachers and Preachers are content to "fill an hour" instead of give the time and effort needed to Prepare the "meals"; and (2) Many meals "rot on the table" because people will not come to partake of them!! (God says that if those invited will not partake of the supper then He will get them from the "highway and hedges")

3. A DEDICATION to HIM- Follow me- A devoted following of Him; without comparing ourselves with Others!!!!!! [MOST CHURCH PROBLEMS RESULT FROM EITHER GUILT (about lack of duty or devotion) OR FRUSTRATION (Over lack of participation or recognition)]. God expects us to do our VERY BEST for HIM regardless of the rewards or recognition. He died for us, He called us, and He saved us. We owe Him everything.

Christ expects from you today a Complete Devotion to Him, A realization of your Duty to Him, and a Dedication to HIS will for your life. At your Cross-roads today, what decision will you make?

# GRACE & GLORY



GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 23 September 11, 1986

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
Live over WJOT 1260 AM)  
Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

**HOME COMING** is THIS Sunday (Sept. 14). We will continue our study of the Holy Spirit in the Sunday School at 10:00am in addition to some special Home Coming Activities. Everyone will be wearing old Fashioned Clothes, as we sing Old Fashion Songs, and hear the Old Fashion Gospel and trust that God will make some BRAND NEW HEARTS on this special day. Come join us in this special time of Fellowship and Food.

BETHEL BIBLE INSTITUTE has gotten off to a good start this year. The Darlington Branch had 10 students the first night and we had 7 here at Grace (Both branches expect several more to join next week that were unable to attend the first session). Interest and Enthusiasm is high and we're looking for a great year of study in the Word of God.

It's sad to see so many people who need to study the Bible and yet they fail to take advantage of the opportunities offered them. Most people would take a 13 week course of study if it would help them with their job but these same people seem to think that learning more about God and His plan for their life is unimportant. A million years from now I wonder which they will consider the most important???

[If you really WANT to attend we'll work with you in every way we can. If you can't pay the \$25 fee let us know and a "scholarship" can be worked out. If you have to miss some nights because of job conflicts then we will tape the sessions for you. Both classes are almost evenly divided between men and women so you should feel comfortable.]

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O BOX 1003  
Lake City, S C 29560

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Permit #8

## PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT A POWER WE USE BUT A PERSON WE ACCEPT

What do the following Scriptures tell you about the Holy Spirit??

1. Rom 8:27 Has a Mind- Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit.

2. I Cor 12:10 Able to Communicate- I Cor 2:10-11 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

3. I Cor 12:11 Has a Will- I Cor 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

4. Ephesians 4:30 Can be Grieved- Ephesians 4:30 Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

5. Isaiah 63:9-10 Can be Vexed- Is 63:9-10 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

What do the following Scriptures tell you about what the Holy Spirit does for us???

1) Rom 8:26 He Helps us to Pray- Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (In Heb 7:25 we find that Christ is constantly making intercession for us. This means we have 2 members of the Trinity praying for us!)

2) John 14:26 He helps us to learn of Christ- Jn 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father shall send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (also I Cor 2:10-11)

3) John 15:26-27 He helps us to testify of Christ- Jn 15:26-27 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness; because ye have been with me from the beginning. (The Holy Spirit testifies of Christ to us and then helps us testify of Christ to others.)

4) Acts 8:29; 13:2; 16:7 He guides us in our work for the Lord- Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. Acts 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

5) I Corinthians 12:7-13 He put us into the Body WHERE HE WANTS US

From Isaiah 11:2 list 6 Attributes of the Holy Spirit:

(1) Wisdom; (2) Understanding; (3) Counsel; (4) Might;  
(5) Knowledge; (6) Fear of (Respect for) the Lord

## BIBLE SURVEY

The Bible was not written as a history of the world [although it is historically correct and contains the history of the earth from beginning to end]. It was written to show God's PURPOSE for man (Fellowship) and His PLAN to restore that fellowship (Redemption). Much of it was not meant to be understood by the casual reader (I Cor 2:13-14) and they fail to comprehend it's message. Others try to make it fit into THEIR pattern and find themselves trying to put "the ocean into a teacup!!!". Our purpose is to "Skim" the entire Bible and learn it's basic make-up and Message and then to apply this knowledge to our own lives as we Fellowship with God.

STUDYING ABOUT THE BIBLE DOES NOT REPLACE STUDYING THE BIBLE. If these studies do not cause you to read and study the Bible more then they have failed. God is not concerned with simply educating your head; He wants to occupy your heart. Let these studies show you how.

### I. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD- It speaks with Authority.

A) Authority is needed- Because of the disorder of Sin we need rules and guidelines.

B) Inadequate sources of authority:

1. Writings of great thinkers- Buddha, Plato, Confucius.
2. Writings of Literary men- Milton, Shakespeare, Longfellow
3. Pronouncements of Church Officials- Popes, "Prophets".
4. Findings of Scientist- Darwin, Einstein
5. One's own mind; conscience, or experience.

### II. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S DIRECTION TO US.

A) It shows us God (Is that what you look for???)

B) It shows us how to find eternal life and abundant life.

### III. THE BIBLE NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD

A) Scripture needs to be understood in the light of other Scripture (I Cor 10:23 says, "all things are lawful" but other Scriptures show the limits to that).

B) Scriptures need to be studied in it's immediate context:

1. Who is Speaking? God, Man, Satan
2. To whom is he speaking? A man, a nation, a government
3. Is the message intended for others as well as the one spoken to? (The Promises to Abraham or David. The messages to Israel or the Church).
4. Is the Passage intended to be applied to a limited time, under specific circumstances; or is it of universal application? (Sacrifice of animals, Levitical Laws).

### IV. THE BIBLE MUST BE APPLIED

A) If you don't you fail to receive it's promised Blessings.

B) If you don't you SIN- James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

The Bible is the greatest book in the entire world. Everyone ought to KNOW it in their head, STOW it in their heart, and SHOW it in their lives.

## WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT

Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our LEARNING, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

I Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples(\*\*):  
and they are written for our ADMONITION; upon whom the ends of the  
world are come.

II Tim 3:16-17 ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is PROFITABLE for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The Old Testament provides the historical background by which we are able to understand the New. The New Testament contains over 600 references or allusions to the Old. (The Old Testament WAS THE BIBLE to Jesus and the Disciples!!).

While it is true that the New Covenant has done away with many of the practices required under the Old [For example, we no longer offer a lamb without spot or blemish because Christ has already been offered for our sin (Heb 10:1-14)] it would do us well to remember that some of the Laws were given for the benefit of the Physical as well as the Spiritual part of man [No pork because of disease and high blood pressure, circumcision to prevent cancer, etc.].

# OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

- I. THE BEGINNINGS Genesis 1-11
- II. THE PATRIARCHAL TIME Genesis 12-50
- III. ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION Exodus - Deuteronomy
- IV. CONQUEST AND OCCUPATION Joshua, Judges, Ruth
- V. THE UNITED KINGDOM I & II Samuel; I & II Chronicles (1-9)  
I Kings 1-11
- VI. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM I Kings 12- II Kings 25 II Chronicles 10-36
- VII. THE POST-EXILE ERA Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

[illegible]

(\*\*) The Word "Ensamples" here means Type. There are many TYPES used in the Old Testament. A TYPE may be said to be any person, object, event, act, or institution divinely adapted to represent some spiritual reality; or to prefigure some person or truth to be later revealed. ["Explore the Book" page 56]. For our purposes a Type may be said to be a Representation of a Biblical Truth or Person.

Examples:

Person- Adam...is a figure (Type) of Him that was to come. Rom 5:14

Object- That ROCK that followed them was Christ I Cor 10:4

Event- Abraham...received him from the dead, in a figure (Type)

Heb 11:9

Keep an eye open for these "Types" as you study the Old Testament. They will help you more clearly understand Christ---and that is our ultimate goal.

## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Bible study is not an option!! We are commanded of God to Study the Bible [II Tim 2:15]. The reason for our study is not to impress others but to please God. Sad to say many Christians do not have a regular system of Bible study and are largely ignorant of many of the Blessings that they miss. We need to realize the importance of the Word and "start digging for gold".

### I. REALIZE YOUR WEAKNESS

- A) Your Wisdom is not sufficient I Cor 1:19-20 2:4-5
- B) The Word is Spiritual I Cor 2:11-14 (This is why Prayer is such a vital part of Bible Study.)

### II. REALIZE THE BIBLE'S SUFFICIENCY

- A) It has the answer to every need II Tim 3:15-17
- B) It has the Power to conquer any situation Jer 23:28-29
- C) It goes into the inner most part of man Heb 4:12-13
- D) It shall never return void (valueless) Is 55:11

### III. REALIZE THE BIBLE'S POWER

A) Convict of Sin- Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

B) Regenerate- I Pet 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

C) Produce Faith- Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

D) Build up the Christian- Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified

E) Make us wise- Ps 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

F) Give Assurance of Eternal Life- I Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

G) Bring Peace to the Heart- Ps 85:8 I will hear what God the Lord will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people...

H) Produces Joy- Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of Hosts.

I) Gives Patience, Comfort, and Hope- Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

J) Protects from error and sin- II Tim 3:13-15 Ps 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

### IV. REALIZE THE BIBLE'S PLACE

- A) The "Seed" we Sow Luke 8:11
- B) The "Sword" we yield Ep 6:11
- C) The "Sanctifier" of our lives Jn 17:17



#### V. HOW TO STUDY THIS IMPORTANT BOOK:

A) Be aware of the Bible's Purpose. Written by nearly 40 writers over a period of 1500 years it contains God's Revelation of Himself and His method of Redemptive Plan for man so that He and man might have FELLOWSHIP.

B) Consider the Time it was written (Boaz and the shoe in Ruth 4:7-8 makes little sense today), the CONTEXT it is found in, and it's relationship to other Scriptures.

C) Study Systematically

1. By Book
2. By Doctrine or Subject
3. By Character

D) Study Purposefully:

1. What does the passage say about God, about me, about responsibility?

2. Where is God trying to lead me? The Word is a "lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps 119:105). As such it reveals what I need for where I am on the Path of Life. As I grow in the Christian life the same passage may speak many different ways to men about where God wants me to go. Truly the Word is "Alive".

3. What does God want me to do with this verse? Is it for Devotion, for Direction, for Duty, or for Development.

#### ADDED SUGGESTIONS:

1. Remember that the entire Bible is about Christ. Find Him first.

2. Find some way to share what you learn. The best way to get more Bible knowledge is to give what you have away. Luke 6:38

3. Pray thru the New Testament. If it's a promise, claim it; if it's a problem, be warned; if it's a practice, do it.

4. Read some book over and over and over. (Take a book like Ephesians and read it every day for a month. Read it in different versions. Get a commentary on it and learn it's background. Keep a notebook handy and make notes each day as you read.)

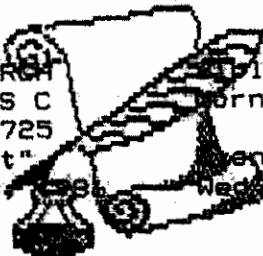
5. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. The more you learn in the Bible the more you'll find you don't know. Don't expect to know as much as God- "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." (Is 55:8)

6. Remember that GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT HIM and He will give you the wisdom you need. James 1:5

# GRACE & GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 24 September 25, 1984

Bible Study Hour.....	10:00am
Morning Service.....	11:00am
Live over WJOT (260 AM)	
Evening Service.....	6:00pm
Wed. Prayer Meet.....	7:30pm



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Home Coming was GREAT. The attendance was very good, the Spirit was VERY good, the food and fellowship were excellent, and the participation in the Old Fashion Day theme was good [Many of the Ladies did an excellent job with their "old fashion clothes" and the quilts and old items that were on display really helped with the atmosphere.]. I'm already looking forward to, and making plans for, next year.

Bethel Bible Institute classes continue to grow- We now have 12 students here and the branch in Darlington has 15. That almost triples last years class. Tapes of last years classes are being prepared right now [more about how you can obtain these later] and we are trying to make tapes of all of the classes this year so that those who are unable to attend in person can receive the instruction anyway.

Paula and I have a VERY SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST for all of our readers. Trial in her case is supposed to take place in the next two weeks and we Earnestly desire the Prayers of God's People. We believe the Prayers of people enabled us to overcome originally and we're counting on People to Pray for us now. This is a very difficult time for Paula and we thank you for taking the time to Pray for God's Strength and Wisdom for her.

**REVIVAL** services are set to begin on Oct. 6 with Rev. Ronnie Jones as Evangelist. Now is the time to prepare your heart for Revival and to begin inviting people to make plans to be with us for these special services. God wants to do a work in our Church and in our Community---Let's let Him!!

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## THE EPHESIAN DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### I. WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES FOR US Chapter 1-3

A) Seals- 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise. [God's "Brand" on every Christian.]

B) Reveals Christ- 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: [Do you seek the Spirit in order to learn more about Christ-- or to become a "Super Saint"???

C) Unifies- 2:18 For through him we both (Jew and Gentile) have access by one Spirit unto the Father. [Spirit filled people lose sight of Self as they see the Saviour]

D) Develops- 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. [Each Christian is placed into the Body of Christ as the Spirit wills to make the "Building" GOD desires. In Solomon's Temple all the work was done on the building blocks so that when they arrived at the Temple all the workers had to do was put them in place- not a hammer was used. God is doing the same with us now. He is developing us now so that when we get to Heaven we'll "fit right in".]

E) Instructs- 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: [Even the "hidden" things]

F) Strengthens- 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; [Strength according to his riches in glory. WOW!!!]

### II. WHAT WE DO FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT Chapter 4-6

A) Keep the Unity of the Spirit- 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

B) Do not Grieve the Spirit- 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

C) "Fertilize" the Fruit of the Spirit- 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

D) Continually be Filled with the Spirit- 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ["be" here means "be being filled". A continuous action.]

E) Fight the Devil with the "Sword of the Spirit"- 5:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: [How many verses do YOU know by heart???

F) Persevering in Praying in the Spirit- 5:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance [sticking to it!] and supplication for all saints; [Do you pray for Saints as much as for Self??]

ARE YOU CONSCIOUS OF WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO DO IN AND FOR YOU?

DO YOU REALIZE YOUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE SPIRIT??

# GRACE & GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 25 October 2, 1986

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
(Live over WJST 1260 AM)  
Evening Service.....7:30pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

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## REVIVAL

October 6-10

7:30pm each night

We will have Special Music each night and our Nursery will be staffed each night. Bring your friends and family and join us for these special services.

Rev. Ronnie Jones, Pastor of Black River Free Will Baptist Church of Andrews will be our guest Evangelist for these special services. He has pastored several Churches in our area and we look for a number of visitors each service. Pray much for God's anointing on his messages and for many lost people to attend the services, hear the Gospel, and accept Christ as Saviour.

## OCTOBER EVENTS

- Oct 2 Don and Debbie Coker Anniversary
- Oct 3 The Fall Session of the S C Conference of FWB at First FWB Church of Kingstree. 7:30pm
- Oct 5 Holy Spirit Study Course continues in Adult Class
- Oct 6-10 REVIVAL with Rev. Ronnie Jones as Evangelist.
- Oct 7 Ralph McAllister Birthday
- Oct 10 Todd and Cam Newell Anniversary
- Oct 11 Todd Newell Birthday
- Oct 13 Sunday School Convention at Mt Elon FWB Church. 10am
- Oct 13 Ladies Aux. Meet 7:30pm
- Oct 15 Devonne Hanna Birthday
- Oct 15 Quarterly Church Conference after Prayer Meet
- Oct 17 Buddy Lee Birthday/ Karon Lowder Birthday
- Oct 17 Evangelism Conference at First FWB Florence 7:00pm
- Oct 18 Evangelism Conference continues 9am
- Oct 18 Kathy Lewis Birthday/ Graham Matthews Birthday
- Oct 20 Steve Poston Birthday
- Oct 20-24 Pastor in Revival at Hebron Church
- Oct 21 Michelle Lowder Birthday
- Oct 26 Time Change
- Oct 30 Ann Thigpen Birthday
- Oct 31 FAMILY FUN NIGHT- 7:00pm

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Congratulations to Wyman and Karon Lowder on the birth of their daughter- MEGAN Elizabeth. She weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce. Mother and daughter are fine and we're thankful for another addition to our growing nursery. (I told Karon the whole time to have it bright and early Monday morning so she wouldn't have to miss any Church and she did!!!).

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I was just looking over our Finances so far this year and I was amazed. Our income so far this year has been \$5547.62!!! (Our Expenses have been \$5822.04!!! The way we could do that is that we began the year with \$309.08 remaining from last year.). I had to look at the figures several times to realize we had taken in that much. The Lord has been VERY good to this work and I Praise Him for His continued supply.

In addition to the newsletters we have mailed this year we have already gone thru over 500 tapes, numerous tracts, and many booklets of Bible Study notes. We are reaching more and more people with the Gospel of Christ and I Praise the Lord for His continued supply.

As most of you know, this is a Faith ministry. We receive no support from the Church and we do not sell items or "give" them to you for a suggested donation. When we have needs I report that fact to God and only after He has supplied the need do I share the Blessing with you. I'm content to do what God sees fit for us to do on HIS schedule.

There are a number of our readers who are regular "Prayer Warriors" for this work and their supplication support is invaluable. I invite you to join with them in seeking God's direction and blessing as I continue to try to use every means available to tell people about the Lord. (I believe I can safely say that we reach 10 times as many people each week via our outreach work- newsletters, tapes, radio broadcast- as we do in our services. As it becomes increasingly difficult to get people to Come to Church I think we will see more and more need to Carry the Gospel to them.)

#####

Paula's trial was scheduled to take place this week but as a result of some well intentioned but misdirected ladies who were demonstrating in behalf of another rape victim it had to be put off until next week. This makes it extremely difficult on us but we KNOW that ALL things work together for the good to them that love the Lord and we are trying to wait on God's perfect timing.

Please Pray for us that the Lord's sustaining Spirit would continue to uphold us and that His perfect will would be done in this matter.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness..

# The Gospel of JOHN: Signs, Sermons, and Soul-winning

## "The Seven Sayings"

When God called Moses to deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt Moses asked God who he should say sent him. God said to say, "I AM" hath sent you. [Ex 3:13-14]. When Jesus came to die for men His message also was I AM [He used it 23 times in John's Gospel- (4:26, 6:20,35,41,48,51, 8:12,18,24,28,58; 10:7,9,11,14; 11:25; 13:19; 14:6; 15:1,5; 18:5,6,8)].

The main thing we need to understand out of this is that the Lord's Message was HIMSELF- I AM. He did not try to establish a new Religion; He wanted a new Relationship! He did not give new Laws; He gave new Life! He did not come to PREACH the Gospel; He is the Gospel. He did not come to GIVE Bread; He said, I am the Bread. He did not come to SHED light; He said, I am the Light. He did not come to SHOW the door; He is the Door, He did not come to POINT the way; He is the Way. He did not come to PLANT a vine, He is the vine!

The Lord's purpose is Fellowship. Jesus came to die that we might have that Fellowship but many people look at what He did instead of who He is. We need to recognize what Christ means to our life.

There are 7 times in John's Gospel that Jesus used "I AM" to enable us to see how wonderful this new relationship is.

1. The Bread of Life- 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. SATISFACTION. "I have found the pleasure I once craved, It is joy and peace within"

2. The Light of the World- 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. ILLUMINATION

A) Direction- "he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness"  
}Guides us thru life's pathways. Showing where to go and what to avoid.

}Promotes Fellowship- I Jn 1:7 If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

B) Detection- Jn 3:20-21 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

I Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

C) Reflection- 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. Matt 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

3. The Door- 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. ACCESS

A) To Pardon- "any man enter in, he shall be saved,". The ONLY WAY- 10:1 He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

B) For Protection- The Shepherd would actually become the door to the sheepfold by sleeping in the only entrance. Nothing could get to the Sheep without first coming thru the "Door". The Christian can rest assured in that today.

C) To Pasture- "Shall go in and out, and find pasture." We find Rest and Comfort and Protection in the sheepfold but we find Pasture in the world. Christianity is not a "Hot-house" religion that is lived in the walls of a Church building. In Church we get Direction from the Word, show our Devotion thru Worship, and perform certain Duties of Work but we must Demonstrate our Christianity in the World. We must learn, like Jesus, that "my meat is to do the will of him that sent me" (Jn 4:34) and it is not the will of God that any should perish but that all should come to life in Christ (1 Tim 2:4).

4. The Good Shepherd- 10:11, 14, CARE

A) Sacrifice- 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

B) Companionship- 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. Our Shepherd knows our limitations and our abilities. He knows when we are down and when we need that "special care". He even knows the number of hairs on our head!!!

We are supposed to know His voice when He calls and seek to build such a relationship until the mere movement of His eyes will tell us what He wants us to do (Ps 32:8)

5. The Source of Life- 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? LIFE We are raised to newness of life in Him. We receive Pardon for past sins, Power for present living, and Promises of eternity with Him.

6. The Revelation of the Father- 14:6-7 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth; and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. REVEALING

Jesus is the Way to the Father, The Truth about the Father, and the Life the Father wants us to live.

7. The True Vine- 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. WAY TO FRUITFULNESS. It is not my ability that produces fruit; it is my abiding. When I remain in Him then fruit will come in my life. When I lift HIM up then men will be drawn to Him for Salvation.

Jesus does not simply HAVE what you need today. HE IS WHAT YOU NEED. Won't you accept Him into your life today?

## THE SEVEN FOLD MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rev 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices; and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

The "Rodney Dangerfield" of Religious Life would have to be the Holy Spirit because He "don't get no respect". Some churches talk about Him all the time and fan the flames of zeal into emotional wildfire where gibberish and jumping are the ultimate goal. Other churches refuse to acknowledge the Spirit as part of the God head except in their creeds--and they know nothing of His power or person. Their services are dead dry human effort aimed at maintaining the dignity of their dead worship each week.

Our goal here at Grace is to build a Friendly Perverted Fundamental Church where God is worshipped and taught about in an atmosphere of reverence but not rigidity. We believe this means worshipping in Spirit and in truth. Sometimes this means we sit in silent awe of His holiness and sometimes it means we shout in amazement at His works. Sometimes we shout a hearty "Amen" to the Word and sometimes we groan a silent "O Me" for our wickedness; but, above all else, we realize our need of correctly understanding and applying the work of the Holy Spirit.

In order for us to be correct in our dealings with the Holy Spirit we need to know Who He is, What He does in and for us, and how we can be used of Him to advance the kingdom of God. Most of this can be understood if we understand His 7-fold ministry.

1. **CONVICTING**- Jn 16:7-11 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you, and when he is come, he will reprove (Convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

The work of the Holy Spirit in conviction involves:

A) Showing us Sin- "They believe not on me" (Jn 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.). He convicts us by showing us that sin is not just "badness" but UNBELIEF!

B) Shows us righteousness- "Because I go to the Father and ye see me no more". Jesus kept the Law perfectly and made the sacrifice for our sins. His work is now finished and He no longer needs to be on the earth. His resurrection shows us that His sacrifice was accepted so that the Holy Spirit can point out that our righteousnesses are as filthy rags while showing us the way to righteousness in Christ.

C) Shows us Judgment- "Because the Prince of this world is judged" The "Prince of this world" is Satan and he has already been judged because of his rebellion. Thus God shows us that although sin may not receive immediate punishment yet it will ultimately be judged. The Spirit brings this thought to sinners so that they will realize they can't "Get by with" anything.



2. **REGENERATING**- Jn 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

A) The Spirit must CONVICT us of sin so we will seek to leave it

B) The Spirit must CALL us to Christ- Jn 6:44 No man can come to me except the Father (through the ministry of the Spirit) which hath sent me draw him:

C) The Spirit must CONVERT us- It is He that makes us New Creatures in Christ (II Cor 5:17) by His supernatural work within us. This is a mysterious work (Jn 3:8 the wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit) but a necessary work (Jn 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.)

3. **SEALING**- Ep 1:13...in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (down payment) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. The Holy Spirit is God's "Brand" upon His children (Rom 8:9 Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.). This lets Satan know that we belong to God even though our bodies haven't been redeemed yet. (Satan will try to copy this in the end time by giving a physical mark "of the beast").

4. **RESTRAINING**- I Thess 2:7-8 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let (restrains will restrain) , until he be taken out of the way. And then shall the wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: The Holy Spirit is the only reason Satan does not kill or torture all Christians today. The Holy Spirit restrains him so that he can only do that that God allows (Remember Job). This is clearly illustrated in I Pet 2:9 where a "peculiar people" means a surrounded people that cannot be attacked except as God allows.

5. **BAPTIZING**- I Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. When we are saved the Holy Spirit places us into the Body of Christ. At this "placing into" the Body we each receive a gift that will help the entire Body as we work together (I Cor 12:

6. INDWELLING- I Cor 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

This indwelling includes such things as:

A) Making our body a Temple- I Cor 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God; and ye are not your own? (We should keep this temple undefiled and holy

B) Bearing witness to our sonship- Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if Children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.

C) Interceding for us- Rom 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know now what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

7. FILLING- Ep 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

A) This will put a Song on your lips- vs 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

B) This will put Submission in your life- vs 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

1. Affects Family life- "Husbands, love your wife as Christ"

"Wives, reverence your husband"

"Children, obey your parents"

2. Affects Business Life- "Masters, treat workers right"

"Servants, work as to the Lord"

3. Affects Spiritual Life- We learn to defeat Satan as we put on the whole armor of God.

God has help for you today. It is not "Pie in the sky" HOPE but the Holy Spirit's HELP. God is able to Save you today and give you the power to become the person He wants you to become.

## FIGURES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many times in the Bible the Holy Spirit is referred to by a "Figure" in order to help us understand some of His ministries and works. Listed below are some of these Figures; this does not mean that every time the figure is mentioned in the Bible it represents the Holy Spirit, but in the places it does it will help us to understand Him and His work.

1. DOVE Matt 3:16-17 Jn 1:32 (When Jesus was Baptized)

A) Pure (Acceptable as a sacrifice). First mentioned in the Bible when Noah used one to see if the water had dried up. It wouldn't land on carcasses like the Raven. (Remember that our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit; keep it pure).

B) Peaceful (Symbols of Peace). Matt 10:16 says be "harmless as doves". A Dove does not have a "gall" so they don't carry bitterness; Christians ought to be that way.

2. WIND (Pneuma) Ez 37:1-14 (Dry Bones) Jn 3:8 (New Birth).

The wind's origin and direction are mysterious; so the Spirit is mysterious in Convicting of Sin (Jn 16:8) and regenerating (Tit 3:5)

3. FIRE Acts 2:2-3 (Pentecost) (Beware of "strange fire" Num 3:4)

A) Fire gives light- Spirit illuminates the Word of God Jn 14:26

B) Fire gives warmth- A cold Church is bad, a lukewarm one makes God sick!! If the Spirit is present you'll have warmth.

C) Fire purifies- burns off dross I Cor 3:16-17

4. WATER Jn 7:37-39 Is 44:3

A) Essential to Life (See I Cor 12:13)

B) Essential to Growth Ps 1:3 Job 8:11 Carnal Christians aren't Spirit controlled.

C) Produces Power (To run "wheel", to carry, etc). Acts 1:8 I Cor 2:4

5. OIL Acts 10:38 Luke 4:18 (Used to anoint)

A) Helps prevent sickness James 5:14 (With prayer)

B) Used to make Light (in a lamp)- We are the "Light of the World" because of the power of the Spirit.

6. FINGER OF GOD Compare Matt 12:28 with Luke 11:20

A) In Inspiration Ex 31:18, Deut 9:10 God's "Fingers" for the Bible were "Holy Men of God who spake as they were moved by the Spirit".

B) In Power over Demons Luke 11:20 (God's finger has all the power we need to defeat Satan!!!)

C) Judgment Dan 5:- When God pronounced Judgment against Belshazzar. Ex 8:19 When Pharaoh hardened his heart.

Figures are simply "Lights in the window" to show you Who the Holy Spirit is and what He can accomplish. Do you see Him?? Or have you "drawn the Blinds"???

# GRACE & GLORY

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Vol IV Num 26 October 14, 1986

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**OVER AT LAST!** The trial of the man who attacked Paula was held last week and we are VERY glad it's finally over. After 3 extremely difficult days of trial the jury found him guilty on all counts and he was sentenced to 2 life terms plus 40 years (Life for kidnapping, life for burglary, 30 years for rape, and 10 years for robbery.). That was the maximum sentence he could get on every count (We find it amazing that the worst crime could only receive 30 years while forcing her from one room to another could receive life!).

We are glad it's finally over but sorry that this man rejected every offer of mercy we tried to extend and now faces the full fury of the law. We realize that putting him in jail will not change his destiny- only acceptance of Christ as Saviour can do that; but we know that we have an obligation to try to make sure he doesn't do this horrible crime to anyone else. [I think I understand the necessity of Hell now more than ever. It's not that God loves the sinners any less, or is not willing to extend him mercy, it's the fact that man in rebellion refuses God's mercy and God knows that if they are not dealt with they will harm themselves and others].

The fact that we were in court all day 3 days of the Revival (The first day we arrived home at 8pm when Revival started at 7:30!! The next night it was 7pm and the last night it was 6pm.) made for a most unusual Revival but the Lord still Blessed and gave us a good week of services. In fact, the Revival is still going on in a very real sense because I was able to record 4 of the 5 services and now members of the Church are distributing tapes of these services to people they invited to Church but who were unable or unwilling to attend. These 4 services are on 3 tapes and include the very good special music we had last week. If you would like to have these tapes simply let me know and I'll be glad to send them to you (Absolutely free, of course).

Paula and I would like to **THANK** everyone who prayed for us last week (and the weeks before). We saw God's hand at work in every phase of the Trial and we Thank Him for His sustaining strength and wisdom to know what to say when the lawyers tried to 'trick us up. We believe that YOUR PRAYERS helped bring this about. Continue to Pray for us as we try to go forward for the Lord.

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JOSHUA

I. ENTRANCE INTO THE PROMISED LAND 1-5

- A) The Charge 1
- B) The Spies 2
- C) The Crossing 3
- D) The Memorials 4
- E) Sharp Knives, Old Corn, and The Captain 5

II. CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND 6-12

- A) The Fall of Jericho 6
- B) The Sin of Achan 7
- C) The Conquest of Ai 8
- D) The Guile of Gibeon 9
- E) Victory over various Foes 10-12

III. DIVISION OF THE PROMISED LAND 13-22

- A) The Land Divided 13-19
- B) Cities of Refuge 20
- C) Portions of the Priest 21
- D) The Altar of Witness 22

IV. JOSHUA'S FAREWELL 23-24

" Chose the Lord and Continue with Him"

In Joshua we see that

- (1) Faith is more than believing - it is claiming "Every place that the sole of your foot shalt tread upon, that have I given unto you..." (Jos 1:3). FOOTWORK
- (2) God hates sin and deals with it unmercifully. You must conquer sin or it will conquer you!! Thus some cities and all people must be destroyed. (And they don't give up without a FIGHT.)
- (3) "We are more than conquerors thru him that loved us." (Rom 8:37) and with God on our side we should be strong and of a 'good courage because "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of they life..." (Jos 1:5) FAITH

The Book itself was written by Joshua. It is an action Book and reminds one of the Book of Acts following the Gospels of Christ. The Principles of Genesis thru Deut. now become the Practice of Life.

The Promised Land was a Place of:

- 1) Rest from the Wilderness Wandering
- 2) Refreshment with the Abundance of the land
- 3) Triumph over the enemy.

It should represent the NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE as we develop into the type of person God expects us to be. Far too many Christians are content to Wander in the Wilderness until they die instead of fighting the good fight of Faith as they claim the possessions God has promised them.

# GRACE & GLORY

GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City,  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725

"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 27 October 23, 1986

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Bible Study Hour.....10:00am

Morning Service.....11:00am

(Live over WJOT 1260 AM)

Evening Service.....6:00pm

Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

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This is a repeat of this article from last year. I hope it will encourage you to think about the things you do and consider your testimony for Christ. Are we trying to Change the World?? or are we simply following the world down the path to destruction???

## HALLOWEEN

One of the symptom of the sickness of the church today is the way it allows and accepts the world's way of doing things. It has allowed the world to commercialize Christmas until people dread it instead of rejoicing in it; it has allowed Easter to become cottontails instead of Christ rising; and it has adopted the pagan worship of demons and witches into it's bosom by PROMOTING THE SYMBOLS AND SINS OF HALLOWEEN [Churches actually sponsor "Haunted Houses"!!! and encourage their young people to dress as Witches!!!!]. Let's look at where Halloween came from, what's bad about it, and what we can do as an alternative.

I. THE BACKGROUND- On May 13, 610AD the Catholic Church first celebrated the "Feast of all Holy Martyrs". Eventually they decided a day was needed to honor all Saints and not just Martyrs. They called it "All Saints Day" and moved it to November 1 of each year.

The Evening before "All Saints Day" began to be called "All Hallow's Eve (Eve of all the Holy One's Day) and eventually was mutated to Halloween.

The Customs associated with Halloween come from the Celts. The old Celtic calendar began the New Year on November 1 (Their year ended with the harvest of their crops) and the night before (Oct. 31) became known as a time when witches and goblins roamed around trying to hold back the new year. People began to have New year's Eve parties (just as they do today) on Oct. 31 and they would dress up as witches and goblins to "placate" the demons. Eventually they began to go from house to house demanding an offering (Treat) from the householder in exchange for protection from the demons for the coming year (or I'll trick you!).

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## II. THE BADNESS

1. When so many people are becoming involved in cults, witchcraft, and Satanic "churches", do you think a Christian parent (or Church) should allow their children to dress up as demons and witches and then find they get rewarded for dressing that way????? What kind of roll model do you want your Children to have???

2. The very principle of you give me a "Treat" or I will "Trick" you is absolutely foreign to the teachings of Christ. Do you think we should promote this among children???

3. With the problem today of a sick society that puts poison in candy, razor blades in fruit, and molests children; "Trick or Treating" has become not only spiritually bad but physically dangerous.

III. WHAT CAN WE DO?? The idea of Children having fun and being treated is a good one. We don't want to "throw out the baby with the dish water!". Here are few suggestions:

1. Let's do away with the name Halloween and all it means- call your get together a "Fall Festival" or "Family Fun Time"...

2. Instead of having the kids go from door to door organize a house party (or church get-together) where the kids can play games and enjoy themselves. Let each of them bring a bag of candy and pour it into a big bowl from which everyone eats as the Evening progresses [This will teach them to share---or that eating too much candy at one time makes you sick!!!!]. Think about the decorations--what do they mean??? (The candle burning in the pumpkin is supposed to represent a demon's home. Most people don't realize that. Maybe it could be changed unto something good is you took time during the party to explain the decorations and told the kids that they needed to have the light of Christ in their heart to make them shine).

3. Control the Costumes. If you don't Have a "Theme" for people to dress in then let everyone know that they will have to explain what their costume represents (A good theme for a Church party is to let everyone dress as a Bible character, or as a person from a foreign country where we have missionaries). I don't know that it's wrong to dress in some "Silly" costumes or even in some "Scary" costumes-- just be aware of your testimony.

4. Remember the basis for everything we do- I Cor 10:31 (Note that 10:31 is not only the verse but the date!!) **WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.** If you could not feel free to invite Christ to your get-together then you need to make some changes.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our FAMILY FUN NIGHT is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 29 from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. Sully Sullivan, Althea Coker, and Michelle McAllister are the activity committee. We will inform you of the menu Sunday. We're looking for a good time of Christian Fellowship together.

Remember the TIME CHANGE this Sunday. EVERYONE should be here on time.

Mrs. Susan Spring and Mrs. Anne McKnight are in charge of this year's Christmas Program. Give them your cooperation.

# GRACE & GLORY



GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003 Lake City,  
Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3  
"To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"  
Vol IV Num 28 November 3, 1986  
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Study Hour.....10:00am  
Morning Service.....11:00am  
(Live over WJOT 1260 AM)  
Evening Service.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Meet.....7:30pm

## NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

Nov 2	Bill McBride Birthday	:	Also during November
Nov 10	Ladies Auxilliary meeting	:	we'll be concluding
	Eulalia Jordan Birthday	:	our study on the
	Adam McKnight Birthday	:	Holy Spirit and
Nov 17	Tommy Sullivan Birthday	:	beginning the study
Nov 19	Don Lewis Birthday	:	of "Humanism" during
Nov 20	Patricia Flowers Birthday	:	Sunday School.
	Tasha Wimberly Birthday	:	
Nov 25	Susan Spring Birthday	:	Christmas Play
Nov 26	PRAISE SERVICE	:	Practice will also
	Billie Ard Birthday	:	be taking place.
	Robin Graham Birthday	:	Susan Spring and
Nov 27	Althea Coker Birthday	:	Anne McKnight are
Nov 28	Francis Brown Birthday	:	directing this year.

Our Family Fun Night was VERY good. Everyone participated and seemed to have a good time. There was such a good spirit of Fellowship that noone wanted to leave. That's the way it ought to be ---and I hope it will always be. We have a good group of people here at Grace and I appreciate every one of them.

I'm sorry to be a week late with this newsletter but I had to wait on the Lord to supply the funds before I could publish. Thanks to gifts from Mrs. Nora Brown and Rev Terry Motte of Florence, SC; the Mixons of Webster, Florida; The McBrides, The Ole Elmores, and Marion Coker of Lake City, S C; Ann McKnight of Scranton, S C; Bessie Grooms of Coward, S C; Mrs. Ola Kirby of Cades, S C; and the Virgil West family of Saltillo, Miss., I was able to get the supplies I needed and pay the postage. It just amazes me to see how the Lord supplies and who He uses to meet our needs.

I wish I could publish some of the letters and cards I get but since I can't I want each of you to know that I appreciate your prayers and encouragement. Sometimes I get very tired having to scrimp along and do all the work myself but when I hear what it's doing for people it makes it all worth while.

DON'T JUST READ THIS WEEKS NOTES. PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH!

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## "Three Types of People"

I Cor 2:14-3:5; Heb 5:11-14; I Pet 2:2

There are only two kinds of People in the world- SAVED and LOST. Yet Paul and Peter seemed to divide the Saved into 2 "classes"- Carnal (or Babies) and Spiritual. I want to look at these three types of people, find out which group each of us belongs to and then find out how to go from one group to the next.

### I. THE NATURAL MAN I Cor 2:14 Unregenerated, Lost.

A) Controlled by Satan- Ep 2:1-3 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

B) Can't understand the Things of the Spirit of God (vs 14)- You can't "Convince" a dead man he needs life!! Life must come from God. You are "casting your pearls before swine" to try to teach him the things of the Spirit of God. You can teach him "Morals" to civilize him and Laws to regulate him but only God can change his heart.

### II. THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN I Cor 3:1-4 In the beginning, a Baby Christian. The problem is that he has STAYED a Baby. There has been no growth.

A) Must have "Milk" instead of the "Meat" of the Word. They are not able to bear the Meat [vs 2]. It "chokes them" because they are not able to discern between the good and the evil (Heb 5:14)

B) Looks for services and sermons that excite the Flesh. For that reason they are "Hung up" on preachers that they like (vs 4 while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?)

C) Characterized by "Envy, strife, and divisions" (vs 3). "Take their marbles and go home" if they don't get their way. Unable to develop relationships with others-- Contrast this to the Spirit Filled person in Ep 5 who is constantly submitting to his place. [Most Church splits and divisions come from people who are determined to have THEIR way no matter who, or what, it hurts]

D) Walk as men (vs 3). That is, they walk (live) like the unsaved. The sad truth is that is some "Christians" didn't continually tell you they were saved you wouldn't know it. They act just like the world in what they Covet, how they're Clothed, and in their Character

### III. THE SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN (2:15)

A) Discernment- vs 15 should read "he that is spiritual discerneth all things, yet he himself is discerned of no man".  
DISCERNMENT= The ability to distinguish between things. In this case, the ability to discern between worldly wisdom and Spirit teaching (vs 12)

This Discernment is a result of Continued Growth in relationship to the Spirit- Heb 5:14 Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of (habitual) use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil

B) The Mind of Christ- vs 16 The Submitting mind of a Servant. See Phil 2:3-8. Ep 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another...

The Spiritual Person looks at things from God's viewpoint (Abraham vs Lot) and is more interested in serving God than being served.

## WHAT BEING SPIRIT FILLED MEANS

We are never commanded to be indwelt, sealed, or baptized with the Holy Spirit because these are the work of God at Salvation. We are, however, commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ep 5:18).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT? It means that the Spirit controls the behavior of the Christian and performs His ministries through the believer. This is very important because in proportion as the believer walks by means of the Spirit (Gal 5:16), being continually filled with the Spirit (Ep 5:18), will he be enabled to fulfill all God's plan for his life and carry out the program of good works for which he is saved (Ep 2:10); thus receiving a full reward (2 Jn 8).

The filling with the Spirit, radically affects Christian life and service. It produces Christian character in the ninefold fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), power for testimony (Acts 1:8), boldness for witnessing (Acts 4:31), and victory over the flesh (Gal 5:10). It results in the Spirit's teaching (Jn 16:13; 1 Jn 2:27), true praise and worship (Ep 5:18-20), guidance (Rom 8:14), and effective prayer (Rom 8:27).

The Disciples were filled with the Spirit on the day of Pentecost in order to PREACH (Acts 2:4). Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit in order to TESTIFY (Acts 4:8) and the disciples were filled with the Spirit again in order to BOLDLY SPEAK God's Word (Acts 4:31). Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost when he was COMMISSIONED TO SERVE GOD (Acts 9:17) and again when he WITHSTOOD Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13:8-10). It appears then that the Filling with the Spirit effects every area of the Christian life and is necessary to effectively do the work God has for you to do.

There are many things in Scripture that "Fill" us:

FEAR- Luke 5:26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things today. (When the man was healed of Palsy). The fear controlled their lives and caused them to act differently.

MADNESS- Luke 6:6-11 when Jesus healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath "They were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus". Once again, Control.

SORROW- Jn 16:6 Because I have said these things unto you, Sorrow hath filled your heart. Sorrow replaced Joy and Controlled them.

SATAN- Acts 5:1-4 Ananias, Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Instead of being controlled by the Spirit Ananias was controlled by Satan.

The analogy between being Drunk with wine and being filled with the Spirit occurs several times in the NT: Luke 1:15, Acts 2:4, 13, and Ep 5:18. A drunk person is under the control of alcohol and will think, speak, and act in ways not natural when sober. A Christian who is filled with the Spirit will think, speak, and act in ways not natural when he or she is controlled by the flesh.

At the new Birth the absolute control the sinful nature had over a person is broken and he now has a Spiritual nature as well. The Holy Spirit seeks to control the life of the individual in order to produce the fruits of the Spirit in his life. He cannot do this unless the person's "Will" will allow Him to. Being filled with the Spirit is simply allowing the Spirit to do in your life what He wants to do (and what only He can do).

The knowledge that the Holy Spirit is seeking to control every part of the Believer may (could I say usually??) comes to the Believer after they're saved. Because of all the confusion about the Filling of the Spirit, it's hard to find a word to describe this second time of "crisis" in a person's life (The first time is when you become aware of your wickedness and the need of Salvation. Now you are aware of your weakness and the need of Strength). But regardless of the name you use you'll never do an effective work for the Lord without it (To try to do the work of God without the power of God is like trying to empty the ocean with a pitchfork; you'll work yourself to death and never accomplish anything.).

Satan has sought to greatly confuse this matter because it is the Pivotal Point in Christian Service. He tries to get people involved in "wildfire" emotional experiences that have great outward signs ("miracles", tongues, etc), or he tries to scare people away from the Spirit so they will live a life of self-control instead of Spirit-control (Thus making their life and service for the Lord ineffective). The Spirit controlled life is one of death to Self. This will destroy your need of "signs" to show the world and of the Pride that keeps you from yielding to God.

The simple rule of thumb I use to tell the difference between those that are controlled by the Spirit and those that are not is: The Non-spirit controlled person is taken up with his SALVATION (He still majors on self and what God has done for HIM). The Spirit controlled person is taken up with his SAVIOUR (Not I but Christ. Remember that the Spirit will always magnify Christ.).

#### II. WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE:

- A) Power- To Witness for Christ Acts 1:8 4:31-32
- B) Persecution- From the enemies of Christ Acts 7:55-60 I Pet 4:14
- C) Peace- From Abiding in Christ Ep 4:3 John 14:26-27
- D) Productivity: Spirit Filled Christians--

1. Build the Church- (Wisdom to do the work in the Church that needs to be done if it is to operate effectively) Ex 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship. To devise cunning works,...

Ex 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. See also Ex 35:30-35

2. Build the Ministry (Qualification of Deacons who would enable the Disciples to more effectively do their job). [These men needed to be filled with the Spirit IN ORDER TO WAIT ON TABLES!!!!]- Acts 6:3-4 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

## FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

**THE MEANS OF BEING FILLED** The Holy Spirit takes control the moment you meet God's conditions. It's not a matter of you trying to get the Spirit to come to you but rather you yielding to HIM. The Spirit only takes control of what you YIELD to him. He never forces His way in. **YOU'RE AS CLOSE TO GOD RIGHT NOW AS YOU WANT TO BE!!** Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

(Many ask for the Spirit to control them but in reality they want to control the Spirit- like a toy to make the other kids jealous. Are you looking to Submit or "Show Off"???)

The means of being Filled:

1) Let the Word of God Dwell in you richly in all wisdom. Notice that Col 3:16 says that the Word of God dwelling in you does the same thing as being filled with the Spirit.

A) The Word of God. Not man's opinions or thoughts.

B) Dwell in you- take up residence

C) Richly in all wisdom- Meditate on it so that the richness of it's wisdom can become a part of your life.

2) Be Submissive- Be being filled with the Spirit. "Keep allowing the Spirit to control you." As a person controlled by Alcohol walks different, talks different, and feels different so will the person controlled by the Spirit. He will walk as a Christian (that is, it will be obvious that he's Spirit controlled by the way he lives); Talk about the Lord; and feel different (Songs in heart, submitted to place in life).

There is a vast difference between MAKING A DECISION and MAKING A COMMITMENT. Most people make a decision to try to do better when they are faced with difficult circumstances. A true Christian will make a Commitment to serve Christ regardless of the circumstances. Commitment means you give up all control of and claims on your life. You're happy to do Whatever God wants, Wherever God wants you to do it, with whatever means God wants to use.

3) Have Faith-

A) Living the Spirit filled life is not a matter of YOUR spirituality-- it is the Spirit controlling your life for Christ. It is not SINLESSNESS but SUBMISSION (Which will keep you from fulfilling the lust of the flesh- Gal 5:16)

B) You die to comparing yourself with others (Gal 5:26). You're what GOD wants YOU to be instead of being what others expect you to be. (I Had to learn to "be a fool for Christ" (I Cor 3:18, 4:10) as I died to pride and learned to become a Servant to all)

C) Your Faith must be in God-- not in some sign. The transformation of your life will be evident IN TIME. The Just shall live by Faith and not sight. Your tongue will be changed, but not to speak some silly syllable. (It may in fact be Tamed to speak less. See James chapter 3). The Spirit's presence will put a Song in your heart and change your complaining into Praise.

4) Be Thirsty- Jn 7:37-39 A "satisfied" sinner will not be saved and a Satisfied Christian will not be filled. (As long as You think YOU can make it you'll never lean on the Spirit as you should).

## THINGS THAT KEEP US FROM ENJOYING THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT.

1. Grieving the Spirit- Ep 4:30 Causing pain or sorrow to the Spirit by WHAT WE DO. The Holy Spirit is a good House-keeper and demands that the Temple He controls be clean. This involves our talk, our thoughts, our actions, and every phrase of our life. Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

2. Quenching the Spirit- I Thess 5:19 Failing to allow the Spirit to control us by WHAT WE FAIL TO DO. We fail to obey the Spirit when it displeases us and the Spirit can't work God's plan in our life. Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

How can I tell if I'm Spirit Filled? I think the answer will be evident to all (The Disciples told the people to pick Spirit Filled men for Deacons so it must be something that can be easily detected). I think probably the easiest method is to become a "Fruit Inspector" --Mt 7:16-17 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit

Look for the nine-fold Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23):

1. Love- An attitude that moves us to put God and others ahead of ourselves. A spirit that impels us to give, to serve, and to forgive.

2. Joy- A spirit of gladness rooted in our faith, expressed thru song, and accompanied by an optimistic spirit.

3. Peace- Inner serenity derived from God and based on the reality of our peace with God through Christ's sacrifice.

4. Longsuffering (Even tempered, forbearing)- patience in the midst of difficult circumstances and in our relationships with difficult people.

5. Gentleness- a tenderness of spirit that enables us to discipline others properly, to endure persecution graciously, and to witness to others sensitively.

6. Goodness- open, honest, pure, and generous behavior.

7. Faith (The word here really means "Faithfulness")- We can be trusted and depended on in all our relationships.

8. Meekness (Humility)- practicing the golden rule of treating others as we expect them to treat us.

9. Temperance (Self-control)- the quality that gives us control over our desires, especially those that relate to the body.

## ARE YOU SPIRIT CONTROLLED?

## RESULTS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 5:18- 6:9

1. We will worship God with a Joyful heart- "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." True Worship is Not ATTENDING a house of Worship- it is warm-hearted praise and thanksgiving to God from a Spirit filled heart (God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.)

2. We will be Thankful about everything because we Know God is in control- "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." When we are controlled by the Spirit we can be Thankful even in Tragedy because we KNOW GOD IS DIRECTING and He will never lead us wrong.

3. We will accept our place in God's order- "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God". Husband and wife relationships, Parent and children relationships, and Social relationships will all be effected by the Spirit's control of a person.

4. We will receive a testimony of Christ and boldness to proclaim it. Acts 2:4 When they were filled with the Holy Spirit they preached Christ and 3000 were saved. Acts 4:8 When Peter and the disciples were brought before the council Peter was Filled with the Holy Ghost and proclaimed Christ. Acts 4:31 When they were threatened they prayed and "the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness."

5. We will be equipped to serve God- The Deacons were to be men "Full of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 6:3). The Holy Spirit gives us a "gift" for the Body of Christ but it is not effective in our lives unless we are controlled by the Spirit.

6. We will be enabled to detect and withstand Satan's deceptions. Acts 13:9 When Paul faced Elymas the sorcerer he being filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, and said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? At the end of Paul's talk on being filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5 and 6 he goes right into using the whole armor of God to defeat Satan and stresses the fact that it's not a Fleshly battle but A SPIRITUAL BATTLE.

7. We will glorify Christ- Jn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come... He will glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. Spirit filled Christians don't seek to praise their Experience- they praise Christ. They don't lift themselves up as "Super-Saints"; they magnify Christ.

## "Playing with the Serious"

Acts 19:8-20

If you saw a youngster playing with a LOADED PISTOL as if it were a toy gun you'd take it from him lest he harm himself and others. In the same way God is showing us in today's text about some that are PLAYING when they should be serious.

### I. THOSE THAT PLAYED AT BEING CHRISTIANS vs 13-16

A) Self Appointed and not Spirit Anointed. They "Took upon them" to do the Lord's work. They were Energized by the Flesh instead of being sent by the Spirit. (People decide to start to Church, to do Better, etc. without being Born Again)

B) Religious without the reality of the Religion. They were the "Sons of the Chief Priest". They represent good moral people raised in the Church who know the answers but they don't know the Questions. They could tell you about Jonah and Moses and people like that but they didn't know what they meant.

C) Language without the Life to back it up. "We adjure you by Jesus". They knew the Talk but didn't have the Walk. ("Religious" jewelry on indecent dressed people. People who claim to be "Born Again" but still sing in night clubs, etc.). To these people Jesus was a "magic potion" they could use to get their way.

D) Profession without Power- "Jesus I know and Paul I know but who are you?". They had no Power because they :

1. Were Prayerless- The Disciples found that the Demon possessed lad at the Mount of Transfiguration could not be cleansed because they had failed in their Prayer life. Mk 9:14-29

2. Had no Passion for souls- not interested in the man. Simply wanted an "experience".

3. Had no Perseverance- Ran when things got rough.

Note their PERIL- 1 man defeated these 7, exposing their nakedness and showing the world what they really were.

Matt 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, Have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

One day a doctor put something in my heart so he could see if there was anything there that shouldn't be. In much the same way, God looks inside our Spiritual heart and determines if we are a Sham or Serious

### II. THE SERIOUS SAVED vs 18-20

A) Saved by Faith in Christ- "They Believed" and as a result were Born Again. They didn't just talk it, they followed up.

B) Honest Confession- They "Shewed their deeds". They confessed their sin to be SIN.

C) Totally abandoned old way of life- They "Burned the Books" on the way they used to live. Determined to live different.

D) Allowed the Word of God to prevail in their life. vs 20 "So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed". They Grew in the Grace and Knowledge of Christ as they studied and applied God's word.

YOU CAN LIVE THE LIFE OF AN IMITATOR AND BE PREVAILED AGAINST. vs 16  
OR YOU CAN SUBMIT TO GOD AND PREVAIL VS 20

Don't play "Russian Roulette" with your soul.



# GRACE & GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
Pastor Mircheal Jones



Vol IV Num 29 November 18, 1986 "To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"

## SPECIAL SUNDAY

Sunday School (10:00am) - The Pastor will continue his study on the doctrine of HUMANISM. This false religion has invaded every area of our life and we need to understand what it is and how to combat it. We will look at how this harmful doctrine has invaded our public schools, the television programs you watch, and even some Pastor's preaching. Be here with all your family.

Morning Worship Service (11:00am Broadcast live over WJOT) - Our Special Speaker this week will be REV. NED PATTILLO. Brother Ned was the pastor at Grace when the Parsonage was built and we're looking forward to his return to see the work done this year.

We then look forward to sharing a Covered Dish Fellowship Meal. This will allow us time to fellowship with Brother and Sister Pattillo as well as the Buck Flowers Family (They've moved to Conway because of Buck's job and we are very saddened to see them go).

Following the Meal (around 1:30pm) the Ladies Aux. will prepare Thanksgiving Fruit Baskets for distribution. We will then assign people several Fruit Baskets to deliver. This will allow us to spend some time with the sick and shut-in of our community.

We will not have an Evening Service this Sunday but remember the Thanksgiving PRAISE SERVICE Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 7:30pm. This service is one of the highlight services of our year as EVERYONE present gets to share a testimony of God's Blessings during the year.

THANKS to Rev and Mrs Sam Fulmer and Rev Larry McAlister for their help with this week's newsletter. I have heard from several this week about how God is using the Tapes and newsletters to reach lost and unchurched in their families and I appreciate the opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

I have been painting my office in the Parsonage and building shelves to put my books on this week. I'm trying to set things up so that the many phases of this work will be able to go on without making my office look like a Pig-Pen!! (When you preach 3 sermons a week, teach a Sunday School class and a Bible Institute Class, publish newsletters and print booklets, copy and distribute tapes, and correspond with people about contributions, church business, and supplies; you need a place for everything and everything in it's place!!)

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## HOLY OR THE HERD?

Matt 7:13-27

The curse of modern day Christianity is Compromise (Apathy to Commitment and Holiness). We have tried to be all things to all men and have ended up being NOTHING to ANYONE. (And a sin-cursed world is seeking answers in Psychiatry, Pleasures, or Pills!!!). At a time when Christians are too busy to Serve and too Bound to Selfish interest to become involved we need to re-examine our path and see if we are walking with the HOLY OR THE HERD!!.

I. FALSE PATHS vs 13-14 There are 2 Paths men walk down. One is Broad and crowded with the "HERD". The other is Narrow for the HOLY.

### A) The Entrance to the Path

1. The Broad Way: "Go In". All you have to do to go to Hell is exist. At the first opportunity you rebel against God and sin.
2. The Narrow Way: "Find". Must have a desire to go this way.

### B) The Character of the Gate

1. Broad Way is WIDE- Able to accept any doctrine or deed. Many enter side by side (Antichrist's one world church)
2. Narrow Way is STRAIT (Narrow, not streight)-  
Religious Nicodemus had to be "Born Again"  
"Righteous" Paul had to count all things but dung for Christ  
Rich Young Ruler found it too narrow

### C) The Description of the Way

1. Broad: No direction or discipline (Chaff of Psalm 1)
2. Narrow: Holy (Example of Road in Russia set apart only for Officials). Is 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

The COMMAND- "Be ye Holy" The COMPANIONSHIP- "For I the Lord your God am Holy".

### D) The Number on each Path

1. Broad: Many (Herd) Can't follow the Crowd.
2. Narrow: Few (Holy) Willing to make a definite stand

### E) Destination of each Path

1. Broad: Destruction. Easy road to Hell
  2. Narrow: Life Abundant life here and eternal life with God
- ARE YOU ONE OF THE HOLY?? OR THE HERD??

II. FALSE PROPHETS vs 15-20 Attempt to get you to join the "Herd"

- A) Their Appearance- Wolves in Sheep's clothing
- B) Their Judgment- Look at Fruit. Is it Good or Gold. Success or Service???
- C) Their End- Cut down and cast into fire.

III. FALSE PROFESSIONS vs 21-23 Sought to please the "Herd" instead of God. EVEN GOOD WORKS ARE BAD IF NOT IN GOD'S WILL

- A) What they say: Prophetised, cast out devils, and done many wonderful works in thy name
- B) What God says: I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

IV. FALSE FOUNDATION vs 24-27 Houses may look the same but foundation is faulty. One day you'll be on trial. Will you Stand??

- A) Build on Sand- can't stand storm
- B) Build on Rock- withstands storm

Are you building your destiny by following the HOLY or the HERD??

## WHERE ARE THE NINE???

Luke 17:11-19

The steamer, Lady Elgin, was carrying 323 passengers. It was a chilly evening in early September. She was brilliantly lighted and loaded with travelers. Suddenly, before she reached the port of Chicago, she began to sink. Obviously, before help could arrive, she would be gone. The crowd on the shore watched the tragedy powerless to help.

Suddenly two brothers, students in a theological seminary, plunged through the crowd with a rope in their hands. Nat, the elder, a powerful man and a trained swimmer, leaped into the water. Inch by inch, he fought his way through the waves until he reached the sinking ship and climbed aboard. A moment later, with herculean strength, he carried back to safety a woman. With eager arms the crowd helped to haul him in; he was choking and cold, but still strong. Again he plunged in- and again- and again!

Twenty three lives Nat Spencer saved. For weeks he lay delirious. Meanwhile the 23 whom he had saved scattered to their homes. In time, the nation began to forget the tragedy of the 300 who had died that night in Lake Michigan.

But the 23 whom Nat had saved, surely they did not forget. Surely, they were grateful! But not one of them ever came back to thank Nat Spencer for what he had done. Not one of them even wrote him a letter. Nat Spencer lived out his life as an invalid. Not one of the 23 people came back to say, "Thank You".

Is not this what Jesus faced when he cleansed the 10 lepers and only 1 returned to give him thanks? In amazement Jesus asked, "Where are the 9???" Can it happen today? Could it happen here??? We have multitudes of people who have received Blessings from God (Salvation, Financial help, sickness cured, etc) and yet they won't even come to Church regularly to give God thanks. Where are the 9??

1. Maybe they're at home with an excuse- Matt 22. Maybe they married a wife; bought a field; or some oxen and allow this to keep them from Church. (Example of man who was given 6 coins and came back to steal the 7th. Just like men steal God's day). They say they love the Lord and His Church but they have NO FAITHFULNESS.

2. Asleep in the Garden- Like the 5 foolish virgins or the disciples while Jesus prayed they're TOO TIRED to watch and Pray. They'd come to Church but Sunday is the only day they can rest.

3. Warming at Satan's fire- Peter became so busy FELLOWSHIPPING WITH THE WORLD until he lost his testimony and denied his Lord.

4. Down in the Hog pen- Prodigal WASTED FATHER'S GIFTS on worldly pleasures [If I told you I needed money for medicine and used it for meanness you'd be mad. How do you think God feels about the way we treat what He gives us?!!!]

5. In the Whale's belly- Jonah the DISOBEDIENT servant was out of God's plan for his life and decided to Run instead of Preach.

6. Under the Juniper tree- Elijah was DISCOURAGED because things didn't go the way he thought they ought to go at "Church"

7. Down in Sodom- Lot was SEEKING WEALTH. It cost him loss of fellowship with God and God's people (Abraham) as well as his family.

8. Gone Fishing- Peter and the other disciples RETURNED TO FORMER LIFE instead of staying Faithful and Jesus had to call their Love into question. Lovest thou me MORE.

9. Working instead of Waiting- Martha was more interested in Serving than in the Saviour. This caused her to get her EYES ON OTHERS and complain about Mary instead of rejoice in serving Christ.

When Paul began to tell about the fall of man into the pits of sins and despair in Romans chapter 1 he said this- Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Science says that bats are blind because they never used their eyes! They remain in caves in the day and only come out at night. ARE WE TAKING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR GRANTED?? MIGHT WE LOSE THEM???

Some are here today that are sincere. You realize that Life's blessings come from God and you want to do the right thing. You wonder what you should do--- Ps 116:12-13 What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of Salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

ARE YOU ONE OF THE 9??????????

You Are  
Needed

## "Enduring"

Matt 24:13

We have entered a time when the "drop out" rate among Church people is staggering. People need to again see the importance of staying faithful to God and His work.

### I. WHAT IT MEANS TO ENDURE

A) To Stay Under- Matt 24:13 He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. The idea is to remain faithful even though Pressures and Problems remain and increase. Mk 4:16-17 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and have no root in themselves, but so endure for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

B) To Hold up against- II Thess 1:4-5 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer.

C) To maintain Faith- Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the King; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Strong enough to Forsake Sin, not to Fear the King, and to live by Faith.

Heb 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

### II. WHY SHOULD WE ENDURE????

A) For our own salvation's sake- Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. Don't allow Persecutions and Problems to make you an Apostate.

B) For other's Salvation's sake- II Tim 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. II Tim 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. Jesus DIED to get Salvation to men. I should be able to endure persecution.

C) To Build our Character- II Tim 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Heb 12:7 If ye endure Chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? (vs 10 says He chastens us for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.)

D) To Encourage other Christians- James 5:10-11 Take, my brethern, the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

E) For Conscience's Sake- I Pet 2:19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. May the Lord deliver us from "Jelly-fish" Christians who aren't willing to stand for anything that involves suffering.

F) For the JOY to come- Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

### III. HOW CAN WE ENDURE??

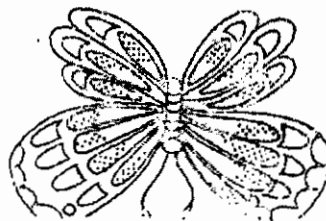
A) Pace Yourself- Jacob found that in a journey you must Pace yourself. Gen 33:14 Let my Lord, I pray thee, pass over before thy servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir. You renew Strength as you Wait on the Lord. You don't want the Father to take you out of the oven while you're "half-baked".

B) Seek Help from Others- In Ex 18 Moses' father-in-law told Moses he would not be able to endure unless he obtained help. Seek support from Family, Friends, and Fellow Christians (They can help with Concern, advice, and Prayer support.)

C) Remember who's in control- Ps 30:5 Weeping may endure for a night, but Joy cometh in the morning. God has not forsaken or forgotten you and He will never allow the circumstances to be greater than the strength He supplies.

D) Hold to God's Love for you and your love for Him- I Cor 13:7 Love endureth all things.

May God grant us some people who will STICK TO IT when the going gets rough, who will HANG ON when the storms of life hit us, and who will never, never, never, never, never, never, never QUIT.



## "When Man Is King"

Judges 21:25

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

The book of Judges is one of the most heart breaking books in the Bible. It begins with the Children of Israel having finally arrived in the promised land. They have all the promises of God to cling to and tremendous potential for growth and Blessings as they follow God's plan for their lives---yet they fall into the "Cycle of Sin" and the book ends with Moses' Grandson as an Idolatrous Priest, a Levite starting a Civil war over his concubine being assaulted!! and one of the tribes of Israel having to Steal Wives to survive!!! THIS SHOW US THAT THE RESULTS OF MAN BEING HIS OWN "GOD" IS THAT THE RELIGIOUS VALUES DETERIORATE, THE FAMILY FALLS APART, AND THE NATION FALLS INTO CHAOS

How could this happen to them?? Could it happen to US??? Let's find the reasons and avoid the practice.

Judges begins with God granting continuing Victories to the Children of Israel as they obeyed His voice. Judah went up against "Adonibezek" (Lord Lightning) and conquered him. [Adonibezek represented Satan for Christ said He saw Satan as lightening fall from the sky. Adonibezek would control his captives by cutting off their thumbs and big toes. This meant they could not grasp a sword or run away. When he was captured by Judah he had HIS thumbs and big toes cut off. Thus he represents the victory Christians now have over Satan. Satan is not "Dead" but he is Defeated in Christ!!!].

Not only do we see the victory of a Tribe but also an example is given of the victory of an individual. In 1:12-15 we find Caleb claiming his possessions in the Lord by offering his daughter to the person who conquered the main city. Othniel conquered the city, claimed the bride, and even got an extra blessing of a spring of water. [In the same way Christians are able to conquer our enemies, claim converts for the Bride of Christ, and receive the "Living Water" of the Spirit].

BUT THEN we find the problems beginning. In vs 21 and 27 we find that the children of Israel do not drive out the enemy; they settle down with him! Then in vs 28 they start to tax the enemy instead of defeat him. That's the way sin gets hold in our lives and defeats us. We start out by Tolerating the enemy instead of Defeating him. Then we try to get some benefit from him to justify our failure. Then we begin to make deals with him (2:2), and finally we surrender to him. (Take a Christian that begins to drink. He might take the first drink "to be sociable" with the crowd instead of taking a definite stand that would make him unpopular. Surprise, surprise!! Instead of making him feel awful it seems he can actually think better and accomplish more. Soon he finds himself drinking more and more- and saying less and less about sin. If he continues this way eventually he will declare his desires as correct and God as wrong).

God's command to Israel had been very specific- Num 33:52-53 Ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: and ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it. HIS WARNING was also very specific vs 55-56 If ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.

Why did man ignore God's Word and law then?? Why does he do so today??

1. Man thinks God is keeping something from him. Gen 3:4-5 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

2. Man began to think that his ideas are as good as God's Laws. Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The Results are :

1. Man "FINDS" himself and centers his universe on him- Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. If it feels good do it. Follow the crowd.

2. Man loses the FOUNDATION of God's law and has no reference point to establish what is right and wrong. He therefore tries to make do with "fig leaves" but finds they wither so very quick!!!

3. Man loses FELLOWSHIP with God- and that means he loses his PURPOSE and PEACE. Man was created for God and has no purpose or peace outside of God's will for him.

Who's the "God" of your life? Are you trusting God's Plan of Salvation? or one you've devised?? Are you doing God's will for your life or your own??



# GRACE & GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
Pastor Mircheal Jones

Vol IV Num 30 December 4, 1986 "To KNOW and to SHOW Christ"

## December Events:

- 3 "Bobo" Graham Birthday/ Marjorie McAllister Birthday
- 4 Jimmie McAllister Birthday
- 5 Graham and Robin Matthews Anniversary
- 8 Beth Broach Birthday
- 9 Tom McKnight Birthday/ End Fall Semester Bethel Bible Inst.
- 12 Betty Lou Thompson Birthday/ Patricia McKnight Birthday
- 15 Drew Lowder Birthday/ Russel Lowder Birthday
- 16 Kim Matthews Birthday
- 17 Don Coker Birthday
- 21 WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING/ CHRISTMAS PLAY & Fellowship supper
- 22 Dallas & Lela Mae Wise Anniversary
- 27 Dallas Wise Birthday
- 28 Missionary Ron Moore Speak in Morning Service  
Ralph & Miriam McAllister Anniversary
- 29 Susan Broach Birthday
- 30 Brandon Powell Birthday
- 31 Watch Night Service with the Scranton Baptist Church.  
(This is still in the Planning Stages. More details later)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas--everywhere in the Church. People are cleaning up and decorating, Christmas play practice is coming along, and even the kids are being on their best behavior!!! What a joy it is to be able to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The world tries to intrude every way it can but it can't steal the joy from the heart of a Christian. The world may "take Christ out of their Xmas" but we Christians know that He's the reason for the season and we won't allow them to sidetrack us.

As you can see from the calendar, December is a busy month (and I didn't list the Christmas parties that will take place all month!). We can make it a time of worry and anxiety or we can allow the peace and joy of God to flood our souls. I move we make this the best Christmas ever by telling everyone we can that the Saviour is born and wants to give them the gift of eternal life today.

Special Thanks to Rev. Ned Pattillo, Rev. Larry McAllister, Bill and Elise McBride, Olee Elmore, David and Jackie Johnson, and two of my favorite ladies at Senior Citizen for their help on the newsletter recently. Couldn't do it without you.

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## COMMON SENSE CHRISTMAS

Here are some simple common sense guidelines to help you enjoy the Christmas season.

### GIFT GIVING:

1. Wrap your gift in Love. That first Christmas gift was given because "God so loved the World and He gave" (Jn 3:16). Your gift will mean more to you and to the one receiving it if Love goes with it. (No matter who the gift is for you ought to be able to send Love with it for the Bible commands us to Love our family, our neighbors, and even our enemies!!). In fact, it might be a good time to "reach out" to that enemy. The Bible says to do good to them that despitefully use you.)

2. Pray for guidance in the selection of your gift. One of the most frustrating parts of Christmas shopping is trying to buy something for someone when you have absolutely no idea what they need or want. Pray for God's guidance in the selection of the Gift and it's use (You wouldn't want to give someone something that would cause them to sin!). James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

3. Give the Gift of your Presence. I surveyed my elderly shut-in people several years ago about what their needs were. The answer in every case was not for financial and physical help (even though many had needs in these areas) but for someone to visit and show concern. On that first Christmas the Shepherds did not bring gifts; they brought themselves. Paul told the Corinthians to first give themselves and then give their gift (II Cor 8:5). No matter how expensive the gift it can never replace the personal touch. Don't just give people the money you spent on the gift; give them yourself with the gift.

### YOUR ATTITUDE.

Remember that the real reason for Christmas is Easter. Jesus did not come to earth to put a "band-aid" on the world's problems. He came to give men the greatest gift possible- eternal life, free from sin's bondage and wages (death). He came to suffer and die that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.". If you'll remember this instead of only thinking about the things that inconvenience you then you'll find opportunities to share the real gift of Christmas with someone this year.

Let the Joy and Thanks of this season flood your life as you repeat this verse over and over during these next days.

**THANKS BE UNTO GOD, FOR HIS  
UNSPEAKABLE GIFT (II Cor 9:15)**

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF OUR SERVICES:

Bible Study Hour.....10:00am  
(Bible Classes for all ages)  
Morning Evangelistic Service.....11:00am  
(Broadcast live over WJOT. 1260 on AM dial)  
Evening Worship Service.....6:00pm  
(Worship in Song, Testimony, and Study)  
Wednesday Prayer Service.....7:30pm  
(Bible Study, Prayer, and activities)

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Remember that new Missionary to the Ivory Coast RGN MOORE will be our special guest speaker on Sunday Morning Dec 28. Brother Ron will bless your heart and challenge your commitment and I hope we will have a large congregation to hear him.


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Since we will be studying the books of Philipians and Colossians in Sunday School soon you may want to get the chapter by chapter notes I have on these books.

Another book that might be helpful for you to begin studying in the new year is Nehemiah: "Learning to Work and Worship Together". It tells how a Burdened layman accomplished great things for God in spite of difficult circumstances and problems. It's 30 pages long and contains a number of helps on additional subjects as well as the outline of Nehemiah.

Any of these books are yours for the asking.

# GRACE & GLORY



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Paula and I would like to take this opportunity to wish EVERY ONE of you a VERY Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. We love and appreciate you and thank God for your concern and Prayers this year.

This has been one year when I feel like the Church has ministered to Paula and I more than we have ministered to it and I thank God for allowing me to pastor people of such love and understanding. I HOPE and Pray that 1987 will be much better and we'll be able to build on the fine foundation we have

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I also appreciate the MANY fine friends we have thru our outreach ministry. The cards, letters, and calls we have received this year from people (many of whom we hardly know) has meant a great deal to us. The ministry continues to expand in ways that simply astound me. I plan to incorporate more people in the physical work in 1987 so we will be able to reach more people than ever. A hungry hurting world desperately needs to hear of Christ and I want to use every method God gives us to reach them.

Special Thanks to Anne McKnight, Mr and Mrs Bill Evans, Lucile Stuckey, and Marion Coker for recent gifts to our outreach work. I also want to acknowledge a MEMORIAL gift to this work in memory of KEITH WEBSTER, given by His wife Judy. I can't think of a more fitting memorial for anyone than that of sharing Christ with others.

These recent gifts have allowed me to end the year in the "Black". 1986 has been a year of miracles as far as the outreach work is concerned and I never cease to be amazed at how God has not only met every need we have had this year but also given us nearly twice as much of an outreach today as we had last year this time. AIN'T GOD GOOD!!!

The "Heart" of the newsletter today is my "Christmas Gift" to you-- A booklet about Prayer. I hope that the notes will help you to learn more about Prayer but, more than anything, I hope it will encourage you to become a Prayer Warrior for God. I believe that Praying People will accomplish God's Work; will live God's Way, and will do God's Will.

Extra copies of the booklet are available for the asking. (The tapes of the sermons on these messages are also available).

## WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Sunday before Christmas is traditionally the time we receive a Special Offering in our Church. Instead of giving gifts to one another we give a gift to the Lord's Work. Each year this money is used to accomplish a special project around the Church. Last year it enabled us to pave our parking. This year it is to finish paying for the remodeling work done in the parsonage.

Our goal this year is \$3000. Pray and give as God directs so that we can retire this debt and go on to some other needed projects around the Church.

## CHRISTMAS PLAY

We are happy to present the Christmas Program: "Come, Ye Faithful Wise Men" this coming Sunday (Dec 21) at 6:00pm. Directed by Susan Spring and Anne McKnight, this program shows the traditional and contemporary view of Christmas. It is designed to show men their need of accepting Christ and we pray they will do exactly that. I believe everyone will enjoy the play and I urge you to invite all your friends and loved ones.

We will have a "Finger Food Fellowship" following the Play. Everyone is invited.

Christmas is a time that God made a DECLARATION and a DEMONSTRATION. He declared that a King was born to the wise men by a Star; then He demonstrated it from the Bible when they questioned Herod. He declared a Saviour had been born to the Shepherds then demonstrated it by a babe in swaddling clothes. He has declared that Christ came to Save YOU. Won't you let Him demonstrate it??

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things

II Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

Psalms 81:10 I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

II Chron 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

James 5:16 THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH.

I Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

# PRAYER BOOKLET

MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY. AND NOT TO FAINT  
Pastor: Harchael Jones

IT IS BY PRAYER WE RECEIVE:

WISDOM- James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

PEACE- Phil 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by Prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION- Matt 26:41 Watch and Pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

ALL GOOD THINGS- Matt 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Jesus did not teach His Disciples to preach but He did teach them to PRAY!! Every important event in the life of Christ took place either immediately after or during a time of Prayer. Even in Death He Prayed!!

2. PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER- Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. The Greek of these words talk of a continuing action- Ask and keep on asking, seek and keep in seeking, knock and keep on knocking. Many times we pray about something one or two times and then stop---and are surprised later when God grants our request!

The thing we must be aware of is that God hears us the first time! God is not deaf! He asks us to persist in Prayer for several reasons:

A) It helps us see if we really want or need what we are requesting. (I have prayed for some things that later on I was glad God didn't give me!).

B) But most important of all, God likes to hear our Prayers.--Prov 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight Rev 5:8 Says that the incense of worship in Heaven is the "Prayers of Saints" (See also Rev 8:3-4). Most Christians do not realize what a joy it is for our Heavenly Father to hear our Prayers so we seldom pray--and often pain God's heart.

3. OBEDIENCE IN PRAYER- I Jn 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. God does not want to reward rebellion. He expects us to live right and to use the resources He gives us correctly.

James says that we ask and receive not, because we ask amiss, that we might consume it upon our lusts (James 4:3). This simply means that we must follow God's PRINCIPLES even as we Pray. (Next page)

The Principle of Getting is to Give--Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you mete withal it shall be measured to you again.. (See also Malachi 3:9-10 where God says to bring the tithes into the storehouse and see the windows of Heaven open!).

The Principle of Reaping is to Sow--Prov 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. (See also Gal 6:7-9)

It is not only that WE OBEY GOD BEFORE WE PRAY but also that WE OBEY GOD WITH THE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS!!!!

4. ACCORDING TO HIS WILL- I Jn 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: We realize that God's plans and purpose are vastly more important than any of ours and we yield to HIS DESIRE FOR US.

And God has even given us help in determining what His will is- Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know now what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.

When we find His will then we have these great Promises to claim- Ps 37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Matt 6:33 Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

5. ASK IN JESUS' NAME- Jn 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.  
John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

When I present a check to the bank they can't cash it unless it is signed. In the same way the "Name of Jesus" enables God to hear and answer our Prayers, even though we have no claim on "Heaven's Bank" by our own merits!!!

Here are some Promises for you to "Cash":

Phil 4:19 My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Jer 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Ps 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

James 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

A missionary in India was preaching once when he noticed a visitor watching the light bulb above his head. After the service the visitor asked if he could borrow the bulb. The missionary had another so he loaned it to him. Soon the man returned and said something was wrong. When the missionary went with him to his home he found the light bulb hanging by a string in the center of the room!! The man wasn't connected to the power-- and neither are a lot of people! Maybe the "light" in your prayer room is not burning because you aren't connected to God by Faith in Christ.

## "THY PRAYER IS HEARD"

Luke 1:13

These have to be some of the most welcome words that a person can hear, "Thy Prayer is Heard"; your request is granted; you have what you wanted. Zacharias should have "jumped for Joy" when he heard these words. Instead he feared and had such little faith until the angel had to make him dumb until the birth of John the Baptist.

Are we like this today? Has Prayer become such a form to us until it would shock and frighten us if it were answered?? How can we become people who value Prayer because we know God craves our Prayers and answers our requests??

1. FAITH TO PRAY- Matt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Mark 9:23 If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth

Faith is a relative things. Put "Utter

Unbelief" on one side of a paper and

"absolute certainty" on the other. Now draw a line between these two, and any point on that line will be faith! (Naturally some faith will be more than other).

People talk of needing "Perfect Faith" to get their Prayers answered. If that is the case then Zacharias would have missed the Blessing. And the Church that prayed for Peter but didn't believe it could be him when he came to the door would have never won his release (Acts 12:1-16).

Most of us must pray like the father in Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief". As you pray and see God answer your Prayers your Faith will grow but you must START WITH THE FAITH YOU HAVE!!!

3. It could be you refuse to hear and heed the Word of God- Prov 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

-----Maybe an honest debt you refuse to pay- Matt 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee: Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. -----Maybe a grudge you're holding against someone- Matt 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Answered Prayer ought to be a normal part of the Christian life. If your prayers are not answered (and remember that many times the answer is NO!) then you need to find out what's wrong and correct the problem.

## **WHEN PRAYERS AREN'T ANSWERED**

As you study the life of Christ you find that He was a man of constant Prayer. This means Prayer should be a normal part of the Christian life. In fact we are told to be people of constant prayer-I Sam 12:23 God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.

I Thess 5:17 Pray without Ceasing

Jesus said, "men ought always to pray, and not to faint". Lu 18:1

Yet there are many times that it seems we pray and pray and get no results. "When I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer." "Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through" (Lam 3:8, 44)

Let's see why we have non-answered Prayers.

When God has something better- II Cor 12:8-9  
For this (thorn in the Flesh) I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me, And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (I prayed for a stencil cutter, God gave me a Computer!!)

When God has already given His answer---  
Moses praying to enter the Promised land- Deut. 3:23-26 And I besought the Lord at that time, saying, O Lord God, Thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might? I

pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon. But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

BE CAREFUL, Continuing to "pester" God can lead to sin!!- Balaam Praying the second time to go curse Israel- Num 22:7-20 God allowed him to go but changed his curses into Blessings. Balaam then told the Moabites to corrupt Israel instead of Curse them and destroyed many of them.

When people cross "God's line" of sinfulness-  
(I believe you will lose your "Burden" for them when this happens and realize you are "casting your pearls before swine").  
Jeremiah 7:13-16 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the Lord, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not: Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim. Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

14:11 Then said the Lord unto me, Pray not for this people for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

When Someone "Sins unto death"- I John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

When there is "Sin in the camp"- Joshua told to stop praying and start dealing with sin- Joshua 7:10-12 And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned...neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.  
Is 59:1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

1. It can be the wife rebelling against the Husband or the husband refusing to take his place of leadership- I Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life: that your prayers be not hindered.

2. It could be your prayers are self centered- James 4:3 Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

You want for yourself but aren't willing to share-Prov 21:13 Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.