

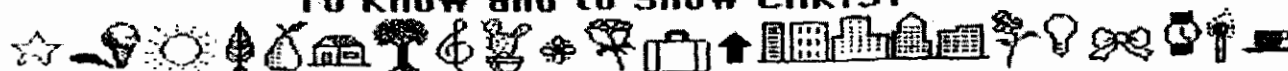
# Grace



# Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803) 394-3725 Vol 6 Num 2 Jan 14, 1988

**"To Know and to Show CHRIST"**



What a GREAT BLESSING I received last Monday night when Ralph, Miriam, and Michelle McAllister brought me a brand new rocker recliner for my office!! The old office chair I was using was worn out and caused me a great deal of discomfort but this new chair is ideal for the type of work I do. It rocks (I lean back a lot while I type on the computer), Swivels (It's between my computer desk and regular desk so I can just turn around from one to the other), and reclines (so I can "Meditate" from time to time!!). Thank the Lord for this fine family and their contribution to my work and the work of the Church.

Let me brag a little on my church people. During the "Great Ice Storm of 88" when almost all the churches in our area had canceled their services, our people managed to come so that we had 18 more in Sunday School than we had last year on a normal day. Thank the Lord for the dedication of these people.



Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
P O Box 1003  
Lake City, S C 29560

When I first began pastoring one of the things I was warned about was quarterly Church Conference. I was told to expect Friction that would change into "fireworks" from time to time. I'm glad to say that has not been my experience. In fact, if we could have conference as good as we had last week every time then I might schedule one every month. All departments gave good reports and had good goals for the coming year. We're just a few consistently dedicated people away from really being able to accomplish a great deal for the Lord here at Grace-- and I'm expecting the Lord to supply them this year.

Our major projects right now are to remodel the front of the church and rework the shrubbery. Then we plan to put most of our resources into planning and building the new sanctuary. Our major "People" projects are to establish a new Teen class on Wednesday Night and to upgrade our music program. Our Spiritual Goals include more worship participation and souls saved.

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# 1987 FINANCIAL STATEMENT GRACE AND GLORY OUTREACH MINISTRY

INCOME:  
 JANUARY.....156.26  
 FEBRUARY.....576.28  
 MARCH.....190.00  
 APRIL.....489.66  
 MAY.....798.81  
 JUNE.....265.86  
 JULY.....320.61  
 AUGUST.....164.31  
 SEPTEMBER.....479.86  
 OCTOBER.....386.00  
 NOVEMBER.....376.72  
 DECEMBER.....300.00  
 TOTAL.....\$4504.37

EXPENSE:  
 JANUARY.....447.32  
 FEBRUARY.....293.15  
 MARCH.....483.41  
 APRIL.....447.86  
 MAY.....220.40  
 JUNE.....869.88  
 JULY.....226.56  
 AUGUST.....170.58  
 SEPTEMBER.....464.10  
 OCTOBER.....489.56  
 NOVEMBER.....297.83  
 DECEMBER.....407.27  
 TOTAL.....\$4817.92

BALANCE 01/01/87.....\$ 468.19  
 INCOME FOR 1987.....\$4504.37  
 TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR....\$4972.56  
 EXPENSE FOR 1987.....\$4817.92  
 BALANCE 01/01/88.....\$ 154.64

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 POSTAGE TO MAIL NEWSLETTER AND TAPES DURING 1987.....\$1169.03  
 BOOK BINDER AND BINDERS.....596.65  
 CASSETTE TAPES.....739.31  
 HELP FOR WIDOWS AND NEEDY.....460.75  
 PAPER, INK, STAPLES, COMPUTER SUPPLIES, ETC.....1729.60  
 (THE REMAINING \$122.58 WAS USED TO BUY CHRISTIAN MAGAZINES FOR  
 TEENS AND A NEW FILE CABINET TO HOLD BOOKLET MATERIAL)

**THANKS** TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE LAST YEAR IN ORDER FOR ME TO  
 CONTINUE TO PUBLISH AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.  
 THE NEWSLETTER GOES INTO NEARLY 600 HOMES 2 OR 3 TIMES A MONTH AND  
 MANY PEOPLE ARE BEING REACHED FOR JESUS. THE TAPES, BOOKLETS, AND  
 OTHER MINISTRIES ARE BEING GREATLY USED OF THE LORD AS WELL. THANKS  
 FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT.

I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO UPGRADE MY COMPUTER SYSTEM THIS  
 COMING YEAR SO THAT THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE MORE ATTRACTIVE AS WELL  
 AS MORE INFORMATIVE. I ALSO PLAN TO PUBLISH A LIST OF ALL AVAILABLE  
 MATERIAL SOON SO EVERYONE WILL KNOW WHAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE TO HELP  
 THEM-- AND REMEMBER THAT EVERYTHING IS FREE FOR THE ASKING. HOPE TO  
 HELP YOU THIS YEAR.

PREACHER MIKE

\*\*\*\*\*  
 SPECIAL BULLETIN- THANKS TO MR BOBBY THIGPEN FOR DONATING A 50 INCH  
 TV TO THE CHURCH TO USE IN OUR YOUTH MINISTRY. THIS WILL GREATLY  
 HELP IN BIBLE SCHOOL, CHILDREN'S CHURCH, AND TEEN NIGHT.  
 (THE LORD WORKED IT OUT THAT THIS MAN WHO LIVES 100 MILES FROM HERE  
 HEARD ABOUT OUR CHURCH AND DONATED THIS TV TO US. ISN'T IT AMAZING  
 HOW THE LORD WORKS???)

## BEING FAITHFUL

GEN 2:15-17

WHEN GOD PLACED ADAM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN HE GAVE HIM SOMETHING TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR:

ADAM WAS GIVEN A DEFINITE PLACE TO WORK- THE GARDEN  
 ADAM WAS GIVEN A DEFINITE JOB TO DO- GUARD AND GROW  
 ADAM WAS GIVEN DEFINITE GUIDELINES- EAT ALL BUT ONE  
 ADAM WAS GIVEN A DEFINITE PUNISHMENT- DEATH

SEEMS SIMPLY ENOUGH DOESN'T IT? EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO DO IT, HOW TO DO IT, AND WHAT WILL RESULT IF THEY DON'T DO IT. WHY THEN DO SO MANY WANDER AIMLESS THRU LIFE WITHOUT PURPOSE, PLAN, OR PEACE? THE SAD TRUTH IS "PEOPLE DON'T DO WHAT WE EXPECT. THEY DO WHAT YOU INSPECT". MOST PEOPLE SUBSTITUTE THE "NECESSARY" FOR THE "IMPORTANT" BECAUSE THEY ARE CALLED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE NECESSARY. ONE OF THE KEYS TO BEING EFFECTIVE THEN IS IN BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE- WHICH IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN CHURCHES: ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES AND DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL IS "OPTIONAL". STUDENTS ARE NEVER ASKED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE AMOUNT THEY LEARN THRU TESTS. INCOME IS ON A "VOLUNTEER" SYSTEM. AND MANY PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE OF WHAT THE CHURCH IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH AND HOW IT HOPES TO DO SO. [THE ONLY TWO "MEASURING RODS" PRESENTLY USED IN MOST CHURCHES ARE ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING. A CHURCH THAT INCREASES THESE IS SAID TO BE SUCCESSFUL- OR VICE VERSA].

WHY DO WE SHY FROM ACCOUNTABILITY SO MUCH? FEAR- WE LIKE TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, BECAUSE WE LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT WE DO. YET WE ARE AFRAID TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE SAME REASON. PROBABLY THE TWO MOST COMMON REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT BEING ACTIVE IN CHURCH ARE: 1) FEAR OF FAILURE- "I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT". [TOM EDISON TRIED MANY MANY TIMES BEFORE HE INVENTED THE LIGHT BULB. ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS DEFEATED MANY TIMES BEFORE HE FINALLY WON- AND BECAME PRESIDENT] (2) FEAR OF FATIGUE- WE DON'T WANT TO ADD ANOTHER RESPONSIBILITY TO AN ALREADY OVERWORKED SCHEDULE (PRIORITIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT HERE)

1. THERE ARE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WHICH WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE BECAUSE OF **WHO** WE ARE-

A) FAMILY [PARENTS ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR HOW THEY TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN (NOT WHAT THEY BECOME), CHILDREN MUST HONOR PARENTS]  
 B) SOCIETY [LAWS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE GOOD OF THE MANY]  
 C) PERSONALITY [SOME PEOPLE ACCEPT OR REJECT RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE OF THEIR NATURE] (I CAN LIVE IN A DIRTY OFFICE AS LONG AS IT'S PRODUCTIVE, MY WIFE WANTS IT CLEAN BEFORE PRODUCTIVE- WE FEEL ACCOUNTABLE FOR DIFFERENT THINGS, THUS WE WORK DIFFERENTLY)

2. THERE ARE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WHICH WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE BECAUSE OF **WHAT** WE BECOME-

A) JOBS [EMPLOYEES MUST WORK, EMPLOYERS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES]  
 B) MARRIAGE: HUSBANDS [MUST LOVE THEIR WIVES], WIVES [MUST RESPECT THEIR HUSBANDS]  
 C) EDUCATION: PASS IT ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION

3. THERE ARE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WHICH WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE BECAUSE OF **WHY** WE EXIST- Rom 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. WHEN WE FACE GOD WE MUST BE ABLE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO HIM ABOUT OUR:

A) FAITH- WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM  
 B) FINANCES- DID WE STEAL GOD'S PART? MISUSE OUR PART?  
 C) FAITHFULNESS- DID WE HID OR BURY OUR TALENTS?

THE PRIMARY RULE OF ACCOUNTABILITY IS ACCOUNTABILITY ASSUMES AN ABILITY TO MEASURE. IF WE ARE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE WE MUST HAVE GOALS IN ORDER TO MEASURE OUR PROGRESS AND GUIDELINES TO CHANNEL OUR JOURNEY.

I. HOW SHALL WE ESTABLISH GOALS? ("GOOD GOALS ARE MY GOALS AND BAD GOALS ARE YOUR GOALS!!").

A) GOD'S GOALS- FIND OUT WHAT GOD WANTS AND THEN DO THAT.

B) GROUP GOALS- GOALS SET BY THE GROUP TO ALLOW THEM TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT GLORIFIES GOD AND BENEFITS THE GROUP.

C) INDIVIDUAL GOALS- HOW CAN A PERSON ACCOMPLISH WHAT IS RIGHT FOR HIM THAT WILL BENEFIT THE GROUP AND BRING GLORY TO GOD.

THOSE WHO WILL ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS MUST BE ALLOWED TO HELP SET THE GOALS. THERE MUST BE INPUT AS WELL AS INSTRUCTION.

II. HOW SHALL WE REACH THE GOALS? (SOMEONE MUST BE IN CHARGE; WITH THE KNOWLEDGE, DESIRE, DETERMINATION, AND AUTHORITY TO CARRY THE PROJECT THRU TO IT'S COMPLETION OR ABANDONMENT [SOME GOALS ARE CHANGED BY CIRCUMSTANCES- HELP FOR A WIDOW WHO REMARRIES OR DIES...]. THIS LEADER MUST:

-KNOW THE GOAL

-GIVE COMPLETE AND CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO THOSE WHO WILL HELP

-ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS, AND HANDLE THEM WHEN THEY APPEAR

-RECOGNIZE "STACKING" (ONE PERSON'S PERFORMANCE IS DEPENDENT UPON ANOTHER'S PERFORMANCE)

-SEEK TO CONTINUE TO GET INPUT? AS YOU BUILD YOU RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR MODIFICATIONS OR ADDITIONS.

-ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY TO GUIDE THE PROGRAM THRU IT'S DIFFICULTIES AND DOLDRUMS?

-RECOGNIZE WHEN THE GOAL HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND REWARD THOSE WHO HELPED IN DOING SO.

NOW LET'S PRACTICE WHAT WE'VE PREACHED:  
LIST YOUR GOAL(S) FOR OUR CHURCH FOR 1988:

1. IN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

2. IN PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

3. IN "PEOPLE" DEVELOPMENT

LIST YOUR GOAL(S) FOR YOUR WALK WITH GOD IN 1988:

1. IN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:

2. IN BIBLICAL LEARNING:

3. IN PRACTICAL LIVING:

ARE YOU FAITHFUL TO THE TASK GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO; OR FEARFUL OF FACING GOD BECAUSE YOU'RE FAILING IN YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES??

[PART OF THIS MESSAGE WAS ADAPTED FROM THE JANUARY 1988 EDITION OF "CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP LETTER"]

## EVEN ME

II SAM 7:18 Then went king David in, and sat before the Lord, and he said, Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? [TO HERE]

MANY PEOPLE WANT TO BE USED OF THE LORD BUT THEY FEEL INADEQUATE TO DO WHAT THEY FEEL THE LORD WOULD HAVE THEM TO DO. I WANT US TO LOOK AT SOME OF THE GREAT MEN OF THE BIBLE FROM A DIFFERENT PERCEPTIVE AND SEE THAT GOD CAN USE "EVEN ME". (I WANT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO DESTROY HEROES NOR CONDONE SIN. I'M TRYING TO MAKE A POINT AND IN SO DOING I'M MAJORING ON SOME POINTS THAT NEED TO BE MINORED ON BUT I HOPE YOU CAN SEE THAT GOD DOESN'T USE PERFECTION, HE USES DEDICATION).

I. FAITH- (I'D DO SOMETHING FOR GOD IF I JUST HAD THE FAITH. AND I'D HAVE THE FAITH IF I DIDN'T HAVE THESE "PERSONALITY PROBLEMS"). ABRAHAM WAS SO COWARDLY UNTIL HE WOULD TRADE HIS WIFE FOR HIS LIFE, NOT ONCE BUT TWICE!!- [GEN 12:10-15 & 20:-]. SO DOMINATED BY HIS WIFE UNTIL HE WOULD TAKE ANOTHER WIFE TO PLEASE HER AND THEN THROW OUT THAT WIFE AND HIS CHILD TO PLEASE HER [GEN 16:-]-- YET HE IS CALLED THE FATHER OF THE FAITH AND ONE OF THE MOST HONORED MEN IN THE BIBLE. GAL 3:5-6 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. GOD USED HIM TO ESTABLISH A COUNTRY.

II. LOVE- (NO ONE LOVES ME. IF SOMEONE WOULD JUST SHOW ME A LITTLE AFFECTION AND ATTENTION THEN I COULD MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF MY LIFE) DAVID'S "KINGDOM" BEGAN BY SAUL ATTEMPTING TO MURDER HIM, DRIVING HIM FROM HIS HOME AND FRIENDS. HE WAS BRANDED AN OUTLAW AND LIVED ON THE RUN FOR MANY YEARS. IN HIS PERSONAL LIFE DAVID WAS AN ADULATOR, A MURDER, AND SPOILED HIS CHILDREN; AND YET A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART [ACTS 13:22]. GOD USED HIM TO ESTABLISH A KINGDOM.

III. WORKS- MOSES DOUBTED HIS ABILITY- Ex 3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

DO YOU BEGIN TO SEE?? GOD CAN USE "EVEN ME", WITH ALL MY FAILURES AND SHORT COMING, TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL ON EARTH. ALL HE WANTS IS MY HEART (WHICH WILL MAKE ME A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST) AND THEN HE CAN BEGIN HIS WORK IN AND THRU ME.

LET US BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH A DEDICATION OF OUR HEARTS TO GOD AND A DETERMINATION OF OUR WILLS TO SERVE HIM .

1. DEDICATE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE TO GOD- TIME, TALENT, MONEY
2. DETERMINE TO SERVE GOD IN ANY WAY HE WANTS.

REMEMBER, THE BEST WAY TO FIND AND STAY IN GOD'S WILL IS TO STAY IN THE BIBLE. THAT WILL MAKE EVEN YOU A SUCCESS- JOSHUA 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

## TIPS ON TEACHING

MATT 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen

JESUS' FINAL COMMAND TO HIS DISCIPLES WAS FOR THEM TO GO AND TEACH. IN THIS COMMAND WE FIND SOME GREAT TIPS ON TEACHING THAT WILL ENABLE US TO DO THE JOB HE HAS COMMANDED US TO DO ALSO.

1. Cooperative Teaching- "All Power is given unto ME" "Lo, I am with you alway,". His Power and His Presence are needed. He is the Source of our Power as well as the Message we proclaim. We fail when we try to do the job in our own ability and strength. A close personal walk with Him gives us something to teach and the ability to do so. Are you "Teamed" up with Christ to fulfil his Commands; or are you trying to do it all on your own?

2. Commanded Teaching- "Go Ye Therefore, and teach all nations". It's not an option, but a command for us all to obey. Everyone teaches every day by Conversation and Conduct- What do you teach about?? Are you consciously trying to teach your Family, Friends, and associates about Christ?

3. Complete, Comprehensive teaching: "teaching them to observe ALL things that I commanded" (What Paul called the "Whole counsel of God" Acts 20:27,20). Not just "Pet" projects but all God commands God wants us to know how to be Saved, how to live, how to die, and how to be Christians inbetween.

4. Effective Teaching: "teaching them TO OBSERVE all things that I commanded". Learn them in their Head and live them in their Life. II Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

5. Correct Teaching: "teach them to observe all THINGS THAT I COMMANDED" I once asked all the older shut-in members of a Church to give their testimony-- only one gave a clear statement of Faith in Christ; the others talked about living a good life or joining the church at a young age. Most people know more incorrect facts about Christianity than correct facts.

OUR CLASS IS THE WORLD

OUR INSTRUCTION, A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

OUR OBLIGATION, TO THE LORD

# GRACE

&

# GLORY

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803)394-3725 Vol 6 Num 3 Jan 28, 1986

**"To Know and to Show CHRIST"**

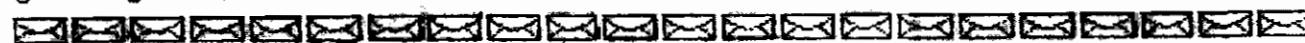


We get spotted so easily. Last Sunday we only had 47 in Sunday School. I was "Down and Disappointed" -- until I put the attendance on my Sunday School Chart (I generally keep a 5 year chart on Sunday School Attendance so I can see trends as they develop. It keeps me from getting too far down when we have a bad day or too far up when we have a good day). When I looked at the Chart I remembered that a year ago we would have shouted the victory if we would have had 47 in attendance!!! But for the past 6 months this is only the third time we've had 47 or below in Sunday School. My hope is that next year this time I'll be disappointed if we have under 75 on any given Sunday.

I guess those of you who read our newsletter regularly know by now that I'm excited about serving the Lord and about what He has in store for us in the coming days. We are finally getting to the place that we have things lined up in the Church and in the Outreach Ministry so that we can put some hard dedicated work into our main ministry of getting people to KNOW Christ as

their Personal Saviour and then to Show Him in their Changed Life. All of the Equipment and all of the Buildings don't mean anything if they are not reaching and affecting people for Christ. I don't believe that the Lord has given us all the equipment and opportunities He has just to "spin our wheels". I believe He's going to use our Church and Outreach in greater ways in the years to come than He ever has. WOW!! I can hardly wait.

The Outreach Ministry is also at the place that it can become more effective than ever. Much of the equipment that was needed to accomplish the work I'm trying to do has been purchased or donated and now I'm at the place I can produce instead of Prepare. About the only other thing I need right now is a color monitor for my computer (and that only because most of the programs anymore are written for a color monitor and it's difficult to use them on my mono monitor). I'm now able to produce books, newsletters, and tapes in large quantities and, as the funds come in, I plan to distribute much this year.



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Special THANKS to Mrs. W. R. Calcutt of Hemingway, SC; Jean and Opal Stenbridge of Saltillo, Miss.; Billie Ard of Lake City, and the McBrides (Now of Florence, which we aren't wild about!) for their recent contributions to our outreach. Thanks also to Tom and Anne McKnight for a MEMORIAL Gift to the Outreach Ministry in Memory of Drew Lowder. I've bought 6 cases of paper and hope to have at least 2 more books ready for distribution in the next 2 weeks. My plans are to get all the books we now have republished in large quantity during the first part of the year so I can begin working on new books at the conclusion of this semester of Bible Institute.

I preach 3 sermons a week, teach a Sunday School and Bible Institute Class, publish a newsletter, and do all the paper work necessary to run a

growing Church and Outreach Ministry. Add to that the fact that I've become a "daddy" at 40 and you understand why I'm not able to publish as often (or answer your letters as quickly) as I used to. I hope you'll pray for, and bear with me, as I try to do as much as I can for the Lord. [In case you're wondering, Little Andrew is still the greatest Joy and Biggest Job I've ever had. He can melt your heart singing "Deep and Wide" or telling about David killing the Giant and then turn right around and grasp a handful of dirt from the flower pot and throw it all over the floor! It really makes me wonder if I ever do God that way.]

I hope the Lord will give you a great week of service for Him.

**Preacher Mike**

## TRUE FAITH

There are many voices and opinions in today's society that try to tell you what TRUE FAITH is. James gives us 3 Characteristics of True Faith in James 2:14-26.

We are saved by Grace thru Faith and then not of works; yet 3 times in this Scripture James says that Faith without Works is dead. This means we DEMONSTRATE TRUE FAITH IN OUR:

**1. CARE of Others:** Too many people are like the Priest and Levite in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. They could DEFEND their Faith but they did not DEMONSTRATE it. If your Faith does not affect your attitude toward others then you need to see if it's genuine.

**2. CONDUCT :** Even the Devils believe IN God but they they do not Obey Him. True Faith means you not only Talk right but you also Walk Right. If a man's fruit is not right then you had better check the "wine" he's part of.

**3. CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD :** Abraham was willing to offer his son because God said so. Rahab was willing to hide the messengers at the risk of her own life because she believed God. With the heart man believes and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. Do YOU have True Faith?

**FREE MANSION  
GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD  
APPLY AT ALTAR**



## A PROFITABLE LIFE

Job 21:7-15

Here is the statement of a man who had gone from the highest highs to the deepest depths. Job had had everything man could ask for and in a very short time had lost it all. Now, as his "friends" contend with him he asks a very important question- "What profit should we have, if we pray?" (And by insinuation, "What profit is there in serving God?").

The question is very important. I recently bought some blank diskettes for my computer. Included free in the box was a new computer magazine on disk that allowed me to "run" the Microsoft Computer Company. Last year this company made over 1.5 billion dollars and my job was to see if I could arrange for it to make over 5 billion dollars in profit in the next 5 years. I had to decide on cost, production, loans, etc in order to run the company and at the end I was given a yearly report to see what I had accomplished (In case you're wondering, I lost a half billion dollars the first year!!).

If a man has to make decisions based on many factors to determine if something is profitable in the Physical life then it is doubly important to make the right decisions in the Spiritual life; for if you make the wrong decisions in the Physical realm you only lose Physical things, but if you make the wrong decisions in the Spiritual life then you lose forever. Let's look then at some things that make for a "Profitable Life".

### FIRST, LET'S SEE SOME THINGS THAT DON'T PROFIT:

1. **WICKEDNESS** Prov 10:2 Treasures of Wickedness profit nothing; but righteousness delivereth from death. Note that this is "Treasures" of Wickedness- You can "Store" up the "Profits" from Wickedness so that it comes back with interest!!! "You have sown the Wind but you will reap the whirlwind." (Hosea 8:7)

a) Ask the families where booze and drugs have destroyed the family about the "Profit"- bills not paid, family relationships and reputation ruined, etc.

b) Ask the families where sexual sins "add up to Loss" families, and health, and reputation.

Wickedness may be Pleasurable but it is not Profitable. (Would you buy a car if the dealer said it would fall apart in 3 weeks and be a constant source of problems?? Wickedness may look and smell very good but you'd better look at the Payments!)

2. **RICHESS** Prov 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath; but righteousness delivereth from death. Matt 16:26 For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Money is not all that matters. Some of the most miserable people in the world are those who have Profits without peace, who labor all their life for an empire and then look out with envy at an hourly worker whistling while he works-- Ecc 2:11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do; and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. LIFE MUST HAVE MEANING AS WELL AS MONEY.

3. WORDS II Tim 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, changing them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Life must be lived, not just talked about!! (Even in Christianity this is so- James 2:14 What doth it profit my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works?). Words that are profitable are words that motivate you into action. That's why it's so important that you know the source of words- Jer 7:8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. The philosophy of this world sounds good but it brings Pain instead of Profit.

Even the Gospel must be Heeded if it's to Help- Heb 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them; not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

#### THINGS THAT DO PROFIT

1. THE BIBLE- II Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God; and is profitable for doctrine for reproof; for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Do you know it in your Head, Stow it in you Heart, and live it in your Life??

2. FELLOW CHRISTIANS- II Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. We depend on each other for Support, Encouragement, and Comfort, so that we multiply our energy and effort and produce maximum "Profit".

3. Taking your Place in GOD'S PLANS- I Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal as every man takes their place then the whole works together; and you find Peace as well as a Place; which profits you as well as the cause of Christ.

4. GOD'S CHASTENING- Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasures; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. The pain is not Pleasurable but it is Profitable because it causes us to Evaluate our situation and Dedicate ourselves anew to doing right.

5. GOOD WORKS- Tit 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. Good works profit you, those around you, and the cause of Christ.

6. GODLINESS- I Tim 4:8 But bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. Men groan and sacrifice and obligate themselves to many diets and clubs so that they can hear someone say, "Lost a little weight haven't you"!! and fail to realize that any sacrifice is worth hearing Jesus say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys of thy Lord".

WHEN YOUR "LIFE TIME REPORT" IS ISSUED, WILL IT SHOW A PROFIT? OR WILL ALL BE LOST?? THE ONLY HAVEN, THE ONLY HELP, IS CHRIST.

# FEAR

DEUT 4:10

A NOTED CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGIST STATED THERE ARE FIVE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF FRUSTRATION AND STRESS IN PEOPLE'S LIVES TODAY:

1. FEAR 2. HATE 3. GUILT 4. INFERIORITY COMPLEX 5. INSECURITY  
PART OF THE GREATNESS OF THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE IS THAT IT HAS A REMEDY FOR EACH OF THESE PROBLEMS (AND EVERY OTHER ONE AS WELL)-

**INSECURITY-** II TIM 1:12 I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. OUR GOD IS CALLED THE ROCK WITH GOOD REASON

**INFERIORITY COMPLEX-** GOD VALUED ME ENOUGH TO SEND HIS ONLY SON TO DIE FOR ME!! WHEN I ACCEPT CHRIST I BECOME A CHILD OF GOD!! GOD WILL NEVER PUT YOU INTO A POSITION THAT HE DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE POWER TO HANDLE. CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE HUMBLE, NEVER INFERIOR!

**GUILT-** SINS UNDER THE BLOOD ARE FORGIVEN, FORGOTTEN, AND FORSAKEN. JESUS "ACCEPTED" A WOMAN CAUGHT IN THE VERY ACT OF ADULTERY, A WOMAN WITH 5 HUSBANDS, A MAN SO FULL OF DEMONS UNTIL HE LIVED NAKED IN A GRAVEYARD, AND EVEN "THE CHIEFEST OF SINNERS", PAUL.

**HATE-** WE NORMALLY HATE PEOPLE BECAUSE WE'RE JEALOUS OR REJECTED. AS A CHRISTIAN, WE AREN'T JEALOUS BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT EACH PERSON HAS A PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST; THEREFORE WE ACCEPT OUR PLACE AND ACCEPT OTHERS IN THEIR PLACE. AND EVEN THOUGH MEN MAY REJECT US WE KNOW THAT GOD NEVER DOES; AND GOD'S LOVE OVERWHELMS MAN'S HATE.

AND FINALLY THERE IS FEAR. LET'S LOOK AT THIS EMOTION A LITTLE CLOSER AND FIND HOW TO TURN IT FROM STRESS INTO SUCCESS.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS WE FEAR:

## 1. Our Situation:

A. DANGER- THE CHILDREN OF ISREAL WERE TRAPPED AT THE RED SEA WITH THE ENEMY BEHIND AND THE WATER BEFORE THEM. GOD'S COMMAND TO THEM, (EX 14:13) Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, ... GOD TURNED THE VICTIMS INTO VICTORS

B. DEATH- PS 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; EVEN A WALK IN THE "DARK" IS NOT SCARY WHEN YOUR FATHER HOLDS YOUR HAND!!

2. Our Enemies- PS 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? THE SAD TRUTH ABOUT THIS IS THAT MANY TIMES OUR FEAR IS MORE IN OUR MINDS THAN IN REALITY- PS 53:5 There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: (SEE ALSO PS 56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. SEE ALSO HEB 13:6)

BUT GOD HAS TOLD US TO neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary: (ISAIAH 8:12-14); AND THAT'S THE WAY TO TURN FEAR FROM STRESS TO SUCCESS. WHEN WE STOP FEARING MAN OR SITUATIONS FEAR TURNS FROM A FOE TO A FRIEND:

1. To keep us from sin- Prov 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

2. To keep our Priorities right- Matt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, and are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

3. To Motivate us- Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...

ARE YOU AT REST IN THE ROCK? OR ARE THE TIDES OF TIME POUNDING YOU UPON THE ROCKS OF LIFE AND WEARING YOU DOWN? FIND THE PEACE YOU LONG FOR BY ACCEPTING CHRIST AS SAVIOUR

## 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.

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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.)

[Mrs Marjorie shared this with me and it was so relevant to our Family Study that I thought I'd share it with you.]

## A PARENT'S PRAYER

by Shirley Lansford

Dear Lord, Help me to be the person that I want my children to be. May they see Christ in me especially when I am tired and rushed or when things haven't gone my way. Help me never to be too busy to stop and listen to them without interrupting and contradicting them. Let me answer their questions kindly.

Lord, guide me so that I will have no habits that I would not want them to have. May my daily life show that honesty produces happiness. May I never tempt them to lie or steal by my actions. Help me to be fair in granting them all their wishes that are reasonable. But give me the courage to withhold a privilege which I think would not be best for them. Lord, I want to encourage and praise them when it is due and discipline and correct them when it is needed.

Let them see that the Christian life is the greatest life on earth.

It's so hard to let them grow up. Give me the grace to allow them to mature, to wait upon themselves, to have their own duties, to think for themselves, to make decisions, and to work. May each of them come to the place that they choose the vocation that you had in mind for them. Help them to make the right choices every day and live to please you, Lord.

Lord, What I want more than anything else is to love them and care for them as you love and care for me.

Thank you for being my loving Father, Help me to be their loving Parent.

## GRACE and GLORY

Pastor Mircheal Jones 394-3725

Vol 6 Num 4 February 9, 1988

"To Know and to Show CHRIST"

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Look inside to see all the wonderful things we have ahead of us during February. We invite you to join us for EVERY Service. We're looking for God's Blessings, and working for God's Glory. Come worship with us.

*Preacher Mike*

The quiz below was developed by the people who attended Prayer Meeting Last week. Hope it will stir you to put Christ FIRST in everything you do.

### BIBLICAL FIRST

1. When was the First Operation? Gen 2:21
  2. What were the First recorded words of Jesus? Luke 2:49
  3. Who was the First Child? Gen 4:1
  4. Who was First to see the resurrected Lord? Mark 16:9
  5. Who was the first to sin? Rom 5:12
  6. Who was the first Christian Martyr? Acts 7:57-60
  7. What is the First Commandment? Matt 22:37-38
  8. What was the first miracle Jesus performed? John 2:11
  9. Where was the first mention of Tithes? Gen 14:18-20
  10. When was the First Murder? Gen 4:8
- BONUS - What was the first thing the Bible says was Created (careful!)? Gen 1:21

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# FABULOUS FEBRUARY

February is a **SPECIAL** Month here at Grace. We plan to have special activities **EVERY SINGLE SERVICE** during February. My reasons are 3 fold:

1. To encourage people to come to Church on Sunday Night and Wednesday Night as well as on Sunday Morning.
2. To discourage the winter "Doldrums" so that we can continue our growth and development for the Lord.
3. To allow more Congregational participation in the Worship of God.



During the **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES** in February we will be dealing with the **FAMILY**:

Feb. 7- The Family's PURPOSE

Feb 14- The Family's PRIORITIES

Feb 21- The Family's PROBLEMS

Feb 28- The Family's PRINCIPLES

(These will be Practical Sermons on how to develop your Family into the Family God intended them to be. So bring **EVERY** member of your Family **EVERY** Week).

The **SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICES** will each have a Special Emphasis: (6:00pm)

Feb 7- **Missions** Rev Dennis Keen, Home

Missionary to Charleston, as Speaker  
Feb 14- **Fellowship** Valentine Banquet

and Program directed by Marjorie McAllister and Susan Spring

Feb 21- **Music**: A special musical program featuring Merry Grooms of Coward and Other local singers.

Feb 28- **Testimony** David Wall will be

giving his testimony as well as speaking from God's Word (David teaches school in Lake City and has been attending our Church for a while. He's a real Blessing to us and we look forward to this service)

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES** are also going to be Special: (7:30pm)

Feb 3- Quotes, Quizzes, and Questions

Feb 10- Wyman Lowder as guest Speaker

(The Lord is really using Brother Wyman and we appreciate his willingness to serve)

Feb 17- The adults will look at "Developing a Devotion Time" while Hope Frye and Kathy Lewis lead our 6-12

year olds in Junior Activity Time.

Feb 24- Joint Service with the Gilead FwB

Church (Conclusion of a 3 night

Teacher Training Course)

# Grace & Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803) 394-3725 Vol 6 Num 5 Mar 3, 1988  
"To Know and to Show CHRIST"

I Know it's been a long time between Newsletters but it's also been a VERY busy time for me. We have been remodeling the front of our Church so that instead of seating 12 in our Choir we now can seat 32. We have also extended the platform 2 feet closer to the pews [I told the people that if they wouldn't move closer to me I would move closer to them] and installed a new altar. The carpet man is supposed to come tomorrow and I hope by this Sunday to have the Church looking presentable again.

We also rearranged our Piano and Organ so that they are beside the Pulpit platform and closer to the choir. We hope this will help the sound of our Sunday Morning Broadcast (I know it has already helped the Participation in the Choir). I think it looks very nice and I invite you to come by and see it anytime (Especially on Sunday Morning or Sunday Night!).

Part of the reason for doing this work now was in anticipation of the choir from Kendale Acres FWB Church coming to present a concert for us on April 16. This is the Church

in Sanford, N C where Charles and Lottie Hanna attend now. Their Pastor is Rev. Dr. Hesselmeier. We look forward to having everything in good order by the time they come.

I have also been busy during this period teaching a TEACHER TRAINING COURSE for Gilead FWB Church. I enjoyed encouraging their Teachers and I rejoice in the find job that their Pastor Rev Larry McAlister, is doing. The Church is showing progress and Brother Larry is very well thought of in the community. The 17 pages of notes I used in this course are available in booklet form as well as the tapes of the sessions (Free for the asking to anyone desiring them. I believe this material would be very beneficial to all teachers and encourage Pastors to get the notes and tapes and let their teachers renew their motivation and methods).

The tapes of the Family Series I did during February (Notes of which are included in today's newsletter) are also available. **May God Use them to Help you.**

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Lake City, S C 29560

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I am pleased to acknowledge gifts to this ministry in MEMORY of Mrs Ruth Poston Combs by Mrs Eris Jones and in HONOR of Bill and Elise McBride by Mr and Mrs E T Moody. I'm also very pleased to THANK Mr and Mrs Bill Evans, Josie Poston, Rev Leroy Grant, Mellow Bellowflowers, Mr and Mrs John L Floyd, Mr and Mrs Olee Elmore, and several from the Senior Citizens for their recent contributions to this ministry. As you will see from the rest of this page, my Monitor broke and I had to order another. Impossible without the help these people gave me (and they didn't know when they sent the money that I would need a Monitor!! Isn't it great to see God meet needs even before we ask!!).

## WHEN BURDENS BLOOM

This has been a difficult week for me so far. Sunday Afternoon my Computer Monitor "died" leaving me dead in the water with my work. Monday I had to buy a new washing machine and new glasses and in addition to all the normal work I do I've been trying to oversee the remodeling of our Choir area, with all the details that involves, and I'm very very tired. That means it must be time for me to look again at what God tells us in His word to do "when Burdens Bloom".

**I. CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD-** *I Pet 5:7 Casting all*

*your care upon him; for he careth for you. Deposit all your anxieties, worries, and concerns upon him; for he is concerned about you. If he knows when the sparrow falls; if he knows how many hairs I have on my head; I can deposit my "major" worries with Him also.*

**II. CONFIDENTLY TRUST IN GOD'S PLANS-** *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. I don't know the REASONS but I am confident of the RESULTS. God allows Pressures to CONFORM me; Not CRUSH me. If I hold on to God thru this I will come out better than ever.*

**III. CONTINUE TO DO RIGHT-** *Job 1:20-22 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped. And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb; and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. Because the road has a little "up hill grade" right now does not mean I should stop walking. I'm on a journey from earth to glory and a few "Potholes" in the road won't divert me from doing my job and continuing my trip.*

*Preacher Nike Ps. 16:11*



## THE FAMILY'S PURPOSE

GEN 1:27-28 2:15-25

## I. THE REASON FOR A FAMILY GEN 1:27-28

## A) REPOPULATE THE EARTH

1. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE FAMILY IS REPRODUCTION, NOT PLEASURE. PS 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. (MANY MANY MEN ARE REMEMBERED IN THE SCRIPTURES SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY "BEGAT" CHILDREN!). THEREFORE WE MUST FOCUS ON OUR FAMILY INSTEAD OF OUR FORTUNES. [THIS MEANS THE SEX DRIVE IS GOD GIVEN AND GOOD WHEN USED IN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FAMILY. IT IS PART OF THE "PULL" TOWARD ESTABLISHING A FAMILY-- YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE TAUGHT THAT IT'S NOT WRONG TO HAVE SEXUAL FEELINGS BUT THAT THESE FEELINGS ARE TO ESTABLISH THE FAMILY; NOT ENCOURAGE THEIR FANTASIES OR BE MADE AN INSTRUMENT OF SELFISH PLEASURE (THIS WOULD HELP THEM DEAL WITH PORNOGRAPHY, HOMOSEXUALS, "CASUAL" SEX, ETC)

2. GOD'S BATTLE WITH SATAN INVOLVES MAN REPOPULATING THE EARTH INSTEAD OF GOD CREATING A VAST THRONG. EVERY CHILD IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOD OR A DEFEAT BY THE DEVIL (WITH A BATTLE LIKE THAT GOING ON YOU HAD BETTER SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE).

B) SUBDUER- HAVE DOMINION OVER (BRING UNDER CONTROL). GOD HAS MADE US "MASTERS OF THE EARTH". THAT MEANS WE CAN'T ABUSE OR MISUSE IT'S RESOURCES. INTELLECT, INDUSTRY, AND ENERGY ARE REQUIRED.

## II. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A FAMILY GEN 2:15-17

A) DRESS- TEND THE GARDEN. SOME FAMILIES RAISE CROPS WHILE OTHERS RAISE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS; SOME ARE PRUNERS WHILE SOME ARE PLANTERS, BUT ALL MUST REALIZE THEIR GOAL IS TO USE THE EARTH'S RESOURCES WISELY AND PRODUCTIVELY. (DRUGS DO HARM WHEN USED BY PEOPLE BUT GOD PROBABLY HAS A USEFUL AND NEEDFUL PURPOSE FOR THEM IF IT WERE ONLY SOUGHT OUT). WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE RESOURCES GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU?? WHEN GOD WALKS THRU YOUR GARDEN IS IT A GARDEN OR A GARBAGE HEAP??

B) KEEP (GUARD) AGAINST TAKE OVER BY SATAN. SATAN TRIES TO TAKE OVER OUR MINDS, OUR MORALS, AND OUR MISSION (BY DIVERTING US INTO FIGHTING OTHER "FARMERS" INSTEAD OF PULLING WEEDS). JESUS SAID THE MAIN "WEEDS" WE DEAL WITH ARE the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things that enter in and choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. (MARK 4:19)  
HOW ARE YOU GUARDING YOUR FAMILY'S MINDS FROM SATAN'S ATTACK??  
HOW ARE YOU GUARDING YOUR FAMILY'S MORALS AGAINST SATAN'S ATTACK??

C) KNOW THE LIMITS- NEED BOUNDARIES. PARENTS RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE SHOWING THEIR CHILDREN THE LIMITS AND THEN PUNISHING THEM IF THEY EXCEED THEM.

PEOPLE HAVE LIMITS- NO ONE LIKES TO BE NAGGED, BULLIED, OR USED  
SITUATION HAVE LIMITS- DO YOUR CHILDREN KNOW THE RULES OF COURTING, OF COMPETITION, OF COMPASSION

### III. THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FAMILY GEN 2:18-25

A) COMPANION- NOT ANIMAL TO WORK FOR, NOT MAN TO BE FRIENDS WITH, NOT GOD TO WORSHIP, BUT A WOMAN TO LOVE AND SHARE WITH. I COR 11:8-9 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. JESUS SAID THE ABILITY TO REMAIN SINGLE IS THE EXCEPTION INSTEAD OF THE RULE- MATT 19:11-12 JESUS said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb; and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men; and there be some eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it. ECC 4:9-12 LIST 4 GOOD REASONS WE NEED COMPANIONSHIP Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

1. "A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR LABOR"- SHARING THE JOYS
2. "IF THEY FALL, ONE HELPS THE OTHER"- SHARING THE TROUBLES
3. "TWO TOGETHER HAVE HEAT"- SUSTAINING EACH OTHER
4. "TWO SHALL WITHSTAND"- STRENGTHEN EACH OTHER

A COMPANION SHOULD BE PRAYED FOR; AND SOUGHT WITH GOD'S DIRECTION AND WITH COMMON SENSE (SEE THE EXAMPLE OF ISAAC'S BRIDE IN GEN 24). RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES, FAMILY DIFFERENCES, SOCIAL DIFFERENCES, AND PERSONAL DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE EXAMINED IN THE LIGHT OF DAY; NOT THE GLOW OF PASSION

B) FAMILY UNIT- LEAVE FATHER AND MOTHER. LIKE CELLS IN A BODY THE LORD HAS PROVIDED THAT WE DIVIDE AND MULTIPLY. THIS ALLOWS EACH "BLOCK" TO STRENGTH THE ENTIRE BODY WHILE MAINTAINING IT'S PART.

GOD CARES ABOUT FAMILIES; HE WANTS THEM TO PROSPER AND BE AT PEACE. BUT YOU CAN'T BE AT PEACE WITH YOUR FAMILY IF YOU'RE NOT AT PEACE WITH GOD; YOU CAN'T ASK YOUR WIFE TO SUBMIT TO YOU IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO SUBMIT TO GOD; YOU CAN'T ASK YOUR CHILDREN TO OBEY YOU IF YOU WON'T OBEY GOD.

## THE FAMILY'S PRIORITIES

EPH 5:22 - 6:4

WIVES ARE TO SUBMIT TO AND REVERENCE THEIR HUSBANDS  
CHILDREN ARE TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS IN THE LORD AND TO HONOR THEM  
HUSBANDS ARE TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND AS HE LOVES HIS OWN BODY. THEY ARE TO PROPERLY DISCIPLINE (NOT PROVOKE) THEIR CHILDREN WHILE TRAINING THEM IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

### I. THE WIFE

A) SUBMIT (THE GREEK WORD MEANS TO YIELD TO THE AUTHORITY OF AN EQUAL) AS UNTO THE LORD- IN ORDER FOR THIS TO HAPPEN THERE MUST BE TRUST AND FAITH. THERE ARE 2 EXAMPLES GIVEN:

1. THE HUSBAND IS HEAD OF THE WIFE AS CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH-AS THE BODY OF CHRIST LOOKS TO THE HEAD FOR DIRECTION AND NOURISHMENT SO THE WIFE SHOULD LOOK TO THE HUSBAND. (THE HUSBAND THEN MUST LEAD SO THE WIFE WILL HAVE DIRECTION AND SUPPLY THE NOURISHMENT NECESSARY FOR THE BODY TO DEVELOP AND STAY HEALTHY). IF THE WIFE KNOWS THAT HER SUBMITTING IS A WAY OF DEVELOPING AND HAVING HER NEEDS MET THEN SHE CAN DO SO WITH ZEST INSTEAD OF ANGER

2. AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO CHRIST, SO LET THE WIVES BE SUBJECT TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS. THE CHURCH RECOGNIZES THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST AS SHE WORKS FOR HIS GLORY; EVEN SO THE WIFE SUBMITS TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE HUSBAND AS SHE SEEKS TO BUILD HIM UP (REALIZING THAT BY BUILDING UP HER HUSBAND SHE IS ACTUALLY HELPING HERSELF).

B) REVERENCE (GREEK- TO BE IN AWE OF) HER HUSBAND- IN ORDER FOR THE MAN TO FUNCTION PROPERLY HE NEEDS RESPECT (THE MAIN THING GOD REQUIRES OF HIS PEOPLE). PROV 31:23 SAYS THAT THE HUSBAND OF A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. A WIFE IS TO BUILD UP HER HUSBAND, NOT DESTROY HIS EGO AND ENERGY BY CONSTANTLY BELITTLING HIM AND HIS WORK  
SO THE WIFE'S PRIORITIES MUST BE TO RECOGNIZE HER PLACE IN THE FAMILY AND RESPECT HER HUSBAND FOR SHE KNOWS THAT BY BUILDING UP HER HUSBAND SHE IS IN REALITY BUILDING UP HER ENTIRE FAMILY.

### II. THE CHILDREN

A) OBEY (GREEK- SUBMIT TO A HIGHER POWER) THEIR PARENTS IN THE LORD. CHILDREN MUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THEIR PARENTS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE RIGHT; AND IT MAY SEEM AS IF SOMETIMES THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS RESPONSIBLE AND MUST BE OBEYED (MARK TWAIN SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS 14 HE THOUGHT HIS PARENTS WERE VERY DUMB BUT BY THE TIME HE REACHED 30 THEIR INTELLECT HAD IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY). A REBELLIOUS SPIRIT IN A CHILD WILL AFFECT THEM ALL THEIR LIFE AND MUST BE DEALT WITH.

B) HONOR YOUR PARENTS. 2 PROMISES ARE GIVEN:

1. IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU HERE
2. YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH

THE CHILDREN'S PRIORITIES MUST BE TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS AND TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS.

### III. HUSBANDS

#### A) LOVE THEIR WIFE

1. AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT. WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR HER IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HER PURITY AND PRECIOUSNESS.

2. AS HE LOVES HIS OWN BODY- HE NOURISHES (FEEDS) AND CHERISHES (MAKES FEEL SPECIAL).

#### B) TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN

1. NEGATIVELY, THEY ARE NOT TO PROVOKE (DRIVE TO ANGER) THEIR CHILDREN. THIS MEANS REASONABLE, RESPONSIBLE DISCIPLINE AND GUIDELINES.

2. POSITIVELY, THEY ARE TO TRAIN THEM UP IN THE NATURE (THINGS THAT BUILD THEM UP) AND ADMONITION (WARNINGS ABOUT DANGER) OF THE LORD.

MANY FATHERS HAVE ABDICATED THE DISCIPLINE AND DISCIPLESHIP OF THEIR CHILDREN TO THE WIVES. THIS OUGHT NOT SO TO BE.

A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A FAMILY THAT HAD IT'S PRIORITIES RIGHT IS ABRAHAM'S FAMILY:

1. THE HUSBAND- ABRAHAM WAS RESPECTED BY GOD BECAUSE HE TRAINED HIS CHILDREN- GEN 18:17-19 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do: Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

2. THE WIFE- SARAH- I PET 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

3. THE CHILD- ISAAC- WILLING TO DIE AT HIS FATHER'S COMMAND

SO THE WIFE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO BUILD UP HER HUSBAND AND HER FAMILY BY ACCEPTING HER PLACE AND RESPECTING HER HUSBAND. THE CHILDREN HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OBEYING AND HONORING THEIR PARENTS. AND THE HUSBANDS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOVING THEIR WIFE AND TRAINING THEIR CHILDREN. THESE ARE GOD GIVEN REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROPER HOME LIFE- IF THEY ARE IGNORED OR DISREGARDED THEN THE FAMILY WILL SUFFER ACCORDINGLY. IF THEY ARE HEEDED THEN THE FAMILY WILL FUNCTION AS THE UNIT GOD INTENDED.

THESE PRIORITIES ARE NOT NORMAL- THEY CAN ONLY BE MAINTAINED IF THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ARE SUBMITTED TO THE LORD FOR SALVATION AND LEADERSHIP. THE "FLESH" WILL REBEL AGAINST YIELDING IT'S RIGHTS FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS BUT THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED CHRISTIAN WILL FIND REAL JOY AND PEACE IN WORKING IN THEIR PLACE IN THE FAMILY..

# THE FAMILY'S PROBLEMS

PROV 18:21-24

## I. COMMUNICATIONS

### A) LACK OF COMMUNICATION ABOUT

1. PROBLEMS- "TOOTHPASTE"- LITTLE FOXES THAT SPOIL THE VINE
2. PERSONALITY- MORNING PERSON VS EVENING PERSON
3. PERSONAL NEEDS- EVERYONE NEEDS TO HEAR "I LOVE YOU" REGULARLY. EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE "SPACE" SOMETIMES. [BEWARE THE "MARTYR" COMPLEX THAT COMMUNICATED WITH SIGHES AND GROANS INSTEAD OF SAYING, "I NEED SOME TIME TO MYSELF"].

### B) TOO MUCH "COMMUNICATION"-

1. FIGHTING- NEVER FIGHT WITH DEADLY WEAPONS- WORDS (I NEVER LOVED YOU, YOU'RE SO SLOPPY)
2. "FEELINGS"- TRYING TO ANALYZE EVERY FEELING OR CIRCUMSTANCE LEADS TO MISUNDERSTANDING (MY WIFE AND I CAN SAY AS MUCH WITH A TOUCH SOMETIMES AS WITH A BOOK OF WORDS).  
PRO 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.
3. FORCING- TRYING TO "NAG" OR EMBARRASS SOMEONE INTO DOING WHAT YOU THINK THEY OUGHT TO DO. PRO 27:15 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

## II. CONSISTENCE

A) DESIRE - DESIRE IN YOUTH- PRO 6:23-29 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

-DESIRE FOR ADULTS (SEE I COR 7:) PRO 5:18-20 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

B) DEVELOPMENT- PERSONAL AND FAMILY GROWTH. DON'T ALLOW YOUR FAMILY TO "STAGNATE" AROUND A TV OR IN A RUT. ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO GROW AND DEVELOP

C) DISCIPLINE- SET KNOWN BOUNDARIES, NAME DEFINITE PUNISHMENTS

## III. CASH

- A) LOVE OF \$ ABOVE FAMILY
- B) SHORTAGE OF- DEBT, DOING WITHOUT
- C) CONTROL OF- 2 PAYCHECK FAMILIES, ALLOWANCE

## ANSWER TO YOUR FAMILY'S PROBLEMS:

FAMILY ALTAR- YIELD HEART TO GOD'S CONTROL AND PLAN  
BIBLE PRINCIPLES- NOT EVER TOM, DICK, AND HARRY WITH A NEW PLAN  
COMMITMENT TO GOD- COMMON FOUNDATION, COMMON FAITH

## THE FAMILY

III. GOD HONORS TRUST- SACRIFICE- ABRAHAM AND ISAAC- GEN 22  
A) FAITH TO TRUST GOD WITH YOUR CHILDREN'S LIFE- HEB 11:17-19  
By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that  
had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom  
it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that  
God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also  
he received him in a figure. ABRAM WAS WILLING FOR ISAAC TO DIE  
IF THAT WAS WHAT IT TOOK FOR HIM TO BE IN GOD'S WILL; YET HOW MANY  
PARENTS DRIVE THEIR CHILDREN TO ACCEPT THEIR PLAN INSTEAD OF GOD'S  
PLAN FOR THE CHILD'S LIFE BECAUSE THEY DON'T BELIEVE GOD'S PLAN IS  
PROFITABLE OR PLEASURABLE. WHEN PROVERBS 22:6 SAYS Train up a  
child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not  
depart from it; IT IS REFERRING TO TRAINING UP A CHILD TO  
UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD WANTS THEM TO DO AND THEN THEY WILL SEEK TO DO  
THAT ALWAYS, FOR THAT'S THE ONLY PLAN THEY'LL FIND PEACE AND  
CONTENTMENT IN.

B) FAITH TO TRUST GOD TO DO WHAT YOU CAN'T DO- WHEN ISAAC ASKED  
ABRAHAM WHERE THE LAMB FOR THE SACRIFICE WAS ABRAHAM SAID, My  
son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: (GEN  
22:8). YOU MAY NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTAND HOW GOD WILL DO WHAT HE WANTS  
TO DO BUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD WILL INSPIRE THE OBEDIENCE OF YOUR  
FAMILY. YOU MAY MAKE HONEST MISTAKES AS A PARENT BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE  
DEDICATED TO GOD'S WILL AND DETERMINED TO OBEY GOD COMPLETELY YOU  
KNOW GOD WILL PROVIDE WHAT YOU CAN'T.

THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES: 1) GOD HONORS TOTAL COMMITMENT. 2) GOD  
HONORS TRAINING. AND 3) GOD HONORS TRUST. YET WHEN APPLIED THEY WILL  
CHANGE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. BUT THE APPLICATION CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE  
AFTER YOUR DEDICATION TO GOD. IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE THESE  
PRINCIPLES TO BUILD YOUR FAMILY THEN YOU MUST GET ON THE "ROCK" SO  
THE STORMS OF LIFE WON'T DESTROY YOUR WORK. THAT ROCK IS JESUS, DO  
YOU KNOW HIM AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR TODAY?

THE FAMILY  
GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
P O Box 1003

REV MIRCHEAL JONES  
GRACE AND GLORY OUTREACH MINISTRY  
LAKE CITY, S C 29560

# Grace

# &

# Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803) 394-3725 Vol 6 Num 7 Mar 17, 1988  
"To Know and to Show CHRIST"



I've been doing a lot of thinking lately about what kind of Church Jesus would want us to have. I believe it is a Church that majors on 3 areas:

- (1) EVANGELIZATION,
- (2) EDIFICATION, AND
- (3) EDUCATION.



**EVANGELIZATION**- Jesus came into the world to save Sinners. He didn't come to establish a kingdom IN this world, He came to rescue a people FROM this world (which is bound for destruction).



Our Job is to tell men they are Sinners and point them to Jesus Christ as their only hope and Salvation. When a Church or a Pastor loses sight of this primary goal then they lose their right to function as a Church [A Hospital that stops treating the sick in order to do nothing but train it's doctors and nurses has lost it's focus and function!].

**EDIFICATION**- The Church MUST Build Up those it Brings In. They must grow from "bickering Babies" into "Growing Grown ups" that exemplify Christ and

advance His work on earth. The Church must teach each person where they fit in the Body of Christ and then give them means and motivation to develop their gift. If Christians are to SHINE in the world instead of be SHAMED by their wickedness then they must learn that God calls us to Holiness instead of Happiness-- and then learn that Holiness brings real Happiness because we are at peace with our God and with ourselves.

**EDUCATION**- The Church must learn to follow the example of Christ when he chose disciples to train so that they could carry on after his death.



The same example taught by Paul as he trained up men to carry on and expand his work.

If the next generation is to survive Confusion and Compromise and Cults then they must have a solid foundation of Biblical background and knowledge.

This will only happen when the Church stops "playing" School and becomes committed to Biblical Education.



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We are in the process of setting up just such a program here at Grace and I believe God is going to Be honored by it and will in turn honor it. We want to make sure that every person who come to our Church receives information about how to be saved and an opportunity to accept Christ.

We also want to make sure that everyone who attends our church receives a Place and a Push to work for the Lord. (Around here they're called "Grace Volunteers". You find out you've "Volunteered" for a job when you hear **GRACE PEOPLE ARE GREAT PEOPLE** it announced from the pulpit or see it in the Bulletin!!).

We are also developing a program that will allow us to measure the amount our Students are learning in Sunday School. By the Time our students reach the Teen Class we want them to know Basis Bible Knowledge (The 12

Commandments- 10 plus the 2 great Commandments, the books of the Bible, etc.). We also want them to Know and use the Bible "roads" to Salvation as well as understand about the Doctrines of Sin, Salvation, and Sanctification.

I hope to be able to develop this into a long range course so that every section of our Sunday School will know just what is expected of it. Then I hope Parents will want their children to attend Sunday School, not from a negative fear of having to face the Preacher, but from a positive desire to see that their children are taught the Precepts and Principles of the Bible.

We want everyone in this area to attend our Church. Promotions will get them to look us over; Programs will get them to give us a "second Look"; but it's our PEOPLE that will make them stay.

## MEMORIAL

THANKS to Bill and Elise McBride for a gift to our Outreach Ministry in memory of Mr. Johnny Robertson. These two friends have been so very very faithful to this ministry over the past couple of years and we really appreciate them.

THANKS also to Mrs Mable Parker, Mrs Bessie Grooms, Mr and Mrs Nixon, and Mr Marion Coker. Your gifts help me buy the

*Thank you!*

new Monitor I so desperately needed while allowing me to continue to send out sermon tapes, publish books, and mail newsletters. I'm looking forward to even greater things in the days to come.

*Preacher Mike*



## I'M SO GLAD I'M SAVED

Ps 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy:

Saturday, March 19 is my 26th Birthday!! I was born again on Monday Night March 19, 1962 at New Prospect FWB Church in "Shinbone Alley", S.C. It was the greatest thing to happen in my life and I want to share some of the details with you today.

The first thing I think of about my Salvation is **CONCERN**. I grew up in a home where we very seldom attended Church. My parents taught us good moral principles but we had little to do with the Bible and Church. My next door neighbor was Mr. Buster Poston, a deacon in New Prospect Church. As a young boy growing up I watched Mr. Buster and realized that he had "something" that made his life different- and he kept trying to share it with me!! Even though I was "one of those Jones boys" he loved me and kept inviting me to attend Church with his family so I could learn about the Person who made such a difference in his life. He made a special effort to invite me to the Revival being held in March of 1962.

That brings us to my **CONVERSION**. On the Friday night of the Revival I felt God dealing with my heart about my sin and realized that I was lost and doomed for Hell without God. I passed it off that night by saying that I would get saved on Saturday night. Saturday night I did not feel God's Spirit at all- and I was one more scared 14 year old boy (First lesson God taught me was that HE is God and you come on HIS terms!!). I determined in my bed on Saturday night that I would go to the Altar Sunday and beg God to accept me; but my dad decided to to on a Picnic Sunday Morning and I had to go with

the rest of the family. I thought I had missed my chance until I learned the next day at School that they had decided to continue the Revival another week. Monday night I could hardly wait for the Evangelist to finish speaking so I could go forward to accept Christ. When the invitation was given I started forward and felt a tug on my coat; one of my friends was trying to encourage me, but I thought he was trying to stop me, so I left my coat with him and went to the Altar!!

I didn't know much "Theology" but I knew I was lost and wanted to have my sins forgiven. As I knelt at the Altar someone leaned over and told me to "Trust Jesus". I did- and have been doing so ever since. He forgave my sins, came into my heart through the Spirit, and made me (yes, ME) a son of God. I still can't get over the fact that God Could, and Would, and Did Save me.

And, finally, because of that night

**If God can save Mike Jones  
then He can and will save  
YOU. Trust Him today.**

25 years ago, my life has been **CHANGED**. My body became the temple of the Holy Spirit and He has been conforming

me to the image of Jesus Christ. I've had ups and downs, made mistakes (and felt the chastening hand of God!), and found that the greatest part of Salvation is not it's beginning but the fact that it just keeps getting better and better.

I'm glad God loved me enough to let Jesus die for me. I'm glad someone shared the Good News of the Gospel with me. And I'm very glad that God now allows me to spend my life and energy sharing the Gospel with others.

God wants to do for you what He did for me. But you must come as an humble sinner willing to accept a great Saviour by a simple act of Faith. You don't have to know a lot or even do a lot- you just have to trust Christ as Saviour and follow Him as Lord. Let me know if I can help. Preacher Mike

## ☆ GOLD STARS ☆

to Kathy Lewis and Hope Frye for their work with our young people. They are in Charge of CHILDREN'S Church (3-5) the first and third Sunday in each month and JUNIOR Church (6-12) the first and third Wednesday in each month. This is a Ministry that I have prayed for for a long time and I appreciate the work and effort they put in in order to train our young people for Christ. (You parents can help a great deal by encouraging your children to be here for these special services AND BY BEING HERE YOURSELF.

Some Recent "Grace Volunteers" include: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE- Michelle McAllister, Kathy Lewis, and Hope Frye (We think we're going to develop a program around Bible Characters this

year).

EASTER BREAKFAST COMMITTEE- Russel Lowder, Howard Frye, and Marion Coker. Easter Sunday Morning we have Sunrise Service at 7:00am, Breakfast at 8:00, Sunday School at 9:00 and Preaching at 10:00 with no night service that day. It's one of our favorite days of the year. (This year is going to be doubly "Exciting" since the time changes on Easter Sunday Morning and every one will lose an extra hour in addition to having to be at Church at 7:00am)

Keep in mind also that Tuesday, March 29 will be graduation night for the Spring Session of Bethel Bible Institute. Friday, April 1 will be our Celebration of Good Friday, and Monday, April 4 the Lower Florence County Minister's Fellowship will meet here at Grace at 9:00am.

Hope to SEE  
YOU SOON  
Preacher Mike

## HOW TO HAVE STRENGTH

1. The WAY of the Lord- Prov 10:29 *The way of the Lord is strength to the upright, but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.* A) Physical Strength from treating Body as temple of Holy Spirit B) Spiritual Strength from right relationship with the Lord C) Emotional Strength because as Peace with Self, Society, Saviour

2. WAIT on the Lord- Is 40:31 *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.* A) Rest B) Reflection C) Renewal All of which can be summed up in the words of Psalms 23:2-3 *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

3. WALK for the Lord- Zech 10:12 *And I will strengthen them in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the Lord.* A) Produces Stamina as we exercise B) Slows our hurried pace to God's Patient Pace

4. ONENESS with the Lord- Phil 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* A) The SCOPE of our Strength- Do all things B) The SOURCE of our Strength- Through Christ

## TWO MEN NAMED SAUL

I SAM 26:21 I have played the Fool

II TIM 4:7 I have kept the Faith

MOST OF US WERE REQUIRED TO READ A BOOK ENTITLED A "TALE OF TWO CITIES" WHEN WE WERE IN SCHOOL. IT BEGINS, "THESE WERE THE BEST OF TIMES. THESE WERE THE WORST OF TIMES". SO IT IS WITH THE CHARACTERS IN TODAY'S LESSON. ONE WAS A KING; ONE SPOKE TO KINGS ABOUT THEIR SOULS. ONE HAD A TREMENDOUS BEGINNING AND ENDED UP A DISASTER. ONE HAD A TREMENDOUS BEGINNING AND ENDED UP A DISCIPLE. ONE CAME TO THE END OF HIS LIFE COMMITTING SUICIDE, WHILE PROCLAIMING, "I HAVE PLAYED THE FOOL"; THE OTHER DIED WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE, A SONG IN HIS HEART, AND A FINAL SERMON, "I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH".

TODAY I WANT US TO EXAMINE THE TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH OF THESE "TWO MEN NAMED SAUL". ONE IS SAUL, THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL. THE OTHER IS SAUL WHO BECAME PAUL, APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES AND GREAT WORKER FOR GOD. I WANT US TO SEE IN THESE EXAMPLES HOW MEN MISUSE, AND LOSE, THEIR GLORIOUS PRIVILEGES FROM GOD; AND HOW GOD CAN TAKE ANY YIELDED VESSEL AND MAKE IT INTO A VESSEL UNTO HONOR. AND I WANT US TO SEE THE VERY REAL DANGER THAT MANY FACE TODAY OF PUTTING SELF AHEAD OF SAVIOUR AND ENDING UP LOSING THEIR "THRONE", THEIR TRUST, AND THEIR SOULS.

### I. SAUL THE KING EVERYTHING WAS "SET FOR SUCCESS" IN HIS LIFE:

1. PHYSICALLY ENDOWED- I SAM 9:2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly; and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people. A HANDSOME MAN WHO "STOOD OUT IN THE CROWD". (COMPARE TO WHAT IS SAID ABOUT PAUL- II COR 10:10 For his letter, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible )

2. SOCIALLY CORRECT- MODEST WHEN TALKING TO SAMUEL- I SAM 9:21 And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me? SAUL WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE INVITED TO A PARTY BECAUSE HE WAS "PRETTY AND PLEASANT".

3. A RELIGIOUS MAN- WHEN SAMUEL FIRST TALKED WITH SAUL HE TOLD HIM (I SAM 10:6) The Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shall be turned into another man.

EVERY SINGLE EXCUSE THE WORLD USES TODAY TO JUSTIFY PEOPLE IN SIN WAS MISSING IN SAUL. HE COULDN'T BLAME HIS HEALTH, SOCIETY, OR EVEN HIS CHURCH; YET HE UTTERLY FAILED IN HIS POSITION AS KING AND IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD. WHY???

### WHY DID SAUL FAIL AND END UP SO MISERABLY??

A) LOSE OF FAITH- I SAM 13:11-14 HE LOOKED AT THE OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES (HIS ARMY WAS DISSOLVING WHILE THE ENEMY WAS INCREASING) AND INSTEAD OF TRUSTING GOD HE OFFERED THE SACRIFICE THAT ONLY SAMUEL SHOULD HAVE OFFERED. AND SAMUEL SAID, 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 hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee. HOW MANY PEOPLE TODAY SERVE GOD WHEN EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD BUT ABANDON SHIP WHEN THEY SEE A STORM APPROACHING. (SOMETIMES THEY GET CAUGHT BY THE STORM AND THEY STAY ON BOARD UNTIL IT APPEARS THAT GOD IS NOT GOING TO CALM THE STORM IMMEDIATELY- THEN THEY SEEK THE FIRST "LIFE BOAT" THAT COMES ALONG.

B) LACK OF FAITHFULNESS- I SAM 15:10-24 GOD'S COMMAND WAS VERY PLAIN--KILL ALL THE PEOPLE, SLAY ALL THE ANIMALS. SAUL WANTED SOMETHING TO SHOW OFF; SOME PRIZES TO SHOW EVERYONE. WHEN HE WAS FOUND OUT HE TRIED TO EXCUSE HIS FAILURE BY BLAMING THE PEOPLE OR SAYING HE WAS REALLY TRYING TO DO GOD A FAVOR BY KEEPING THE BEST FOR A SACRIFICE TO GOD. BUT SAMUEL QUICKLY TOLD HIM, (I SAM 15:22) Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

HOW MANY PEOPLE TODAY DISOBEY GOD AND THEN TRY TO "SALVE THEIR CONSCIENCE" BY AN EXTRA DOLLAR IN THE OFFERING PLATE. OR THEY SAY, I DO AS MUCH AS MOST PEOPLE DO IN THE CHURCH; NOT REALIZING THAT INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE.

POSSIBLY SOME OF THE SADDEST SENTENCES ABOUT THIS SAUL ARE FOUND IN I SAM 15:34-45 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul; and the Lord repented that he had made Saul king over Israel. SEPARATED FROM THE PREACHER, SEPARATED FROM GOD!!!

THERE IS A LINE BY US UNSEEN  
THAT CROSSES EVERY PATH  
THE HIDDEN BOUNDARY BETWEEN  
GOD'S PATIENCE AND HIS WRATH.  
O WHERE IS THAT MYSTERIOUS BOURNE  
BY WHICH OUR PATH IS CROSSED,  
BEYOND WHICH GOD HIMSELF HAS SWORN  
THAT HE WHO GOES IS LOST?  
HOW FAR CAN ONE GO ON IN SIN?  
HOW LONG WILL MERCY SPARE?  
WHERE DOES GRACE END AND WHERE BEGIN  
THE CONFINES OF DESPAIR?  
AN ANSWER FROM THE SKY IS SENT;  
YE WHO FROM GOD DEPART,  
WHILE IT IS CALLED TODAY REPENT,  
AND HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART.

UNKNOWN

THERE WAS ANOTHER SAUL HOWEVER. RAISED AS A PHARISEE, ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD'S WORK, LOST AND GOING TO HELL APART FROM GOD. HE MET CHRIST ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS, CHANGED HIS LIFE, AND IN SPITE OF PERSECUTIONS AND PROBLEMS WAS ABLE TO STAND AT LIFE'S SUNSET AND BOLDLY PROCLAIM, "I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH".

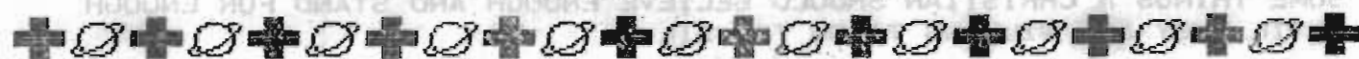
WHICH SAUL ARE YOU?? THE ONE GUIDED BY PRIDE AND PEOPLE'S OPINION; OR THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN "CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST,..AND THE LIFE I NOW LIVE I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD".

WHEN LIFE'S CURTAIN COMES DOWN ON YOU WILL YOU LOOK UP WITH A SMILE AND BOLDLY PROCLAIM, "I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH". OR WILL YOU SADLY SAY AS YOU ARE CAST FROM GOD'S PRESENCE, "I HAVE PLAYED THE FOOL!"????


# Grace & Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803)394-3725 Vol 6 Num 8 Mar 30, 1988

**"To Know and to Show CHRIST"**




## EASTER SERVICES

 **7:00AM Sunrise Service**

Join us for a time of worship and praise, special music, and the Gospel message from our Guest Speaker- Rev Johnny Evans.

[Remember that the time will change Saturday night, so get to bed early and be here in time to enjoy all the Blessings].

**8:00AM Breakfast**

A VERY SPECIAL Breakfast is planned for everyone following the Sunrise Service. Eggs, Grits, Sausage, toast, juice, milk, doughnuts, and lots of coffee!!! 

**9:00AM Sunday School** for all Ages. We will study about how to be "Witnesses of the Resurrection"

**10:00am Easter Worship Service** featuring Special Music, Special Blessings, and the message about "The Effects of the Resurrection" [Children's Church for ages 3-5 will be held during the Worship Service. This is a wonderful training time for

these young people and I appreciate those who work so hard to help them learn about Christ.]

(We will conclude around 11am and will not have an Evening Service so everyone can attend all the services and still have "dinner at Mom's").

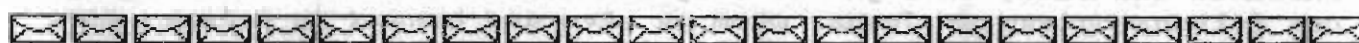
**SPECIAL MUSIC** during these services will be provided



by the Young Family, Todd and Sully, and the Johnny Evans family; in addition to our own excellent choir (and anyone else I can get to "Volunteer"!!).

Hope you will join us for these services this week and then become part of the Grace "Family" each and every week. The Lord is doing great things in and for our Church and we want everyone to share in the Blessings.

May the Lord Bless you and give you a great Easter Season. *Preacher Mike*



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## THINGS TO GO TO JAIL FOR

ACTS 5:17-32

THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE OUGHT NOT TO GO TO JAIL FOR- I PET 4:15  
But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an  
evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. BUT THERE ARE  
SOME THINGS A CHRISTIAN SHOULD BELIEVE ENOUGH AND STAND FOR ENOUGH  
UNTIL THEY ARE WILLING TO GO TO JAIL.

1. RATHER THAN DO WRONG- JOSEPH WENT TO JAIL RATHER THAN COMMIT  
ADULTERY. JOSEPH'S BATTLE CRY WAS There is none greater in this  
house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee,  
because thou art his wife; how then can I do this great wickedness,  
and sin against God. (GEN 39:9)

2. RATHER THAN STOP PREACHING GOD'S WORD- JEREMIAH WAS OFFERED THE  
CHOICE OF EITHER STOPPING PREACHING OR JAIL SEVERAL TIMES; HIS  
ANSWER, God's word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in  
my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

3. RATHER THAN STOP PRAYING- DANIEL 6:10 Now when Daniel knew  
that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows  
being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his  
knees three times a day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God  
as he did aforetime.

4. RATHER THAN BOW BEFORE THE GODS OF THIS WORLD- THE 3 HEBREW  
CHILDREN. DAN 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered  
and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer  
thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to  
deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us  
out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O  
king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image  
which thou hast set up.

5. RATHER THAN STOP CONDEMNING SIN- JOHN THE BAPTIST. LUKE 3:31-20  
BUT HEROD THE TETRARCH, BEING REPROVED BY HIM FOR HERODIAS HIS  
BROTHER PHILIP'S WIFE, AND FOR ALL THE EVILS WHICH HEROD HAD DONE,  
ADDED YET THIS ABOVE ALL, THAT HE SHUT UP JOHN IN PRISON.

6. RATHER THAN STOP WITNESSING- THE APOSTLES. ACTS 5:17-20 Then  
the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is  
the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, and  
laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison,  
But the Angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and  
brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to  
the people all the words of this life. 28-32 Saying, Did not  
we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and,  
behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to  
bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles  
answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of  
our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him  
hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour,  
for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we  
are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost,  
whom God hath given to them that obey him.

7. IN ORDER TO TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN FOR CHRIST- PAUL

WHEN YOUR CHRISTIANITY IS PUT TO THE TEST, WILL YOU STAND, AND  
HAVING DONE ALL, STAND

# THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

CHRISTIANITY HAS BEEN CALLED THE "BLOODY RELIGION" BECAUSE OF IT'S EMPHASIS ON SACRIFICES. IN ONE MANNER OF SPEAKING THIS IS VERY TRUE AND MARKS THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND THE OTHER RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD. CHRISTIANITY IS A RELIGION THAT IS BASED ON THE SHED BLOOD OF CHRIST AS PAYMENT FOR SINS INSTEAD OF WORKS OF MAN OR WISDOM OF MAN AS IN OTHER RELIGIONS. IN OTHER RELIGIONS MY EDUCATION OR MY ABILITY; MY SERVICE OR MY SACRIFICE, ARE THE REQUIREMENTS. IN CHRISTIANITY I COME BEFORE GOD, AND AM ACCEPTED BY GOD, ON THE BASIS OF THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST.

THAT IS A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE THAT EVEN MANY CHRISTIANS NEED TO LEARN AGAIN. WE MUST REALIZE THAT SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD--AND BEFORE WE CAN KNOW THE POWER AND BLESSINGS OF GOD ON OUR LIVES WE MUST PUT AWAY THE SIN THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND GOD. ISAIAH 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.

THE ONLY MEANS OF DOING THIS IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST; NOT IMPROVED MORALS OR INCREASED MONEY [WHICH IS WHAT MANY PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO USE TODAY TO CORRECT THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS]. I WANT US TO SEE TODAY THE NECESSITY OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IN OUR COMING TO GOD AND WHAT GREAT POWER THERE IS IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

I> THE BLOOD IS THE PASSOVER FOR OUR SINS- EXO 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.  
EXO 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. THE POWER THAT IT CONVEYED WAS SIMPLY ASTONISHING-- ANYONE WHO WAS IN THE ROOM WHERE THE BLOOD WAS APPLIED WAS SAFE; ANY FIRSTBORN IN A HOUSE WITHOUT THE BLOOD WOULD DIE. IT WAS NOT A DEGREE OF "GOODNESS" OR "ABILITY" BUT SIMPLY THE APPLIED BLOOD.

THE BLOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S WAY OF DEALING WITH THE SEPARATION CAUSED BY SIN. IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN GOD SLEW AN ANIMAL AND MAN WAS CLOTHED WITH IT'S SKIN. REV 13:8 SAYS THAT JESUS WAS THE Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth. GOD WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY DESTROYED MAN HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE BLOOD OF CHRIST THAT HE SAW FROM THE BEGINNING.

II> NOT ONLY DOES THE BLOOD SAVE US FROM GOD'S WRATH, IT ALSO SAVES US FROM SIN'S POWER BY REDEEMING US. EPH 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; REDEMPTION MEANS "TO BUY OFF THE SLAVE MARKET". CHRIST HAS BOUGHT US FROM THE "SLAVE MARKET" OF SIN AND SET US FREE TO LIVE LIFE ABUNDANTLY. GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.

III> THE BLOOD DOES EVEN MORE THAN SAVE US FROM SIN'S POWER; IT ALSO SAVES US FROM SIN'S POLLUTION- I JOHN 1:7 But 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. GOD DIDN'T JUST DEAL WITH OUR PAST SINS, HE ALSO MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR PRESENT SINS. THE BLOOD ALLOWS ME TO WALK IN FAITH INSTEAD OF FEAR. IT ALSO ALLOWS ME TO APPROACH GOD TODAY JUSTIFIED (JUST AS IF I HAD NEVER SINNED)- ROM 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

IV> THE BLOOD HAS POWER TO CLEANSE OUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD. HEB 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. I DON'T HAVE TO DO WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE SO I CAN SERVE GOD FREELY AND FULLY

V> IT IS THE POWER GOD USED TO PURCHASE THE CHURCH AS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST. Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

VI> IT HAS POWER TO GIVE US BOLDNESS TO APPROACH GOD. HEB 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. I APPROACH THE "BANK OF HEAVEN" BASED ON FAITH IN WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME INSTEAD OF WHAT I HAVE DONE OR CAN DO FOR GOD.

VII> IT HAS POWER TO GIVE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE AND ENTRANCE INTO HEAVEN- REV 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

YOUR ABILITY TO STAND BEFORE GOD WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE THE BLOOD OF CHRIST APPROPRIATED AND APPLIED. YOUR ABILITY TO STAND FOR GOD WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

LIKE CAIN, YOU CAN COME TO GOD WITH THE VERY BEST YOU HAVE--AND BE REJECTED, OR YOU CAN COME BY WAY OF THE BLOOD AND FIND PARDON AND PEACE. DO YOU HAVE THE BLOOD APPLIED TODAY???



## KING WHO LOVED A DEAD DOG

II SAMUEL 9:-

II SAMUEL IS ABOUT DAVID'S REIGN AS KING. THE FIRST 8 CHAPTERS DEAL WITH HIS CONSOLIDATION OF THE KINGDOM FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF SAUL. ONCE THIS IS DONE AND HE HAS TIME FOR A FEW MOMENTS OF REFLECTION HE REMEMBERS HIS FRIEND, JONATHAN, AND DECIDES TO SHOW MERCY TO ANY OF HIS DESCENDENTS. HE FINDS THAT JONATHAN HAS A SON WHO WAS CRIPPLED IN AN ACCIDENT AND SEEKS HIM OUT THAT HE MIGHT SHOW HIM MERCY FOR JONATHAN'S SAKE. IN SO DOING HE SHOWS US ONE OF THE GREAT PICTURES OF SALVATION IN THE SCRIPTURE.

[NOTE THE WORK OF THE SERVANT (CHRISTIAN)- THE SERVANT TOLD ABOUT MEPHIBOSHETH [PRAYER], WENT TO GET HIM [CONCERN], BROUGHT HIM TO THE KING [SOUL WINNING], AND HELPED HIM AFTER HE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE KING [FOLLOW-UP]].

## I. MEPHIBOSHETH- "THE DEAD DOG"

A) HE EXPERIENCED A FALL AND COULD NOT WALK- 2SA 4:4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. SO TODAY MANKIND HAS "FALLEN" INTO SIN.

1. BOTH FEET (LAW AND WORKS) WERE LAME. COULDN'T WALK ON HIS OWN  
2. HE COULD NOT WALK CORRECTLY- EP 2:2 SAYS WE WALK ACCORDING TO THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD; THEREFORE LAMED AND LIMPING.

B) HE WAS MISSING HIS PLACE IN LIFE- HE WAS THE GRANDSON OF A KING BUT WAS LIVING IN "LO-DEBAR" (NO PASTURE)

WHAT A TRAGIC SITUATION THE SINNER IS IN- HE HAS FALLEN; HE CANNOT WALK TO PLEASE GOD; HE IS SEPARATED FROM HOME; HE IS UNDER CONDEMNATION; AND HE CANNOT HELP HIMSELF.

## II. DAVID- THE KING WHO LOVED

A) DAVID MADE THE FIRST MOVE- SALVATION IS OF THE LORD! THE SINNER RUNS FROM GOD INSTEAD OF TOWARD HIM. CHRIST CAME TO EARTH SEEKING LOST MEN

B) DAVID ACTED "FOR JONATHAN'S SAKE"- HE HAD NEVER SEEN MEPHIBOSHETH BUT HE LOVED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR JONATHAN (WE ARE ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED).

C) IT WAS AN ACT OF GRACE- MOST KINGS WOULD HAVE KILLED ANYONE WHO MIGHT LAY CLAIM TO THEIR THRONE BUT DAVID SHOWED MERCY INSTEAD OF JUDGMENT. MEPHIBOSHETH HAD NO "MERIT" FOR DAVID TO SHOW HIM MERCY BUT DAVID'S LOVE DID SO ANYWAY. NOTE THAT ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS DAVID TOLD HIM WAS "FEAR NOT".

D) DAVID GAVE HIM A PORTION OF HIS OWN TABLE-

WHAT A SALVATION GOD OFFERS- HE SEEKS US; HE LOVES US IN SPITE OF OUR SINFUL FALL BECAUSE HE SEES US THRU CHRIST; HE SAVES US EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT OFFER HIM ANYTHING; AND HE MAKES US SIT AT HIS TABLE AS SONS!! GREAT IS THY SALVATION, O LORD!!

MEPHIBOSHETH ANSWERED THE CALL, CAME AS A "DEAD DOG" WITHOUT MERIT, AND ACCEPTED THE KING'S PROVISION.

**RETURN OF THE LOST ARK**

II SAM 6:-

IN THE FINAL DAYS OF ELI THE PRIEST THE PEOPLE WERE FACING A MAJOR BATTLE AGAINST THE PHILISTINES. AS IN MOST SITUATIONS WHERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES LOOK BLEAK, THE PEOPLE DECIDED IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE GOD ON THEIR SIDE SO THEY ASKED THE SONS OF ELI TO BRING THE ARK INTO THE CAMP TO GIVE THEM THE "DIVINE EDGE" IN THE BATTLE. THE PHILISTINES WON THE BATTLE HOWEVER AND CAPTURED THE ARK BUT THEN FOUND THEY HAD SOMETHING "TOO HOT TO HANDLE" AS DISEASE AND DEFEAT CAME WITH IT. THEY DECIDED THEY NEEDED A WAY OF DETERMINING IF IT WAS REALLY A JUDGEMENT OF GOD OR SIMPLY BAD "LUCK" SO THEY PUT THE ARK ON A CART HOOKED TO TWO COWS THAT HAD JUST HAD CALVES. THEN THEY TURNED THE COWS LOOSE TO SEE IF THEY WOULD GO BACK TO THEIR CALVES OR TOWARD THE NATION OF ISRAEL. THEY WENT TO ISRAEL AND THE ARK FOUND A RESTING PLACE IN KIRJATHJEARIM (AFTER 50,000 MEN OF BETH-SHEMESH DIED WHEN THEY TRIED TO LOOK INTO IT!) [I SAM 4,5,6]. THERE IT REMAINED DURING THE REIGN OF SAUL UNTIL DAVID DETERMINED TO BRING IT TO HIS HEADQUARTERS AT JERUSALEM.

DAVID'S DESIRE WAS COMMENDABLE, HIS GOAL WAS CORRECT; BUT HIS METHODS WERE FAULTY AND SUFFERING WAS THE RESULT. I WANT TO LOOK AT WHERE DAVID MADE HIS MISTAKES, HOW HE CORRECTED THEM, AND THE LESSONS WE OUGHT TO LEARN FROM THIS INCIDENT.

**I. MISTAKEN MOTIVES AND METHODS IN DOING GOD'S WORK**

A) DAVID DID NOT CONSULT THE LORD ABOUT MOVING THE ARK, HE ASKED HIS POLITICAL ADVISORS- I CHRON 13:1 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. HE MAY HAVE HAD AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE OF TRYING TO UNITE THE COUNTRY INSTEAD OF BRING GLORY TO GOD.

B) DAVID USED THE WORLD'S METHOD OF MOVING THE ARK INSTEAD OF CONSULTING THE WORD OF GOD- GOD ALLOWED THE PHILISTINES TO PUT THE ARK ON A CART AND BE DRAWN BY OXEN BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER BUT HE REQUIRED HIS PEOPLE TO CARRY IT ON THEIR SHOULDERS AS HE HAD SAID IN HIS WORD (NUMBERS 7:8-9). ONE OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS IN CHURCHES AND AMONG CHRISTIANS TODAY IS THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO GOD'S WORK WITH MAN'S METHODS AND BLAMING GOD WHEN IT FAILS!!

NOTE THAT DAVID AND THE PEOPLE WERE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WHAT THEY WERE DOING- PLAYING ON ALL MANNER OF INSTRUMENTS, ETC. BUT ENTHUSIASM DOES NOT MEAN YOU'RE CORRECT

C) NOTE THAT EVENTUALLY WRONG METHODS BROUGHT GOD'S WRATH- BECAUSE THE ARK WAS RIDING ON A CART IT BEGAN TO SHAKE. WHEN IT DID UZZAH REACHED FORTH HIS HAND TO STEADY IT AND GOD KILLED HIM FOR HIS ERROR. (NUM 3:15 And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.) ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA FOUND THAT OUT WHEN THEY LIED TO GOD ABOUT GIVING EVERYTHING.

**II. GOD HONORS GOD'S WAY-** WHEN DAVID DID THINGS THE WAY GOD SAID THEN HE WAS ABLE TO BRING THE ARK TO JERUSALEM AND UNITE THE PEOPLE.

**III. HOW ARE YOU DOING GOD'S WORK???** DO YOU HAVE A BURDEN BUT NO DIRECTION? ARE YOU WORKING TO PLEASE PEOPLE OR TO HONOR GOD?? GOD CANNOT BLESS ERROR OR ENTHUSIASM BUT HE DOES BLESS PROPER EFFORT.

## "WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF YOU?"

DEUT 10:12-13 And now, Israel, what doth the the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God; and to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

THE STAR ATHLETE HAD ALL THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO PLAY THE GAME BUT HIS GRADES WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH AND HE HAD TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES. HE DIDN'T MEET THE REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO PLAY. IN MUCH THE SAME WAY TODAY MANY PEOPLE ARE "SITTING ON THE SIDELINE" INSTEAD OF ENJOYING THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE THEY DON'T MEET GOD'S REQUIREMENTS. SADDEST OF ALL IS THAT MANY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE--REVERENCE, FAITHFULNESS, LOVE, AND DEDICATION [THESE ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (THEY ALSO WORK IN MARRIAGES!). THAT RELATIONSHIP CAN ONLY BEGIN IF YOU HAVE REPENTED OF SIN AND TRUSTED CHRIST AS SAVIOUR]

I. FEAR- (PROBABLY THE LAST THING YOU'D THINK OF BUT SOLOMON SAID IN ECC 12:13 Fear God, and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man). This means a REVERENTIAL RESPECT for God. It is not HORROR but HONOR; not FRIGHTENED but FOLLOWING

### A) What "Fear" of God does FOR us:

1. BRINGS US TO FELLOWSHIP- PS 25:12 The Secret of the Lord is with them that fear him. THIS RESPECT ALLOWS US TO HAVE THAT SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD- JOHN 15:14-15 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth now what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

2. PROTECTS US- PS 34:7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

3. ALLOWS OUR PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED- PS 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him.

4. LENGTHENS OUR DAYS- PROV 10:27 The Fear of the Lord prolongeth days. ADDS DAYS AND MAKES MORE ABUNDANT

### B) What "Fear" of God does IN us-

1. MAKES US LIVE RIGHT- II COR 7:1 Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

PROV 16:6 By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

MATT 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2. MAKES US ACT RIGHT- EP 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to the other in the fear of God.

C) How do you LEARN Fear? Deut. 4:10 The Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me. WE SEE HOW GOD HAD DEALT WITH SIN AND SINNERS IN THE PAST AND IT BRINGS FEAR TO US.

DO YOU REVERENCE GOD?? IT'S PROVED IN YOUR WORSHIP, IN YOUR WORDS, AND IN YOUR WEALTH (COMPARE YOUR W-2 TO YOUR TITHE!!).

II. FAITHFULNESS "TO WALK IN ALL HIS WAYS"- CONTINUALLY DOING WHAT GOD TELLS YOU TO DO". THE LORD IS NOT PLEASED WITH SPOTTY CHURCH ATTENDANCE, HIT OR MISS TITHES, AND LUKEWARM SAINTS. WHY SHOULD THE LORD BE SO STRICT AS TO REQUIRE FAITHFULNESS? WHY DO MEN EXPECT THEIR WIVES TO GIVE UP ALL THEIR BOYFRIENDS WHEN THEY MARRY? [REMEMBER THAT ISRAEL IS GOD'S WIFE AND THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST]. WHY SHOULD AN EMPLOYER EXPECT YOU TO SHOW UP EVERY DAY AND WORK FOR HIM INSTEAD OF THE COMPETITOR? [REMEMBER THAT CHRIST PURCHASED OUR SALVATION WITH HIS OWN BLOOD. THE BLESSINGS OF LIFE COME FROM GOD. IS IT ANY WONDER HE EXPECTS YOU TO SERVE HIM FAITHFULLY??]. FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE CONTENT WITH GOD INSTEAD OF BEING COMMITTED TO GOD. GOD DOES NOT REQUIRE TALENT--HE DOES REQUIRE FAITHFULNESS

III. LOVE- NOT TELEVISION "MUSH" BUT AFFECTION AND COMMITMENT. [HE DOESN'T ASK FOR WEALTH OR ABILITY BUT FOR OUR LOVE!!!]

A) The first Commandment- Mk 12:30 Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

B) The "Acid test" of Christianity- Jn 14:15 If you love me keep my commandments. (WHEN PETER "BACKSLIDE" JESUS ASKED HIM, "LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE?". WHEN THE EPHESIAN CHURCH BACKSLIDE CHRIST TOLD THEM, "THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE")

C) INIQUITY COOLS OUR LOVE- MATT 24:12 Because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold.

D) The basis of our Fellowship with God- Jn 14:23 If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

MEN SIT BESIDE ROADS, COLD AND TIRED, WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAYBE SHOOT A DEER. WOMEN SPEND HOURS IN A MALL, TIRED AND FRUSTRATED, HOPING TO FIND A NEW DRESS OR PAIR OF SHOES. THEY DO SO BECAUSE THEY WANT TO. COMPARE THIS TO YOUR SERVICE FOR GOD.

IV. DETERMINATION- "TO SERVE THE LORD WITH ALL THY HEART AND TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD." I CALLED IT "FLINT-FACED" BECAUSE OF IS 50:7 For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded, therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. PAUL SAID IT THIS WAY PHIL 3:13-14 This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

JAMES SAID THAT THE DOUBLE MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS. GOD IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO FIND OUT WHERE GOD IS GOING, GET IN STEP WITH HIM AND THEN KEEP ON GOING REGARDLESS OF WHAT COMES THEIR WAY.


DO YOU MEET GOD'S REQUIREMENTS????? DO YOU FEAR THE LORD?? ARE YOU FAITHFUL IN SERVING HIM?? DO YOU LOVE HIM ABOVE ALL? HAVE YOU SETTLED IT IN YOUR HEART THAT YOU WILL DO WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO??

# Grace & Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803) 394-3725 Vol 6 Num 9 April 28 1988

**"To Know and To Show CHRIST"**

Lots of great things been happening since our last newsletter. (Someone asked me recently how I could write so much so often and I told them it was easy as long as God kept Blessing like He is!).

 The "Free Will Baptist Minister's Fellowship" was officially organized April 4 at a meeting here at Grace. It is an organization designed to promote fellowship and cooperation among Free Will Baptist in our area by allowing the Pastors to exchange ideas and enjoy fellowship. It will meet the first Monday of each month (May 2 is next session) at 9:00am in the Fellowship Building of Grace FWB Church and all FWB Ministers are invited to attend. The Officers are- President- Rev Charles Keith, Vice President- Rev Harry Cooper, Secretary- Rev Waylon Owens. Coffee and doughnuts are normally served.

**Wonderful Wednesdays-** The last Wednesday in March we had one of the best communion services I have ever been in. The Holy Spirit was so real until I still get "goose bumps" thinking about it. What a great way to start the wonderful Easter services we had.

The First Wednesday in April we had Church conference and excellent reports were given. The Church is in the best financial shape it's ever been in--and you can trace the increase back to the Church's decision several years ago to begin tithing our income to the Lord's work. We didn't have the money then to do it but God has honored our Faith.

The Second Wednesday in April we had a Church "Work Night" and the people REALLY WORKED. We planted nearly 30 shrubs, Edged around and put border timbers around the entire front of the Church and fellowship building, cleaned and polished the sanctuary, and gave a much needed clean up to the

Fellowship Kitchen. Everyone who came worked well and hard and I commend them for their effort.

Then last Wednesday we had a surprise Birthday party for Mrs Jackie Lowder. Mrs Jackie has been the Church Pianist for over 20 years and we appreciate her more than we can say. I was just going to serve Cake and Coffee at first but when the people heard that we were doing something for Mrs Jackie



many of them wanted to help and we ended up having a very nice supper and a very large

attendance.

If you miss a Wednesday you'll miss a Blessing!!

One of the "Problems" that come with growth is lack of room- we are presently

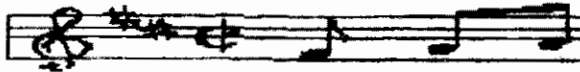


experiencing that in our Children's Church ministry. We have already divided it up into

groups (Beginner Church- ages 3-5 and Junior Church- age 6-12) but even that is not enough to ease the crowded situation so the Deacons have okayed the building of a wall in the fellowship building to form a large room for the Children's Church. This will give them enough room for right now and also allow them to set up some "permanent" display. [We are building it in such a way that it can be easily converted into 2 Sunday School rooms when we build our new Church!!!! I'm trying to base all my decisions now on the fact that if the Lord continues to Bless in the next few years like He's Blessed in this past year that we will be "Forced" to build to accommodate the people. I'm ready to start drawing up the plans tomorrow- if we can just get someone to donate only \$23,000 to us next week!!!]

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
P O Box 1003  
Lake City, S C 29560

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What a Wonderful Wonderful Blessing we received from the concert presented by the Kendale Acres/Lighthouse FyB Church Choirs on Saturday April 16. These fine folks traveled all the way from North Carolina just to sing for us and did a marvelous job. You could tell they had put a lot of Prayer and Practise into this service and I commend them (Tapes of this service are available to anyone desiring them).

We anticipate another Musioal Blessing this coming Sunday Night (May 1) as our choir shows off their considerable talent and our new Song Books [We had to wait a long time for the new Free Will Baptist

Song Book "Rajoice" to come in but I believe it was worth the wait]. In addition to the choir specials we also look for specials from The Young Family, Mrs Anne Thigpen, and Todd Newall. We might even have a few "surprises" for you.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo  
I am pleased to acknowledge a Memorial Gift to our Outreach Work from Danny and Tammy Johnson in Memory of Mrs Hazel Herlong. I also appreciate gifts from Billie Ard, the McBrides, Marion Coker, Tom and Anne McKnight, Chuck Zagorac, and Mr and Mrs Jack B Hanna. After paying for the new Monitor and restocking some supplies things were looking very "slim" but God came thru again like He has hundreds of time in the past. Sometimes I tempted to change our name from an "Outreach Ministry" to a "Miracle Ministry"!

[I've received several nice letters from people wanting to get on our mailing list lately after having seen the newsletter somewhere. We are always delighted to add more people to our "Family" and I encourage you to submit names of people who would be interested in receiving the

newsletter.]

I'm glad to do what I can--and wish could do more. Let me know if I can help YOU. *Preacher Mike*

### MY DREAM CHURCH

Now I haven't found a perfect church  
But I still have my dreams.  
I know I'll keep on searching  
Though hopeless now it seems.  
I'd like a church where all is love  
No fighting, not one bit.  
A Church that's full of Christians  
And not one Hypocrite!  
A Church where there're no big-wheels  
That try to run it all.  
But where each one's important  
And on each one they call.  
A church that has no rule-of-thumb  
As to the clothes you wear.  
The very finest suit will do  
Or "shirt sleeves...they don't care.  
A Church that has an altar  
Where all pray as they please.  
Where they don't sit or stand to pray  
But get down on their knees.  
A Church where money isn't  
The most important thing.  
And your job's not decided  
By how much you will bring.  
A church where there's no earthly pride  
To hinder what we do.  
That keeps us from obeying God  
And lose our "victory", too.  
A Church where people really trust  
The ONE who died for all.  
If I can be a member there  
I know I'll never fall.  
Now if I never find this church  
On this old earth down here.  
I know THE PERFECT CHURCH will come  
When we meet Him in the air!!

-J. H. Sturgeon

[Mr Sturgeon gave Mrs Devonne Hanna a book of poems and Puzzles that he had written to use in the newsletter and I will use different ones from time to time. I appreciate his concern and willingness to share and I hope the material will be a blessing to you.]



## MUSIC

MUSIC CAN TEACH US (BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SONG); CALM US (JESUS LOVES ME); AND ENCOURAGE US (JUST A LITTLE BOY DAVID). MUSIC IS A MINISTRY AS SUCH IT CAN NOT ONLY ENTERTAIN US; BUT ALSO ENLIGHTEN US WHEN:

1. **Seeking for the Will of God:** When Elisha was asked to give the king advice about how to defeat the Moabites-II Kings 3:15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.
2. **When faced with a "bad Spirit:** I Sam 16:23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.
3. **To show you're filled with the Spirit:** Eph 5:18-19 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
4. **When Sorrow surrounds you:** Isaiah 30:29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night, when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the mighty One of Israel
5. **When you feel good:** James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.
6. **To Defeat your enemy:** II Chron 20:21-22 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.
7. **To "Preview" Heaven:** Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;  
May this great "Heavenly Hymn" be an example in all our music for it magnifies-
  - God's Greatness
  - God's Power
  - God's Sacrifice
  - God's Provision of Salvation
  - God's Church

DO YOU SING IN CHURCH WAITING FOR THE PREACHING OR WORSHIPPING GOD?  
CAN YOU SING AT MIDNIGHT IN A JAIL AS WELL AS AT NOON IN CHURCH?  
PUT A SONG IN YOUR HEART AND A TESTIMONY ON YOUR LIPS AND TELL THE WORLD ABOUT JESUS TODAY.



ONE OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD TODAY IS THE NUMBER OF "QUITTERS" WE HAVE. IT USED TO BE "BETTER DEAD THAN RED" BUT NOW NO-ONE WANTS TO SERVE IF IT INVOLVES SACRIFICE OR EXTENDED INVOLVEMENT. MARRIAGE USED TO BE "TIL DEATH DO US PART"; NOW IT IS UNTIL THE GOING GETS ROUGH. WE MUST REALIZE THAT "STICKING WITH IT" IS NOT JUST A GOOD IDEA BUT A REQUIREMENT FROM THE LORD IF WE ARE EVER TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING. [SAUL WAS CONDEMNED BECAUSE HE DID NOT "FINISH" THE JOB GOD GAVE HIM (DESTROYING THE AMALAKITES). AHAB WAS CONDEMNED BECAUSE HE DID NOT "FINISH" THE JOB OF SLAYING THE KING].

**What makes a person a Finisher-**

**1. HE IS DEDICATED TO HIS TASK:**

A) HE COUNTED THE COST LUKE 14:25-30

B) HE CONSIDERED HIS ACCOUNTABILITY- JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, USE OF TALENTS.

**2. HE HAS DETERMINATION - HE WILL FINISH EVEN IF IT MEANS:**

A) SACRIFICE: ACTS 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**3. HE HAS A DESIRE TO FINISH- A HEART FOR THE WORK.**

JOHN 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. JOHN 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

**What are some things that need "Finishing Touches" in our lives?**

1. OUR SALVATION- HEB 12:2 LOOKING UNTO JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH. COL 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

2. OUR SERVICE- DEUT 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord. SOME PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO START THE CHRISTIAN LIFE FOR FEAR THEY CAN'T "HOLD OUT". UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS!! GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO KEEP ON KEEPING ON.

3. OUR REALIZATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN- JAMES 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. BUT THANKS BE TO GOD THAT CHRIST HAS "FINISHED" THE PENALTY OF SIN- JOHN 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

WHEN YOU FACE GOD WILL YOU SAY, "I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE"?? OR "I HAVE FAILED"!!!



# HOW TO ENDURE AND OVERCOME TRAGEDY

WHEN THE SUN IS SUDDENLY BLOTTED FROM YOUR HORIZON AND THE LIGHTENING BEGINS TO FLASH YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO STAND AND WITHSTAND. MULTITUDES OF CHRISTIANS SPEND THEIR TIME AND ENERGY WORRYING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A STORM OR ELSE "PUTTING POTS UNDER A LEAKING ROOF" ONCE THE STORM HITS INSTEAD OF ENJOYING THEIR SECURITY AND REALIZING THAT THE STORMS SIMPLY BRING THE RAIN NEEDED TO PRODUCE FRUIT.

LET'S LOOK AT 3 PRINCIPLES THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ENDURE AND OVERCOME THE STORMS OF LIFE.

1. FOUNDATION- MATT 7:24-27 WHEN LIFE'S STORMS COME YOUR WAY YOU NEED:

A) STABILITY- JESUS IS THE ROCK. PEOPLE CHANGE, CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE. JESUS IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER.

B) SECURITY- WHEN YOU BUILD YOUR HOUSE IN THE MIDST OF THE ROCK YOU CAN WITHSTAND ANY STORM AS YOU LOOK ON IT WITH INTEREST INSTEAD OF AGONY.

JESUS SAID THIS "FOUNDATION" WAS SOMEONE WHO HEARD HIS SAYINGS AND THEN DID WHAT WAS TAUGHT- THAT'S EDUCATION AND APPLICATION. YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT JESUS WANTS FROM YOU AND THEN YOU NEED TO LIVE THE WAY HE SAYS. THAT'S WHY CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND CHRISTIAN LIVING ARE SO IMPORTANT; BEFORE THE STORMS HIT!!

2. FAITH- Ps 112:7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. WE DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN BECAUSE WE'RE RESTING IN GOD'S LOVE AND CARE. HOW DO YOU GET THIS KIND OF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE?

FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD, BEING ALONE.

AGAIN IT'S EDUCATION AND APPLICATION

3. FIGHT- GOD DID NOT CALL US TO BE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN A "DREAM WORLD" ABOUT LIFE. HE CALLED US TO PARTICIPATE- WHICH INVOLVES BOTH TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY. KING HEZEKIAH WAS "SAILING ALONG" UNTIL SUDDENLY ON THE HORIZON CAME THE CHALDEANS INVADING HIS COUNTRY. WHEN HE GOT THE BAD NEWS HE WENT TO CHURCH AND FOUGHT A GREAT "PRAYER BATTLE" [II KINGS 19: 14-19] THAT LEFT 185,000 ENEMY SOLDIERS DEAD (II KINGS 19:35).

MOST TIMES THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE- THERE ARE PRAYER PROMISES [JER 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. ] AND SCRIPTURAL COVENANTS [JOSH 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success] IN THE BIBLE THAT CHRISTIANS CAN USE WHEN THEY ARE ATTACKED TO TURN TRAGEDY BACK INTO TRIUMPH.

EDUCATION (LEARNING THE PRAYER PROMISES) AND APPLICATION (APPLYING THE SCRIPTURAL COVENANTS) ARE AGAIN THE KEY.

JESUS IS OUR SHELTER FROM THE WRATH OF SIN AND FROM THE STORMS OF LIFE-- REST IN HIM TODAY.

MOST PEOPLE TODAY WANT TO "USE GOD" FOR THEIR BENEFIT AND BLESSING. THE REAL CHRISTIAN WANTS TO BE USED OF GOD FOR HIS GLORY. TODAY I WANT US TO LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE OF GOOD KING HEZEKIAH AND FIND OUT HOW WE CAN BE USED OF GOD TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL ON EARTH- BECAUSE IN THE WILL OF GOD IS THE ONLY PLACE OF PEACE AND CONTENTMENT.

VS 3 1. MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR BACKGROUND! HEZEKIAH HAD A BAD FATHER (II KINGS 16:1-4) BUT A GOOD MOTHER. HE CHOSE TO FOLLOW THE GOOD EXAMPLE AND TEACHINGS OF HIS MOTHER INSTEAD OF USING HIS DAD'S SINS AS AN EXCUSE FOR HIS OWN SORRINESS.

VS 4 2. DEAL WITH SIN IN YOUR LIFE- HEZEKIAH:

- A) REMOVED THE SINFUL THINGS- BURN BOOKS AND DESTROY "IDOLS"
- B) REMOVED SYMBOLS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE (THE SERPENT THAT MOSES HAD USED FOR A GOOD PURPOSE NOW WAS A HINDRANCE BECAUSE MEN TRUSTED IN THE SYMBOL INSTEAD OF SEEING THE SAVIOUR)- DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE SATISFIED WITH A "FORM" OF CHRISTIANITY INSTEAD OF A COMMITMENT TO CHRIST.

VS 5 3. LIVE BY FAITH, WALK BY FAITH; FOR WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD. (TRUST IN, RELY UPON, DEPEND ON)

VS 6 4. BUILD A RELATIONSHIP. HE "CLAVE" (CLING WITH ALL MIGHT)

- A) HE "DEPARTED NOT". REGULAR WALK, CONSISTENT LIVING
- B) HE "KEPT THE COMMANDMENTS"- HE LIVED ACCORDING TO GOD'S RULES

VS 7 5. WORK FOR THE LORD- FAR TOO MANY CHRISTIANS TALK A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING FOR GOD.

YOU WILL WANT TO WORK BECAUSE:

- A) THE LORD WAS WITH HIM- "JOINT VENTURE"
- B) HE PROSPERED WHEREVER HE WENT- "JOINT VICTORY"
- C) HE BROKE THE YOKE OF ASSYRIA (WHICH HAD JUST DEPORTED ISRAEL FOR HER SINS)- JUDGMENT AVERTED (GOD WILL NOT ALLOW US TO BE TAKEN CAPTIVE AS LONG AS WE ARE DOING HIS WORK IN HIS WAY- JESUS COULD NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL IT WAS TIME. PAUL HAD TO FINISH HIS COURSE).

VS 8 6. DON'T JUST "DEFEND AND DESPAIR"; WAR AND WIN- GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD. KNOCK DOWN SOME GIANTS, BREAK DOWN SOME WALLED CITIES, SHOW THE WORLD THAT GOD IS NOT DEAD.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE OR AN OPPORTUNITY?

DO YOU HAVE A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENY THE POWER THEREOF?

DO YOU JUST "DEFEND THE FAITH" OR DO YOU DEFEAT THE DEVIL?

GOD IS LOOKING FOR YIELDED VESSELS THAT HE CAN USE TO DO MIGHTY THINGS IN HIS NAME. WILL YOU BE SUCH A VESSEL??

# Grace & Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803)394-3725 Vol 6 Num 10 May 12, 1988  
**"To Know and to Show CHRIST"**

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Some times you just have days like this. We are extremely pleased to finally get our new wall installed in the fellowship building for our Children's Church room but it's going to end up costing us nearly \$1000!!!! (That's \$50 per foot!) And while the men were working on the wall I turned on the Air Conditioner to make it more comfortable for them and found it was broken!!! [Another big bill]. Then while all this was going on the people came to cut the grass and I had to stop to write them a check (Normal bill; bad timing).

[Reminds me of how last week went for me- My car broke, my refrigerator broke, and I found out Mandy was going to get married a month early--which meant we have a week to get their house ready instead of a month!!!]

You know what I have to say about all this--"Ain't God Good!!!!" Our attendance is still good, the Spirit of worship is still great in our services, Mrs Anne Thigpen has begun playing the organ for us on a regular basis, Our Choir is generally

filled on Sunday Morning (With over half of them young people), and God is still able to meet every need we have. (I'm looking forward to next week to see what Blessings God will give us to "Counter-act" this week).

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## Special Prayer Request-

Zack Newell is going into the hospital next week for open heart surgery and we want all of you to remember him in prayer. We hope this surgery will enable him to live a normal life at last.

I mentioned already about Mandy getting married. She is supposed to become Mrs David Wall this Saturday (May 14) at 10:00am here at the Church. We're thrilled and happy for her but we will not only lose her but we'll also "lose" Andrew. That's going to be a difficult adjustment for my wife and I ask for your Prayers.

I also ask for your continued prayers for our outreach ministry. The last month has been extremely difficult but I have continued to do what I could with what I have and I ask for you to pray that I would continue to do so. Thanks for gifts from Mrs Victoria Webster and Mrs Billie Ard

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Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
P O Box 1003  
Lake City, S C 29560

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## HOW TO DEVELOP AS A CHRISTIAN WORKER

Here are 10 Guidelines that will help you become the best Christian you can be:

1. Study the Bible- II Tim 2:15
2. Learn to Pray- Luke 18:1 Do it. Don't just learn about it.
3. Cull your Companions- Prov 27:17 Don't date a person with a different destiny- every date is a possible mate
4. Be Faithful to the Church- Heb 10:25 Where they teach the Book, the Birth, and the Blessed Hope. Keep your heart warm by staying close to the Fire of Christian Fellowship
5. Develop your mind- What you think, you are Prov 23:7. Watch what you watch! and read, and think on.
6. Begin to do now what you plan to do later in life. "Faith without works is dead"-- The average Christian "Plans" to do something for the Lord "Someday". My motto for many years has been "I will do WHAT I can, WHERE I am, with WHAT I HAVE".
7. Stay as far from sin as possible/Stay as close to God as you can. Don't spend your life asking "What can I get by with?"; instead, ask yourself, "What can I do more to get closer to God".
8. Learn how to give- Give your Self, your Service, & your Substance
9. Set Goals for your life- It is generally people that determine to read a certain number of Bible Chapters a day, to pray a certain amount, to witness to someone every week; that accomplish something for the Lord. The average Christian's greatest weakness is that they simply want to go to Heaven instead of Serve the Lord.
10. Discipline yourself- Do what you don't want to do! Jesus continually culled his followers by demanding they chose between the easy course and the Cross. If you are to accomplish anything for the Lord it will be because you live for Him in the Valleys as well as on the Mountain Top

The Greatest Good anyone can do is to serve the Lord. The greatest Goal any person can have is serve the Lord. The Greatest "Greatness" anyone can have is to serve the Lord (He that would be greatest of all shall be servant of all).

### IS THIS CONSECRATION??

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,  
Real service is what I desire;  
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord-  
But don't ask me to sing in the Choir.  
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord,  
I like to see things come to pass:  
But don't ask me to teach girls and boys, dear Lord- /  
I'd rather just stay in my class.  
I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,  
I yearn for the kingdom to thrive;  
I'll give you my nickels and dimes, dear Lord--  
But please don't ask me to tithe.  
I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,  
I'll say what you want me to say;  
But I'm busy just now with myself, dear Lord--  
I'll help YOU some other day.

## GUIDELINES FOR A GOOD WIFE

1. Discretion is necessary- 11:22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion
2. A Wife's character can help make or break her husband- 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband; but she that maketh ashamed is a rottenness to his bones.
3. She shouldn't be a "Nag"- 27:15 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike (SEE ALSO 25:24; 19:13; AND ESPECIALLY 21:19 WHICH EXPLAINS WHY MEN LEAVE HOME WHEN THEIR WIFE STARTS TO QUARREL OR NAG!)
4. Marriages should be "Made in Heaven"- 19:14 Houses and riches are the inheritance of fathers; and a prudent wife is from the Lord. (MARRIAGE SHOULD ALSO BE "LIKE HEAVEN"- 18:22 Who findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.)

### AN EXAMPLE OF THE PERFECT WOMAN

Prov 31:10-31

- vs 10 She is not the Usual- Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies
- vs 11 Her Husband doesn't have to Buy her Love- The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil
- vs 12 Her Husband can trust in her- She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- vs 13 She is a Willing Worker- She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- vs 14 She is a "shopper"- She is like the merchants ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
- vs 15 She is not lazy- She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
- vs 16 She has business sense- She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
- vs 17 She keeps herself in shape- She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
- vs 18 She looks to the Future- She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her candle goeth not out by night.
- vs 19 She does things for herself- She layeth her hands to the spindle and her hands hold the distaff.
- vs 20 She loves others- She stretcheth out her hand to the poor, yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- vs 21 She plans ahead- She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- vs 22 She dresses well- She maketh herself coverings of tapestry, her clothing is silk and purple.
- vs 23 Behind every good man is a good woman- Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
- vs 24 She helps with the budget- She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchants.
- vs 25 Her eyes are on Heaven and not the World's Fashion- Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come
- vs 26 She is not a Gossip- She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
- vs 27 She is a good Housekeeper- She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

vs 28 Her family Praise her- Her children arise up, and call her blessed: her husband also, and he praiseth her.  
 vs 29 Her family think she is the best- Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.  
 vs 30 She is a God fearing woman- Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, shall be praised  
 vs 31 Her works and life show she's special- Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

#### **PRESSURES IN RAISING CHILDREN:**

**I. PARENT PRESSURE-** 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

A) Train up a Child- THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO INSTRUCT THE CHILD CLEARLY ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG IS STATED THROUGHOUT PROVERBS- AND THE BIBLE. TO TRAIN MEANS TO DEVELOP A HUNGER. ARE YOU DEVELOPING A "HUNGER" IN YOUR CHILD FOR THE RIGHT??

B) In the Way he should go-

1. HE OUGHT TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAY OF THE WICKED AND THE WAY OF THE WISE

2. IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: "IN KEEPING WITH HIS INDIVIDUAL GIFT" A CHILD IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEVELOPED ACCORDING TO THE CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY GOD HAS GIVEN HIM: GOD DOES NOT MAKE ROBOTS. PARENTS SHOULD REALIZE THAT AND NOT TRY TO MAKE ALL THEIR CHILDREN THE SAME. IF YOUR CHILD IS TAUGHT TO RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT HIS PERSONALITY AND GIFTS THEN HE CAN LIVE A PRODUCTIVE LIFE ALL OF HIS LIFE.

C) When he is old he will not depart from it-

1. THE PRODIGAL SON DID IN FACT RETURN TO THE FATHER (BUT WE DON'T WANT TO TRAIN OUR CHILDREN TO BACKSLIDE!!)

2. IF A CHILD IS TAUGHT TO BE WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE, THEY'LL NEVER BE REALLY HAPPY BEING ANYTHING ELSE. THEY MAY TRY OTHER THINGS BUT IT WON'T WORK.

**II. PEER PRESSURE-** GOD MAKES YOU AN INDIVIDUAL BUT SOCIETY TRIES TO MAKE YOU ONE OF THE HERD (THIS DOES NOT NEGATE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHERS. THE HAND NEEDS THE BODY BUT THE BODY IS NOT ALL HAND!).

A) You take the characteristics of those around you- 27:19 As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man. YOU TALK LIKE THOSE AROUND YOU, EAT SIMILAR FOOD, WEAR SIMILAR CLOTHES, ETC. BE CAREFUL WHO YOU TAKE AS A ROLE MODEL! WHO ARE YOUR HEROES? (THE CHRISTIAN TRIES TO CONFORM TO CHRIST- II COR 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord).

B) Choose your companion with care-

1. THEY ARE TO MAKE YOU SHARP- 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

2. SOME WILL SHAME YOUR FAMILY- 28:7 Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son; but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.

3. SOME WILL BE A SNARE TO YOU- 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

4. BAD COMPANIONS ARE A FORM OF SUICIDE- 29:24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not. MATT 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate; and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

## A WISE MAN'S OBSERVATIONS

PROV 30:-

WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THIS CHAPTER OF PROVERBS EXCEPT WHAT IS GIVEN IN VS 1. AGUR MEANS "COLLECTOR" AND EVIDENTLY HE COLLECTED WISDOM FROM ALL AREAS OF LIFE. [THIS CHAPTER AND THE NEXT WERE PROBABLY ADDED AT THE SAME TIME AS CHAPTERS 25-29 BY HEZEKIAH'S MEN].

**I. THE NEED OF DEPENDENCE ON GOD'S WORD ALONE** vs 2-6 (AGUR BEGINS BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ALL OF HIS WISDOM AND OBSERVING ARE AS NOTHING WHEN COMPARED TO THE WORD OF GOD).

- A) BECAUSE OF OUR LACK OF WISDOM (2-3)- REMEMBER THAT THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS FOOLISHNESS WITH GOD (I COR 1:20).
- B) BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREATNESS (4)- AS EVIDENCED IN CREATION. (WE ARE THE CREATURES, HE IS THE CREATOR. WE MUST DEPEND ON HIM)
- C) BECAUSE OF THE PURITY AND PROTECTION OF THE WORD (5)  
PURE- IT IS A HOLY GOD'S WORD  
PROTECTION- A SHIELD FOR THOSE THAT TRUST IN IT
- D) BECAUSE OF THE PENALTY FOR ADDING TO THE WORD (6)  
REPROOF FROM GOD- SEE REV 22:18-19  
REPROOF FROM MAN- THOU BE FOUND A LIAR

DO YOU TRY TO "FIGURE OUT LIFE" AND "DO THE BEST YOU CAN" OR DO YOU BY FAITH FOLLOW THE PLAN GOD HAS GIVEN US IN HIS WORD? IS 55:7-8  
Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

IS 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

**II. TWO REQUESTS FOR A GOOD LIFE** vs 7-9

A) SANCTIFICATION- REMOVE FAR FROM ME VANITY AND LIES (HELP ME NOT TO BUILD MY LIFE ON THE FRIVOLOUS OR THE FALSE).

B) SATISFACTION-

- 1. DON'T LET MY POVERTY TEMPT ME TO LIE OR STEAL
- 2. DON'T LET MY PLENTY MAKE ME FORGET WHO IS MY SOURCE.

(LIKE PAUL, WE NEED TO LEARN TO BE CONTENT IN WHATSOEVER STATE WE FIND OURSELVES- PHIL 4:11).

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE GOOD LIFE IS?? YOUR ANSWER WILL DETERMINE YOUR EFFECTIVENESS FOR THE LORD AND YOUR PEACE DURING CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

**III. 5 OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS PRESENT GENERATION** vs 10-14

- 1. THEY MIND OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS (10) "BUSYBODIES"
- 2. THEY DISREGARD THEIR FAMILY (11) (SEE MARK 7:9-13)
- 3. THEY THINK THEMSELVES PURE IN SPITE OF THEIR FILTHINESS (12)
- 4. THEY ARE A PRIDEFUL PEOPLE (13)
- 5. THEY DISREGARD OTHERS TO SATISFY THEIR OWN WANTS (14)

DO YOU FIT INTO ANY OF THESE CLASSES??



**IV. 5 THINGS THAT ARE NEVER SATISFIED** vs 15-17 (HAVING GIVEN THE BASIS OF SATISFACTION AND THEN SHOWN THE FAILURE OF HIS GENERATION AGUR NOW SHOWS BY EXAMPLE HOW DISSATISFACTION CAN WRECK YOUR LIFE).

**DESIRE:** 1. HORSELEACH (A WORM THAT SUCKS THE BLOOD FROM IT'S VICTIM). WHY CAN'T PEOPLE SEE THAT THINGS LIKE DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND LUST SUCK THE VERY LIFE OUT OF A PERSON?

**DEATH:** 2. GRAVE- ALL DIE BECAUSE THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH AND ALL HAVE SINNED. YOU CAN'T ESCAPE DEATH SO YOU'D BETTER BE READY TO DIE

**DESTITUTE:** 3. BARREN WOMB- GEN 30:1 Give me children or I die  
A LIFE WITHOUT "FRUIT" OR PURPOSE WILL NEVER FIND PEACE

**DESERT:** 4. DRY EARTH- CAN'T PRODUCE FRUIT (AND ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT AND EXPERIENCE WON'T PRODUCE WITHOUT RAIN!)

**DESTRUCTION:** 5. FIRE- CONSUMES THAT THAT'S PUT INTO IT. THE MORE YOU "GIVE" THE WORST THINGS ARE.

DO YOU ALLOW ENVY, COVETOUSNESS, OR "WANT" TO WRECK YOUR LIFE??

VS 17 DISOBEYING PARENTS BRINGS PUNISHMENT- WHAT A WAY TO CLOSE THIS FIRST SECTION THAT HAS DEALT WITH OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SATISFACTION. AGUR SHOWS THE FOLLY OF CHILDREN BEING DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR PARENT'S LEADERSHIP (LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON WHO WANTED HIS INHERITANCE AND THEN WASTED IT ON THIS WORLD). CHILDREN SEEM TO THINK THAT THEY KNOW BETTER THAN THEIR PARENTS OR THAT THE PARENT IS KEEPING BACK SOMETHING FROM THE CHILD.

DO YOU DISREGARD GOD' WORD OR HIS PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU KNOW BETTER THAN HE!??

**V. 5 WONDERFUL WAYS** 18-20 (HAVING MADE HIS OBSERVATIONS ABOUT PEOPLE'S WANTS AGUR NOW LOOKS AT THEIR WAYS AND THEIR WALK).

1. EAGLE IN THE AIR- HOW DOES HE FLY?

2. SERPENT ON THE ROCK- HOW DOES HE CRAWL?

3. SHIP IN THE SEA- HOW DOES IT FIND IT'S PORT?

4. MAN WITH A MAID- HOW DO THEY "FALL IN LOVE"?

5. ADULTEROUS WOMAN- HOW DOES SHE EXPLAIN HER SIN?

AGUR LAYS SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE FACT THAT EACH OF THESE LEAVE NO TRAIL. HE THEN ESPECIALLY APPLIES IT TO THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN WHO "WIPES HER MOUTH AND SAYS, I HAVE DONE NO WICKEDNESS". THE IDEA BEING THAT PEOPLE THINK THAT BECAUSE NO ONE SEES WHAT WAS DONE THEN IT'S NOT REALLY WRONG. HOW MANY PEOPLE'S ONLY HINDRANCE TO SIN IS PUBLIC OPINION (INSTEAD OF FAITHFULNESS TO GOD)?

**VI. WRONG PROMOTIONS** 21-23 (SHOWS THAT CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES DOESN'T CHANGE CHARACTER) 4 UNBEARABLE THINGS:

1. SERVANT MADE TO REIGN- POWER WITHOUT ABILITY

2. FOOL FILLED WITH MEAT- PROSPERITY WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY

3. ODISIOUS (UNLOVED AND REPUGNANT) WOMAN WHEN MARRIED- PRIVILEGE WITHOUT LOVE

4. HANDMAID HEIR TO MISTRESS- POSITION WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY (REMEMBER HAGAR AND SARAH'S TROUBLE WHEN THE HANDMAID BEGAN TO THINK SHE WAS BETTER THAN THE MISTRESS- GEN 16:4)

LUKE 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

A WISE MAN'S OBSERVATIONS (CONTINUED)

PROV 31:24-33

VII. 4 WISE THINGS 24-28

1. ANTS- BECAUSE OF THE PREPARATION THEY MAKE: PREPARE THEIR MEAT IN THE SUMMER.
    - A) NOT STRONG BUT WORK HARD
    - B) PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE
  2. CRONIES (CLIFF BADGERS)- BECAUSE OF THE PROTECTION THEY ENJOY: THEY MAKE THEIR HOUSES IN THE ROCKS
    - A) FOUNDATION- BUILD THEIR HOUSE ON THE ROCK AND NOT THE SAND
    - B) FORTIFICATION- DEPEND ON THE ROCK FOR PROTECTION (THE COTTONTAIL RABBIT LIVES WHILE THE JACK RABBIT DIES BECAUSE THE COTTONTAIL HIDES IN THE ROCK WHILE THE JACK RABBIT TRIES TO OUTFRAN HIS FOES).
  3. LOCUST- BECAUSE OF THE PARTNERSHIP THEY SHARE: GO FORTH BY BANDS.
    - A) UNITY- THE CHURCH HAS NO VISIBLE KING BUT IS IS A DIVINE FELLOWSHIP (THE BODY OF CHRIST)
    - B) ONE DIRECTION- FORWARD
  4. SPIDER- BECAUSE OF THE POSITION THEY OCCUPY: IN KINGS PALACES
    - A) PERSISTENT- KEEP AT IT
    - B) POSITION- CHRISTIANS DWELL IN THE HEAVENLIES WITH CHRIST.
- NO WONDER THESE ARE CALLED EXCEEDING WISE.  
HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PREPARATION TO MEET GOD? DO YOU ENJOY THE PROTECTION, PARTNERSHIP, AND POSITION OF A CHILD OF GOD?

VIII. 4 THINGS THAT GO WELL 29-31 "STATELY IN STEPS"

- THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE BY RIGHTEOUS LIVING:
1. LION- BECAUSE OF HIS STRENGTH: STRONGEST AMONG BEAST (PHIL 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me)
  2. GREYHOUND- BECAUSE OF HIS SPEED. THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD RENEW STRENGTH SO THAT THEY CAN RUN AND NOT BE WEARY (Is 40:31).
  3. HE GOAT- BECAUSE OF HIS SUREFOOTEDNESS: ABLE TO CLIMB ON THE ROCKS; STABLE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES
  4. KING, WHEN NO ONE RISES UP AGAINST HIM: BECAUSE OF HIS SECURITY. THE PLEASANTNESS OF PEACE WHEN ALL ENEMIES HAVE BEEN DEFEATED. WE HAVE THIS KIND OF PEACE IN CHRIST WHO HAS DEFEATED DEATH, HELL, AND THE GRAVE.

IX. 2 PARTING OBSERVATIONS 32-33

1. DON'T TELL OTHERS WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE AT FAULT VS 32  
(SEE MATT 7:3-5 AND ROM 2:21-23)
2. DON'T KEEP "PICKING" AT TROUBLE OR IT WILL GET BIGGER. IF YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO THEN DO IT; IF NOT, "LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE" UNTIL YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

PROV 16:7 When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.  
EPHESIANS 4:1 I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

## OPEN DOORS

I COR 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

II COR 2:12-13 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened; unto me of the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

REV 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and has not denied my name.

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.

JOHN 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.

I. THE DOOR OF SERVICE- DO YOU WANT TO SERVE GOD BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE OR HOW? HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE AN OPEN DOOR??

1. YOU WILL GET A NEW VIEW OF AN OLD SITUATION- ISAIAH SAW GOD

2. YOU WILL NOW VIEW THINGS IN THIS DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

A. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (LIGHT BULB OVER HEAD)

B. YOU WILL HAVE SINGLENESSE OF PURPOSE- SEE THINGS THIS WAY

3. YOU WILL FEEL COMPELLED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SITUATION- FROM CRITICISM TO CORRECTION

4. ONCE YOU BEGIN THE TASK WILL BE EASIER- (TAKE FIRST STEP OF FAITH) IT IS EASIER TO DIRECT A MOVING OBJECT

5. YOU WILL BEGIN TO DEFEND YOUR POINT OF VIEW AND SEEK TO SHOW IT TO OTHERS- BECOME A WITNESS

6. YOU WILL PRODUCE SPIRITUAL FRUIT (NOT FOR DISPLAY BUT TO EAT!)

A. GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT B. GIVE THEM AWAY C. GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO GROW.

7. YOU WILL FEEL GOD'S HELP- PARTNERSHIP

8. THE DOOR MAY NOT STAY OPEN FOREVER- REV 3:7 OPEN AND NO MAN CLOSES; CLOSE AND NO MAN OPENS.

9. ONE DOOR OFTEN LEADS TO ANOTHER DOOR

10. PRAYER OPENS DOORS- PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON.

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

1. THE MOST PRESSING SPIRITUAL NEED IN OUR WORLD IS-

2. THE MOST EXCITING THING GOD COULD DO FOR MY COMMUNITY IS-

3. MY CHURCH WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IF-

4. I LONG TO SEE GOD WORK THIS MIRACLE IN MY FAMILY-

5. I FEEL A BURDEN THAT WON'T GO AWAY FOR-

## II. DOOR OF SALVATION

1. JESUS IS "KNOCKING" AT YOUR DOOR TODAY, ASKING TO BE INVITED IN. HE WILL NOT FORCE HIS WAY IN BUT HE KNOWS THE HUNGER OF YOUR HEART AND HE "LETS THE SMELL OF HIS 'SUPPER' COME UNDER THE DOOR"

2. OPEN TO WHOSOEVER WILL ESCAPE GOD'S WRATH-- BUT ONE DAY WILL BE CLOSED BY GOD AND THE STORMS WILL COME; DESTROYING EVERYONE WHO'S NOT IN THE "ARK".

3. JESUS IS THE ONLY DOOR INTO SAFETY; ACCEPT HIM TODAY.

IS THERE A DOOR OF SERVICE YOU SHOULD WALK THRU??

HAVE YOU ENTERED THE DOOR OF SALVATION???

# Grace & Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003, Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803) 394-3725 Vol 6 Num 11 June 1, 1981

**"To Know and to Show CHRIST"**

**MINISTRY SUPPORT-** I have not been able to do a lot of publishing and distribution lately due to lack of funds but, Thank the Lord, that has changed. The Lord has "Opened the windows of Heaven" and poured out a tremendous Blessing that has enabled me to get back into the business of telling the world the good news of the Gospel of Christ. I mailed many tapes last week and was able to get the necessary supplies to put together 500 copies of James (Mrs Anne McKnight and I are putting them together right now during every "Spare" minute we have and hope to have them ready for distribution this week). I was completely out of "James" Booklets so I decided to begin making up 500 copies of a booklet at a time instead of the 200 we have been doing. In the long run that will save us much money and time and allow for instant access to a booklet when needed.

This was made possible because of the generous giving of: Bill and Elise McBride, Billie Ard, Jackie Lowder, Mr and Mrs Mixon, Rev Larry McAlister, Tom and Anne McKnight, Connie Mathis, Mr and Mrs Virgil West, Mrs Lillian Broxton, Marion Coker, Marion Tunstall, Russel Lowder, and Mr and Mrs Calvin Grooms. In

Addition to enabling me to republish the James Booklets I now have enough to republish at least one; and maybe two more booklets (Revelation and Eschatology). I get letters or calls every week saying how God is using the Newsletter, Booklets, or Tapes to minister to people's needs and I Appreciate everyone who has given so that I can share this much needed help with people.



The Lord continues to Bless and work in our Church and we are extremely pleased to see new faces in our congregation almost every week. We try to make the Message and the Music meaningful so that the receive something when they come and hopefully, will want to come again. And it is not a "one man show" by any means. We've got some Sunday School Teachers that are putting a lot of prayer and time into their classes so that when we get people into our Sunday School they leave with a knowledge of the Lord and His Word (See the list of new officers and Teachers later in this Newsletter). They also encourage the students to be here every Sunday and last week we distributed 14 yearly perf. Attendance Pins (Our Sunday School year begins in June. We install new teachers as well as graduate students to the new classes).

Our Children's Church is coming along very well thanks to the tremendous efforts of Hope Frye and Kathy Lewis and the music has been greatly enhanced since Mrs Ann Thigpen has begun to play the organ for us. Thank God for all of the dedicated people.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-** begins Monday June 6 and goes thru Wednesday June 8 with Graduation on Thursday June 9. Our Theme this year is "The Twelve Disciples" (See related article later in the newsletter) and will enable children to learn the names and so basic information about the disciples before the pastor does a series of sermons on each of them this summer.

**Hope to see you in one of our services soon.**

*Preacher M*

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
P O Box 1003  
Lake City, S C 29560

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR:  
SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS & TEACHER FOR 1988-89

SUPERINTENDENT.....RALPH McALLISTER  
ASSISTANT.....ARNOLD LOWDER  
SECRETARY.....MICHELLE McALLISTER  
ASSISTANT.....EULALIA JORDAN  
ADULT.....REV MIKE JONES/RUSSEL LOWDER/CARL JORDAN  
YOUNG ADULT (19-30).....SULLY SULLIVAN/WYMAN LOWDER  
TEEN (13-18).....DAVID WALL/CONNIE MATHIS  
JUNIOR (9-12).....ANNE MCKNIGHT/DOT SULLIVAN  
PRIMARY (6-8).....MARJORIE McALLISTER/PAULA JONES  
BEGINNER(3-5).....ALTHEA COKER/SUSAN SPRING/JENENE BROWN  
NURSERY (0-2).....BETH BROACH/BILLIE ARD/MIRIAM McALLISTER

=====

ACTS: THE CHURCH BEGINS

PASTOR MIRCHEAL JONES

**SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIANS**

ACTS 6:5

**I. AVAILABLE FOR WHATEVER GOD WANTS 6:2-3 EVEN SERVE TABLES !!**

IT WAS THE SPIRIT THAT DROVE JESUS INTO THE DESERT TO BE TEMPTED. IT WAS THE SPIRIT THAT LED PHILIP TO LEAVE THE REVIVAL IN SAMARIA AND GO TO THE EUNUCH IN THE DESERT. MOST PEOPLE WANT TO "USE" THE SPIRIT BUT THE SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIAN IS COMPLETELY AVAILABLE FOR THE SPIRIT TO USE--THEY ACCEPT THEIR PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND WORK OF GOD.

**II. A CHANNEL FOR GOD'S WONDER WORKING POWER 6:8 SIN IS NOT CLOGGING THE "PIPE" SO GOD'S BLESSINGS CAN FLOW. GOD WILL USE YOU TO DO THINGS THAT YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD DO (AND COULDN'T WITHOUT THE SPIRIT).**

**III. CONTROLLED BY SPIRIT AND NOT FLESH (REPAYS HATE WITH LOVE) 6:9-15**  
THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT ARE MANIFESTED IN YOUR LIFE. YOUR WISDOM WILL CONFOUND THEM AND YOUR PEACE WILL ASTOUND THEM. SOME OF YOUR GREATEST TESTIMONY WILL BE THE ATTITUDE YOU SHOW TO THOSE WHO PERSECUTE AND ABUSE YOU [THROUGH THE YEARS MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WON TO THE LORD BY THE WAY CHRISTIANS HAVE ENDURED TRIALS AND PERSECUTION].

**IV. MIGHTY IN THE SCRIPTURES 7:1- THE SCRIPTURES WILL BE THE BASIS OF YOUR LIFE AND WORK BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE. JOHN 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. IT WILL AFFECT YOUR MEMORY, YOUR MESSAGE, AND YOUR METHODS.**

**V. SUSTAINED IN TRIAL 7:54-56 A KNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS IS AT THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND INTERCEDING FOR YOU. YOU'LL FIND PEACE IN STORMS AND STRENGTH IN TROUBLES.**

**VI. LIKE JESUS 7:59-60 WILLING TO FORGIVE AND READY TO DIE. YOUR LIFE WILL LIFT UP JESUS SO THAT MEN MAY BE DRAWN TO HIM. WHETHER YOU LIVE OR DIE YOU WILL MANIFEST CHRIST (PHIL 1:23-24).**

OUTLINE OF LESSONS: MATT 10:2-4 MARK 3:13-19 LUKE 6:13-15

Monday, June 6: James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus (Judas, not Iscariot), Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot

"Service for the Lord"- These are the "Unknown Disciples". Most people will eventually get most of the other 8 but find it hard to remember these. This is the way it is with many of the people who do much of the work for the Lord, they aren't recognized or remembered on this earth but Jesus said they would be rewarded in Heaven (There are many ways that you can serve the Lord today without teaching or preaching-- receiving the Offering, passing out song books, singing in the choir, praying for your teacher and church, helping clean up around the church, ...)

Some Dangers in Service- Simon is called the Zealot because he belonged to a group that had a great "Zeal" to restore Israel as a nation. This hindered his establishing God's Kingdom (Be careful that the "good" doesn't block out the "Best". It's not wrong to play ball and every one needs a vacation some times but don't let these come between you and serving the Lord).

Judas Iscariot was the Treasurer of the group but he used this position of trust to steal some of the money and eventually he sold the Lord for 30 pieces of silver. We must learn not to misuse our position or to violate a trust (Someone tells us something in private and we use it to gossip about them. Someone gives us something to use for the Lord and we use it for ourselves).

Tuesday, June 7: Philip, Nathanael, Thomas, Matthew, Andrew.

"Salvation in the Lord"- Each of these men is a good example of someone being brought to the Lord for Salvation or of someone bringing someone to the Lord for Salvation.

"The Bringers"- Philip (John 1:43-45), Matthew (Luke 5:27-32) Andrew (John 1:40-41). As soon as these men were introduced to Christ their first reaction was to find someone else to share the good news with. That ought to be the reaction of every follower of Christ. We need to make an effort to share Christ with our family and friends. Philip and Andrew did it by giving their "testimony" (I just met Jesus and it's wonderful) while Matthew did it by giving a "Party" for his friends and inviting Jesus (Some people can't talk as easily as others but they can bring people to Church to hear the Teacher and Preacher). [Andrew later brings the little boy with the 2 fishes and 5 loaves to Christ (John 6:8-9) and Andrew and Philip bring Greeks to Christ (John 12:20-22)].

"The Brought"- Nathanael (John 1:46-49), Thomas (John 20:24-29). Both of these men had to deal with doubts about Jesus but Jesus knew how to show both of them that they needed to follow Him. Every person will be a little different as you share Christ with them but God will give you just what you need to show them Faith.

Wednesday, June 8: Peter, James, John

"Relationship with the Lord"- This Group is what is called the "Inner Circle". They were with Jesus at the raising of Jarius' daughter (Mk 5:35-43), on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:2), as well as in the Garden praying with Him just before He was crucified (Mark 14:33). They maintained a closeness to the Lord that allowed them Fellowship and Favor. So we need to stay as close to the Lord as possible and come to know Him (Not just about Him).

Their names were changed- Simon= Peter (Rock) (Matt 16:13-19). James and John were called "Boanerges" (sons of thunder) because of their wrath (Luke 9:54-56) and Jesus had to deal with flaws in their character- Peter's Pride (Luke 22:31-34) and James and John's Ambition (Mark 10:35-40). Relationship with Christ will affect every area of your life.

## JUNE 6-9, 1988

JUNE 6-8      7:00PM - 9:00PM  
7:00 - 7:15    OPENING ASSEMBLY  
7:15 - 7:30    PUPPET/OBJECT LESSON  
7:30 - 8:15    CLASS  
8:15 - 8:30    REFRESHMENT  
8:30 - 9:00    CRAFT/ PLAY PRACTICE  
GRADUATION    THURSDAY JUNE 9    7:30- 9:00PM

THEME: "THE TWELVE DISCIPLES"

- GOALS: 1. TO ALLOW EACH STUDENT TO MEMORIZE THE NAMES OF THE 12  
2. TO EXPOSE EACH STUDENT TO THE FACT OF THEIR NEED OF:  
    A) SALVATION  
    B) SERVICE IN GOD'S WORK  
    C) RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD  
3. TO REACH NEW PEOPLE FOR OUR CHURCH

ORGANIZATION: HOPE FRYE AND KATHY LEWIS

OFFICERS/TEACHERS:

DIRECTOR: RALPH McALLISTER

ASSIST: ARNOLD LOWDER

SECRETARY: MICHELLE McALLISTER

OBJECT LESSON: (MON) ALTHEA COKER (TUES) RUSSEL LOWDER  
(WED) WYMAN LOWDER (THURS) DAVID G & DAVIE C

PUPPETS: CONNIE MATHIS AND BILLIE ARD

SONGS : JACKIE LOWDER AND ANN THIGPEN

PLAY : HOPE FRYE AND KATHY LEWIS

REFRESHMENTS: MIRIAM McALLISTER (IN CHARGE), EULALIA JORDAN,  
MARY WILKES, BONNIE LEE, DEVONNE HANNA.....

NURSERY (BIRTH-2): BETTY LOU THOMPSON, KARON LOWDER, THERESA L.

BEGINNER (3-5): SUSAN SPRING, ANNE MCKNIGHT, MARJORIE McALLISTER

PRIMARY (6-8): SYLVIA GOWDY, PAULA JONES

JUNIOR (9-12): DAVID WALL, MARION COKER

ADULT (13UP): REV MIKE JONES, WYMAN LOWDER

CRAFT: ANY HELP WE CAN GET!!! BUT IN CHARGE OF:

NURSERY- ALTHEA COKER/MICHELLE SPRING

BEGINNER- BETH BROACH/BETSY LEE

PRIMARY- JOHANNA LOWDER/ MILDRED LOWDER

JUNIOR- TOMMY SULLIVAN/JEROME MATHIS

ALL LADIES ARE ASKED TO BRING A BAG OF POTATO CHIPS, BAG OF  
COOKIES, AND A SOFT DRINK (FOR USE ON THURSDAY NIGHT) SUNDAY JUNE 5  
WE WILL CELEBRATE GRADUATION WITH A HOT DOG SUPPER ON THURSDAY  
NIGHT JUNE 9. [WE NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILI]



## HOW TO KEEP THE AXE SHARP

II KINGS 6:1-7 TELLS THE STORY OF THE LOST AXE HEAD THAT WAS MADE TO "SWIM". SADLY TODAY, SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO DO GOD'S WORK WITHOUT THE "AXE-HEAD" AND ALL THEY ARE DOING IS EXPENDING ENERGY AND TIME AND BRUISING THE TREES!!! THEIR LIFE HAS NO MEANING OR PURPOSE AND THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES FAILURES BECAUSE THEY CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING. SO IF GOD IS TO WORK THRU US HE MUST FIRST WORK ON US TO GIVE US SOMETHING TO WORK WITH. HE THEN MUST KEEP THAT AXE-HEAD SHARP SO IT CAN ACCOMPLISH IT'S JOB. LET'S SEE HOW HE DOES THIS

ANYTIME YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING YOU NEED SOMETHING TO WORK ON AND SOMETHING TO WORK WITH. SO THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS WHAT IS GOD TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH???

A) RELATIONSHIP- GOD DESIRES RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE AND HE IS TRYING TO BUILD THAT. BUT SIN STANDS IN THE WAY; THEREFORE THERE MUST BE-

B) REDEMPTION- GOD HAD TO MAKE A WAY TO REDEEM MAN FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND DEATH SO FELLOWSHIP WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HE DID THAT BY SENDING HIS OWN SON TO DIE IN OUR PLACE AND PAY THE DEBT WE OWE. BUT GOD KNOWS IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY "BUY US OFF THE SLAVE MARKET"; WE MUST NOW BE-

C) RENEWED- THERE ARE 2 MAIN WAYS GOD USES TO ACCOMPLISH THIS:

1. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES THAT GUIDES US INTO THE WAYS OF GOD THRU THE WORD OF GOD.
2. CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GOD ALLOWS TO COME OUR WAY TO CONFORM US TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON JESUS.

SO GOD CAN TAKE AN "OLD STICK", FIT ONLY FOR THE FIRE, AND GIVE IT PURPOSE AND DIRECTION. SUDDENLY WE FIND OURSELVES WITH JOY IN THIS LIFE AND REWARDS IN THE LIFE TO COME

SAD TO SAY THOUGH, AS WE WORK THE AXE CAN BECOME DULL AND THE JOY TURN INTO A REAL JOB. ECC 10:10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength; but wisdom is profitable to direct HOW CAN WE KEEP THE AXE SHARP??

A) AVOID THINGS THAT WOULD DULL THE AXE (THE SINFUL "STONES" OF SOCIETY)- II COR 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (CHANGE FRIENDS- ABRAHAM LEFT UR AND HIS FAMILY)

B) DON'T LET THE AXE SIT IDLE AND GET "RUSTY"-

WITNESS OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU

TITHE YOUR INCOME TO GOD'S WORK

MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH GOD

(PRAYER- TALK TO GOD/ BIBLE STUDY- GOD TALK TO YOU)

C) UNDERSTAND GOD'S WAY OF SHARPENING YOU- CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PROV 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. JOIN GOD'S PEOPLE (CHURCH MEMBERSHIP).

YOU NEED THE FELLOWSHIP- ECC 4:9-12 TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE BECAUSE:

1. THEY HAVE A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR LABOR- AN AWARD MEANS LITTLE IF NO ONE KNOWS YOU RECEIVED IT. SHARING TRIUMPH IS IMPORTANT
2. IF THEY FALL, ONE HELPS THE OTHER. SHARING TROUBLES IS NECESSARY (MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS TIE TOGETHER TO HELP SHOULD ONE FALL)
3. TWO TOGETHER HAVE HEAT- A SINGLE COAL GOES OUT
4. TWO CAN WITHSTAND STRESS- STRENGTH IN UNITY

ARE YOU "BEATING YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE WALL" AND JUST GETTING A HEADACHE FOR YOUR EFFORTS?? GOD WANTS TO REDEEM YOU TODAY, SO YOU CAN FIND ABUNDANT LIFE IN SERVICE WITH HIM.

IS YOUR "AXE" DULL AND YOUR LIFE INEFFECTIVE?? DEDICATE YOURSELF TO DOING RIGHT BY BECOMING A WORKING PART OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

4 THINGS NECESSARY FOR A MAN TO BE SAVED

ACTS 16:30

1. GOD

- A) SAVED FROM HIS WRATH- ALL HAVE SINNED. WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH.
- B) SAVED TO HIS WEALTH AND WORK- TO AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM. TO THEM GAVE HE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD.

2. SINNER

- A) REALIZE HE'S LOST BY THE CONVICTING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (UNLESS THE SPIRIT DRAWS YOU YOU CANNOT BE SAVED). PROBLEMS, PAINS, AND PREACHING ALL COMBINE TO BRING YOU TO THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU NEED GOD.
- B) REALIZE HE CAN'T SAVE HIMSELF; NOT BY BECOMING "GOOD", NOT BY ENOUGH GOOD DEEDS TO "OUTWEIGH" HIS BAD. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO MEET SOCIETY'S REQUIREMENTS; GOD IS THE ONE THAT HAS BEEN SINNED AGAINST AND HE IS THE ONE YOU MUST ANSWER TO.

3. TRUTH

- A) MUST BE THE TRUTH II PET 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. THERE ARE MULTITUDES OF BELIEFS AND DOCTRINES IN THE WORLD TODAY. SOME TEACH YOU ARE SAVED BY JOINING THE CHURCH OR BY BEING BAPTIZED. SOME TEACH MEDITATION AND MIND CONTROL. SOME TEACH "DOCTRINES OF DEVILS". BUT THE ONLY ONE THAT IS RIGHT IS THE ONE THAT EXALTS JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOUR WHO DIED ON THE CROSS AS PAYMENT FOR YOUR SINS, WHO WAS BURIED, AND THEN RESURRECTED AND WILL ONE DAY COME AGAIN FOR HIS PEOPLE.
- B) MUST BE PROCLAIMED- ETH. EUNUCH HAD TO HAVE A MAN TO LEAD HIM. HE WAS READING THE BIBLE, HAD BEEN TO CHURCH, AND WAS CONCERNED ENOUGH TO TRAVEL HUNDREDS OF MILES BUT SOMEONE HAD TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE.
- C) MUST BE ACCEPTED- JESUS CONTINUALLY WARNED ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAD EARS TO HEAR AND YET WOULD NOT HEAR. YOU CANNOT SIMPLY KNOW THE "BOAT" WILL SAVE YOU; YOU MUST TAKE A STEP OF FAITH AND GET IN.

4. FAITH- For by Grace are you saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast. EPH 2:8-9 BELIEVE: TO CLING TO, RELY ON, TRUST IN.

- A) REPENTANCE- A TURNING AWAY FROM SIN. A SORROW FOR SIN THAT CAUSES YOU TO WANT TO "BREAK" WITH IT. NOT JUST SORROW BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT OF YOUR SIN BUT BECAUSE IT WAS AGAINST GOD.
- B) ACCEPTANCE- THE "VACUUM" OF ABANDONED SIN MUST BE REPLACED WITH ABUNDANT LIFE IN CHRIST OR YOU'LL END UP WORST OFF THAN BEFORE.

WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU RECEIVE CHRIST? II TIM 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

- 1. PARDON FROM SIN'S PUNISHMENT
- 2. PEACE WITH GOD AND THE PEACE OF GOD.
- 3. PLACEMENT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST THAT GIVES YOU PURPOSE IN LIFE AND REWARDS AT DEATH.

HAS GOD BEEN DEALING WITH YOUR HEART? ACCEPT CHRIST TODAY.

# Grace



# Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803) 394-3725 Vol 6 Num 12 June 16, 1986

**"To Know and to Show CHRIST"**



**BAPTISM** What a privilege we had last Sunday as we Baptized 3 new converts and received 3 new members into the fellowship of the Church. We don't have a Baptismal Pool (YET!!) so following the Morning Service we adjourned to Brother Marion Coker's Swimming Pool and rejoiced in the public proclamation of faith by Sandy Mathis, Yvette Poston, and Damon Runion.

Then Sunday Night we received Sandy Mathis and Damon Runion into the fellowship of the Church by Profession of Faith and Mrs. Connie Mathis by transfer of letter. We WELCOME these and anticipate many more in the weeks to come

**VBS** Last week's Vacation Bible School was also excellent. We averaged nearly 65 in attendance with over \$90 received for Missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna. As the Pastor, I was tremendously impressed and pleased by the effort put into the week by everyone involved. This was one of those years when I allowed everyone to do their job and everyone accepted their responsibility willingly and fully. We have a great body of Believers here at Grace; I'm excited about what God is doing now, and can hardly wait to see what's in store for us!!

**SPECIAL SPEAKERS** The Pastor will be away this coming Sunday Night (June 19) as part of his duties

with the SC Conference Presbytery Committee to assist in the ordination of Rusty Conyers of the Jefferson Road FWB Church in Sumter. While he's away Brother Russel Lowder and Brother Carl Jordan will be in charge of the services. These are two fine men and I appreciate them filling in for me

+ + + + +  
Immeasurable THANKS to all those who have helped recently with this ministry. Most of the James Booklets have been put together and are available for anyone desiring them. Many of the Revelation Booklets have been put together and we hope to finish them this week. Funds are also available now to begin putting together 500 of the Eschatology (Study of End time events) Books and I hope to have them ready by the first of July. This is made possible because of gifts from Jack B Hanna, Joshua Frye, Matthew Frye, Rev Sam Fulmer, Bill and Elise McBride, Wayne and Lois Mixon, and Mr and Mrs William S Brewster.

I appreciate so much these being Partners with me in trying to reach and teach people about Christ. May the Lord Bless you as you serve Him.

*Preacher Mike*

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY**

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
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## THE CALLING OF DISCIPLES

MARK 1:14-22

JESUS HAD JUST RETURNED FROM HIS GREAT TRIAL IN THE DESERT WHERE HE HAD FASTED 40 DAYS AND THEN WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL CONCERNING THE THREE GREAT TEMPTATIONS OF LIFE (1 JN 2:16): THE "LUST OF THE FLESH"- HUNGER; THE "LUST OF THE EYES"- WORLD; AND THE "PRIDE OF LIFE"-THROW SELF OFF TEMPLE. NOW HE WAS ABLE TO GO TO A SIN CURSED WORLD AND GIVE THEM A MESSAGE OF HELP AND HOPE BECAUSE HE WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN. (HEB 4:15).

HIS FORERUNNER, JOHN THE BAPTIST, HAD BEEN IMPRISONED FOR HIS BOLD PREACHING AGAINST SIN AND NOW JESUS BEGINS TO TAKE THE ROAD THAT HE KNOWS WILL END UP ON CALVARY'S CROSS. AS HE BEGINS HIS MINISTRY HE CALLS 12 DISCIPLES TO BECOME STUDENTS AND HELPERS; AND EVENTUALLY HE ORDAINS THEM TO BE APOSTLES (Mk 3:13-19). [HE WILL EVENTUALLY USE AS MANY AS 70 DISCIPLES (LUKE 10:1) BUT THESE 12 ARE THE MAIN "CORE" THAT HE TRAVELED WITH AND TAUGHT].

I WANT US TO LOOK TODAY AT HOW JESUS CALLED THESE MEN AND SEE THEIR RESPONSE, AND THEN I WANT US TO LISTEN TO HIS CALL TO US TODAY AND GAUGE OUR RESPONSE- OUR RESPONSE TO THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY AND OBLIGATION WE WILL EVER ENCOUNTER.

I. THE CALL- Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. vs 17

A) A Simple Call- "Come" (Doctrines are difficult, Salvation is simple)

B) An Understandable Call- "Come" Direct and to the point. Later He would say it like this, Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matt 11:28-30.

C) A Personal Call- "Ye". Each individual is answerable for himself- Whosoever WILL may come. Jesus has saved Millions of men but He always does so one man at a time.

D) A Committing Call- "After Me". We are called to FOLLOW CHRIST by Faith. He doesn't show us all of the road we will travel but He does tell us that He will walk it before us and we can trust him to never lead us astray.

E) An Obligatory Call- "I will make you to become fishers of Men".

1. The Transformation: "I will MAKE YOU". HE gives us the Power to become what He wants us to be!

2. The Task- "Fishers of men". From the mundane to the miraculous. Life has Purpose, Peace, and Production as we accomplish eternal goals and rescue men from eternal death.

II. THE RESPONSE- And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. vs 18

A) No Delays- "Straightway". Today is the day of Salvation

B) No Deterrence- "They forsook their nets". Job or even Family (vs 20) did not keep them from commitment.

C) No Denials- "followed Him". Openly they made a stand with Jesus. Every Christian needs to do that by Public Profession, Baptism, and joining a fellowship of Believers.

JESUS IS CALLING YOU TO BE HIS DISCIPLE TODAY- WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

### LIVING WATERS

JN 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

THE WOMAN CAME TO THE WELL THAT DAY WITH NO EXPECTATION OF MEETING ANYONE. IN FACT, THE REASON SHE CAME AT THE NOON HOUR WAS TO AVOID MEETING THE WOMEN OF THE CITY AND SUFFERING THEIR REPROACH. SHE WAS THIRSTY AND NEEDED THE PHYSICAL WATER BUT THERE WAS A DEEPER THIRST IN HER THAT WAS SLOWLY DESTROYING HER. SHE LONGED FOR SOMEONE TO REALLY LOVE HER, SHE LONGED FOR REAL MEANING TO LIFE, AND SHE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH HERSELF (SHE JUMPED FROM HUSBAND TO HUSBAND BLAMING THEM FOR HER DISCONTENT.).

NO HUMAN BEING HAS EVER BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD. WEALTH, WORLDLINESS, WICKEDNESS; ALL FAIL TO SATISFY THE CRAVING OF THE HUMAN HEART. (DURING WORLD WAR II MANY MEN WERE CAST ADRIFT ON THE SEA IN OPEN RAFTS. THERE WERE MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER ALL AROUND THEM BUT TO DRINK IT WAS TO DIE. THEIR THIRST WAS VERY VERY REAL, THE WATER WAS REAL WATER--BUT MIXED IN WITH IT WAS SALT AND IT WOULD KILL INSTEAD OF GIVE LIFE.) THE DESIRE FOR WEALTH, THE WORLD, AND WICKEDNESS ARE VERY POWERFUL FORCES IN A MAN'S LIFE BUT THEY DESTROY HIM INSTEAD OF SATISFY HIM.

THE LIVING WATER THAT JESUS PROMISED HER WAS JUST THAT-- LIVING WATER. IT WOULD SATISFY HER THIRSTY SOUL, RENEW HER DEAD SOUL, AND PROVIDE STRENGTH TO FACE LIFE. IT DID NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE HAD 5 HUSBANDS AND WAS LIVING WITH A MAN (WHAT DID SHE DO ABOUT THAT SITUATION WHEN JESUS LEFT??). IT DID NOT MAKE HER IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY -SEE VERSE 42 "NOW WE BELIEVE, NOT BECAUSE OF THY SAYING; FOR WE HAVE HEARD HIM OURSELVES..."

SHE DID HAVE JESUS' PROMISE THAT THE WELL WOULD SPRING UP IN HER SOUL AND SHE NEED NEVER THIRST AGAIN. HER EMPTY BARREN LIFE NOW HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO FLOURISH AND BE FRUITFUL. THE DESERT WOULD NOT DISAPPEAR IN A DAY BUT SHE WAS GIVEN A NEW BEGINNING AND A NEW ABILITY TO DEAL WITH LIFE.

THERE IS HOPE FOR MAN. PS 16:11 SAYS THAT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF JESUS ARE "PLEASURES FOREVERMORE". THE SATISFACTION YOU CRAVE AND NEED TODAY IS FOUND IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.

NOTICE THAT JESUS PROMISED HER THE WELL WOULD SPRING UP IN HER SOUL AND SHE WOULD NEVER THIRST AGAIN. IT'S NOT SOMEWHERE YOU HAVE TO GO TO GET "WATER" WHEN YOU'RE THIRSTY, THE HOLY SPIRIT STAYS ON THE INSIDE AND GIVES YOU WHAT YOU NEED EVERY DAY.

NOTICE THAT SHE IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO POINT TO RELIGION AS AN EXCUSE FOR NOT DOING RIGHT. MEN ALWAYS TRY TO COVER THEIR SINS WITH "FIG LEAVES" OF MORALITY (ADAM, "WE HID OURSELVES BECAUSE WE KNEW WE WERE NAKED". IT'S YOUR FAULT WE'RE NAKED, GOD. YOU PUT US HERE LIKE THIS!)

A DRUNKARD SAT AT A TABLE IN A BAR WITH SEVERAL OF HIS COMPANIONS. HIS WIFE ENTERED AND SET A COVERED DISH DOWN BEFORE HIM. "YOU WERE TOO BUSY TO COME HOME FOR SUPPER", SHE SAID, "SO I BROUGHT IT TO YOU.". SHE LEFT AS ALL HIS BUDDIES LAUGHED. HE INVITED THEM TO SHARE HIS MEAL WITH HIM BUT WHEN HE REMOVED THE COVER THERE WAS NO FOOD INSIDE. INSTEAD THERE WAS A NOTE, "I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS SUPPER. IT'S THE SAME THING YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE EATING!". SO IT IS WITH SATAN'S PROMISES- WHEN YOU LOOK BENEATH THE COVER YOU'LL FIND NOTHING FOR YOURSELF AND HURT FOR EVERYONE YOU INFLUENCE.

## HOW GOD MOLDED PAUL

ACTS 9:18-31

MOST OF US KNOW THE APOSTLE PAUL AS A GREAT PREACHER AND MISSIONARY WHO HELPED SHAPE THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND WHO, EVEN TODAY, THRU HIS INSPIRED LETTERS GUIDES THE CHURCH IN MANY OF IT'S DECISIONS (PAUL'S LETTERS CONTAIN THE ONLY CLEAR CUT GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH ORGANIZATION IN THE BIBLE). BUT FEW PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THE WORK GOD DID IN THE EARLY YEARS OF PAUL'S CHRISTIAN LIFE, BEFORE HE BECAME A FAMOUS FIGURE. A BRIEF OUTLINE OF PAUL'S EARLY MINISTRY:

1. SAVED AND A BRIEF EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IN DAMASCUS
2. THE REVELATION IN THE ARABIAN DESERT (GAL 1:15-18)
3. RETURN TO DAMASCUS WHERE HIS PREACHING SO STIRRED THE JEWS UNTIL HE MUST ESCAPE THEM BY BEING LET DOWN FROM THE WALL IN A BASKET.
4. TO JERUSALEM WHERE HE IS REJECTED UNTIL BARNABAS BEFRIENDS HIM.
5. HIS PREACHING SO ANGERS THE GRECIANS UNTIL THEY SEEK TO KILL HIM SO THE BRETHERN SEND HIM HOME TO TARSUS.
6. HE REMAINS IN TARSUS FOR AROUND 10 YEARS UNTIL BARNABAS SEEK HIM OUT TO HE SPREAD THE NEWS TO THE GENTILES (ACTS 11:22-26).
7. HE BECOMES A LEADER IN THE STARTING OF NEW CHURCHES AND ACCEPTING GENTILES INTO THE BODY.

### I. HE LEARNED THE WISDOM OF WAITING

A) IN ARABIA HE RECEIVED A REVELATION FROM GOD:

1. "TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME" GAL 1:15-18
2. TO REVEAL THE "MYSTERY" OF THE CHURCH EP 3:1-6
3. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LORD- COMMUNION- I COR 11:23  
GIVING- ACTS 20:35

B) SOMETIMES WITHDRAWAL IS NECESSARY- AS HE RETURNED TO TARSUS "THEN HAD THE CHURCHES REST THROUGHOUT ALL JUDEA AND GALILEE AND SAMARIA". THE CHURCH MAY HAVE NEEDED THE REST MORE THAN PAUL NEEDED TO PREACH!!

NOTHING IS KNOWN OF THIS TIME IN PAUL'S LIFE. IF HE DID ANY GREAT WORK AT HOME THE BIBLE DOESN'T RECORD IT. IT SEEMS AMAZING THAT A MAN WHO COULD BUILD STRONG THRIVING CHURCHES IN WEEKS IN A STRANGE COUNTRY EVIDENTLY DID NOT BUILD ONE OF ANY KIND IN 10 YEARS AT HOME!!

REMEMBER THAT PAUL BEGAN HIS MISSIONARY JOURNEYS TRYING TO GET THE JEWS TO ACCEPT CHRIST. IT WAS ONLY AFTER THEIR REFUSAL THAT PAUL TURNED TO THE GENTILES ALONE (ACTS 13:46). I THINK [AND YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WEIGHT I CARRY!!] THAT THE PERSECUTION HAD CONVINCED PAUL THAT HE MUST BE ON THE WRONG TRACK. THINK OF IT! AS SOON AS PAUL LEFT, THE CHURCH HAD REST!! IF THE SPIRIT HADN'T NUDGED BARNABAS TO GET PAUL I THINK HE WOULD HAVE STAYED IN TARSUS AND NOT KNOWN EXACTLY WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO PREACH. BUT GOD SENT FOR HIM AND PUT HIS FAITH THRU THE FIRE TO BURN OUT THE IMPURITIES---AND THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN THE SAME SINCE. [SOME THINK PAUL WAS "KEPT OUT OF THE WAY" UNTIL PETER COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GENTILES SINCE IT WAS TO HIM THAT CHRIST HAD GIVEN THE "KEY"]. WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES IN A PERSON'S LIFE WHEN THEY FIND THEIR PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN!!!

### II. HE WAS A WITNESS FOR GOD

A) He proclaimed what he knew 18-23 That Christ was the Son of God. (John wrote his Gospel that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing we might have life thru his name). The foundation of a Christian life must be built on the firm assurance that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for our sins

B) He increased the more in Strength vs 22 (Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ). Paul didn't always know it all!! There was a time of Growth in his life.

C) He faced opposition for his belief- Jews and Grecians sought to kill him. He had to believe what he proclaimed enough to die for it.

ARE YOU YIELDING TO GOD'S MOLDING TODAY? OR FIGHTING GOD'S PLAN??

**ANDREW: THE FIRST**

JOHN 1:35-42

MY BROTHER IS A GREAT FISHERMAN. HE HAS ALL THE EQUIPMENT YOU COULD POSSIBLE WANT AND TRIES TO NEVER LET HIS FISHING GET "GRASSY". HE EVEN NAMED HIS BOAT "VISITATION" SO WHEN HE WENT FISHING HIS WIFE COULD SAY HE WAS "OUT ON VISITATION"!! SEVERAL YEARS AGO HIS WIFE DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON ONE OF HIS FISHING TRIPS. AFTER GIVING HER SIMPLE AND PLAIN INSTRUCTIONS, "DON'T TALK, YELL, OR FALL OUT OF THE BOAT!", HE GAVE HER A CHEAP ROD THAT HE HAD BOUGHT FOR HIS NEPHEW SO THAT IF SHE BROKE IT OR MESSED IT UP IT WOULD NOT BE ANY GREAT LOSS; BECAUSE, AFTER ALL SHE WOULD PROBABLY NOT EVEN GET A BITE, MUCH LESS CATCH A FISH. YES, YOU GUESSED IT! THE FISH SHE CAUGHT WAS THE BIGGEST HE HAD SEEN UP TO THAT TIME.

THAT MUST BE SOME OF THE WAY ANDREW FELT. HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST OF THE DISCIPLES CALLED BY JESUS AND ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS HE DID WAS TO BRING HIS BROTHER PETER TO THE LORD. PETER THEN GOES ON TO BECOME THE LEADER OF THE DISCIPLES; THE LEADER OF THE EARLY CHURCH AND A TREMENDOUS PREACHER, REACHING AS MANY AS 3000 MEN AT ONE TIME AT THE PENTECOST SERMON.

TODAY I'D LIKE TO LOOK AT THIS FIRST DISCIPLE, ANDREW, AND SEE HOW HE USED HIS TIME AND TALENTS FOR THE LORD.

HIS NAME MEANS "MANLY" AND WAS PROBABLY AN APT DESCRIPTION OF THIS MAN WHO SPENT HIS TIME AS A FISHERMAN ON THE SEA OF CAPERNAUM. HIS FATHER WAS NAMED JONAS BUT AT THE TIME OF HIS CALL HE WAS LIVING IN CAPERNAUM WITH HIS BROTHER PETER (MARK 1:29).

HE WAS ORIGINALLY A FOLLOWER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (JOHN 1:37,40) BUT UPON HEARING JOHN THE BAPTIST PROCLAIM THAT JESUS WAS THE "LAMB OF GOD" HE LEFT JOHN THE BAPTIST TO FOLLOW CHRIST. HE THUS BECAME THE FIRST DISCIPLE TO OFFICIALLY FOLLOW CHRIST. HE ALSO BECAME THE FIRST HOME MISSIONARY BY BRINGING HIS BROTHER PETER TO CHRIST AS SOON AS HE BECAME A FOLLOWER (JOHN 1:42). HE WAS ALSO AMONG THE FIRST TO INCLUDE GENTILES IN THE GOSPEL (FIRST FOREIGN MISSIONARY) BY HELPING PHILIP BRING SOME GREEKS TO SEE CHRIST (JOHN 12:20-22)

TRADITION(?) SAYS THAT, FOLLOWING THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH, ANDREW WAS FIRST SENT TO SCYTHIA, AN AREA BORDERING THE BLACK SEA AND THE DANUBE RIVER IN RUSSIA; INHABITED BY FIERCE, BARBARIC TRIBES. BECAUSE OF HIS MINISTRY THERE THE RUSSIAN CHURCH TODAY CONSIDERS ANDREW THEIR PATRON SAINT.

HE LATER MOVED TO ACHAIA IN SOUTHERN GREECE WHERE HE IS SAID TO HAVE EARNED THE FAVOR OF THE ROMAN GOVERNOR WHEN HE HEALED HIS WIFE. HE FELL FROM THIS FAVORED POSITION BY PREACHING AGAINST CHRISTIANS MARRYING LOST PEOPLE AND HE WAS SENTENCED TO DIE. HE WAS FIRST BEATEN BY RODS AND THEN TIED TO AN "X" SHAPED CROSS SO THAT HIS DEATH WOULD BE LONG AND PAINFUL (HE LIVED AND PREACHED FOR 3 DAYS ON THIS CROSS). NOVEMBER 13, 69AD IS THE DATE RECOGNIZED AS THE DAY OF HIS DEATH. ANDREW IS CONSIDERED THE PATRON SAINT OF GREECE BY THEIR CHURCH.



IN THE YEAR 337, THE ROMAN EMPEROR CONSTANTINE ISSUED THE EDICT OF MILIAN, MAKING CHRISTIANITY LEGAL THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE. HE BEGAN TO COLLECT HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS RELATING TO CHRISTIANITY. WHEN HE LEARNED ABOUT THE LOCATION OF ANDREW'S REMAINS, HE HAD THEM BROUGHT TO CONSTANTINOPLE. FOUR HUNDRED YEARS LATER, A MONK NAMED REGULUS, RESPONDING TO A VISION, TOOK SOME OF ANDREW'S BONES AND LEFT FOR ENGLAND. THESE REMAINS WERE A TOOTH, AN ARM BONE, A KNEECAP, AND THREE FINGERBONES. AFTER BEING SHIP-WRECKED BY A STORM, REGULUS BUILT A CHURCH ON THE COAST OF SCOTLAND, AND NAMED HIS PARISH ST ANDREWS (SITE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST GOLF COURSE AS WELL AS THE "BRITISH OPEN").

SCOTTISH TRADITION RELATES THAT YEARS LATER, ANDREW PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN SCOTTISH HISTORY. A SCOTTISH KING, ON THE EVE OF AN IMPORTANT BATTLE WITH THE INVADING ENGLISH, RECEIVED A VISIT FROM ANDREW, ASSURING HIM OF VICTORY. THE NEXT DAY, AS THE BATTLE BEGAN, THE SCOTTISH TROOPS CALLED ON ANDREW WHILE MARCHING INTO COMBAT. A FIERY X-SHAPED CROSS IS SAID TO HAVE APPEARED IN THE SKY, FRIGHTENING AWAY THE INVADING ARMY. THIS "X" BECAME A PART OF THE SCOTTISH FLAG, AND WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE BRITISH FLAG WHEN THE COUNTRIES WERE UNITED. THUS, ANDREW IS THE ONLY DISCIPLE TO HOLD A PROMINENT POSITION IN THREE DIFFERENT NATIONS- RUSSIA, GREECE, AND BRITAIN.

THE 3 MAIN EVENTS THAT ANDREW IS CONNECTED WITH IN THE GOSPEL SHOW US A GREAT DEAL ABOUT HIS CHARACTER, AND WHAT WE SHOULD DEVELOP IN OUR OWN CHRISTIANITY:

1. HE BROUGHT HIS BROTHER PETER TO THE LORD- JOHN 1:41-42
2. HE BROUGHT A SMALL BOY AND HIS LUNCH TO CHRIST- JOHN 6:1-11
3. HE BROUGHT SOME GREEKS TO CHRIST- JOHN 12:20-33

1. ANDREW IS A SOUL WINNER WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON WINNING HIS OWN FAMILY. HE DID SO WITH A CLEAR CONCISE TESTIMONY OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM, "WE HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH". {IF THEY WON'T BELIEVE YOUR TESTIMONY THEY MAY BE WON BY YOUR CONDUCT- I PET 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; }. THERE NEEDS TO BE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING IN THE MINDS OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT YOU HAVE BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

2. ANDREW WAS A MAN OF FAITH AND WORKS. WHEN JESUS ASKED HOW THEY WERE GOING TO FEED 5000 MEN PHILIP BEGAN TO FIGURE UP THE COST BUT ANDREW REMEMBERED A BOY HE HAD BEFRIENDED WHO HAD 2 FISH AND 5 LOAVES. HE INTRODUCED THIS BOY TO JESUS AND A MIRACLE TOOK PLACE. CHRISTIANS LEARN TO LIVE BY FAITH IN THE PROVISION AND POWER OF GOD. MANY TIMES WE MAY NOT KNOW HOW GOD CAN USE THE SMALL AMOUNT WE HAVE TO OFFER TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL AND WORK BUT WHEN WE BRING IT IN FAITH TO HIM HE ALWAYS MULTIPLIES IT INTO A MIRACLE.

3. ANDREW BELIEVED THE GOSPEL WAS FOR EVERYONE; HIS BROTHER, HIS FRIENDS, AND EVEN "GREEKS". JESUS CHRIST IS THE ANSWER TO ALL OF LIFE'S QUESTIONS BY ALL PEOPLE- HE DELIVERS YOU FROM SIN'S PENALTY AND SIN'S POWER. HE GIVES YOU PEACE AND A PURPOSE. EVERYONE SHOULD TELL EVERYONE.

WHAT A GREAT EXAMPLE THIS "FIRST" DISCIPLE WAS- HE SHOWED CONCERN FOR HIS OWN FAMILY, CHILDREN, AND EVEN "BARBARIANS". WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES IN A PERSON'S LIFE WHEN THEY FIND THE "MESSIAH" AND "GO HOME WITH JESUS". WON'T YOU ACCEPT HIS INVITATION TODAY?



# Grace & Glory



Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803)394-3725 Vol 6 Num 12 June 28, 1988

## "To Know and to Show CHRIST"

The Blessings are still bountiful at Grace. Hope you can join us soon and enjoy a service with us.

Our **SPECIAL SPEAKER** this coming Sunday (July 3) will be **REV. NORWOOD GIBSON**, State Promotional Secretary; and outstanding man of God. Come expecting a blessing.

We **WELCOME** Yvette Poston into the fellowship of the Church. Yvette was saved and baptized recently and she has already been a great blessing and help to the Church.

Our annual **Pre-fourth of July** celebration of liberty will be Wednesday Night (June 29) beginning at 7:00pm. We will begin with an hour of fun and games - 3-legged races, sack races, balloon toss, egg carry, etc.. Around 8:00pm we will adjourn to the fellowship building for a Devotion, Songs, and pledge to the Flag. If time permits we will probably play a game or two of bingos and then enjoy a Hot Dog and ice cream supper. [Thanks to Jack & Hanna, Marjorie McAllister, and Marion Coker for providing the Home Made Ice Cream, Kathy Lewis for providing balloons and string for activities, Roxanne Young for providing eggs and ice, Miriam McAllister and Hope Free for providing Chili]. We're asking that each family bring a soft drink and either potato chips or something sweet.

Our hearts were saddened Sunday at the loss of our oldest member, Mrs Mattie Floyd. Mrs Mattie and her husband, Oshey, had been a real help to the Church during it's early years and our prayers are with her family during this time.

The Church voted to buy **26 new CHOIR CHAIRS** Sunday Night. Since we have remodeled the choir area we have been using folding chairs and have had to put

song books on the floor but we hope to change all that within the next few weeks. The chairs cost \$70 each and we appreciate pledges from Mr and Mrs Ralph McAllister (2), Mr and Mrs Marion Coker (2), Mrs. Marjorie McAllister, and Rev and Mrs Mike Jones. We hope to have the remainder bought by the time they arrive.

The distribution of Bible Study Booklets is going very well. We were able to give away between 75 and 80 last week and Mrs. Anne McKnight is working many days during her lunch break to put together more for distribution. All of this is made possible because of the concern and contribution of friends like Wayne and Lois Mixon, Rev Sam Fulmer, the McBrides, Mr and Mrs Olee Elmore, Marion Coker, and William and Marion Brewster (They were on Vacation several months ago and stopped at our Church. We began sending them the newsletter and they have given a generous contribution to help with the work. Praise God!).

It's good to see that God is blessing other Churches also.

The people of Tabernacle FWB Church of Coward were blessed Sunday when they walked in and found 85 new "Rejoice" song books to sing from. Pastor Harry Cooper was extremely pleased.

And Pastor Larry McAllister of the Gilead FWB Church has seen around 10 people saved and nearly doubled his Sunday School Attendance in the past few months. Thank God for this faithful pastor.

Til Next Time-- Preacher Mike

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
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## LIVING IN LIBERTY

GAL 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

"PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT THE LAND"- WHAT A MARVELOUS PROCLAMATION; WHAT A MARVELOUS REALITY!! NO WONDER FIREWORKS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION. FREEDOM IS SUCH A PRECIOUS COMMODITY AND NEEDS TO BE CHERISHED AND CELEBRATED.

THAT'S ALSO THE REASON CHRISTIANITY IS SUCH A JOYOUS RELIGION- JESUS SAID HE CAME TO "SET THE CAPTIVITIES FREE" AND TRULY HE DOES. WHEN A PERSON ACCEPTS CHRIST BY FAITH AS SAVIOUR HE IS LIBERATED FROM SIN'S PENALTY (DEATH) AND POWER; AND GIVEN THE ABILITY TO LIVE LIBERATED FROM SELF CONTROL AND SATAN CONTROL---FAITH IN CHRIST FREES US FROM SIN [ROM 6:23], DAILY TAKING UP THE CROSS FREES US FROM SELF [MARK 8:34 Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me], AND THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD FREES US FROM SATAN [JESUS USED THE "SWORD OF THE SPIRIT" TO DEFEAT SATAN AND SO MUST WE].

BUT JESUS DID MORE THAN TALK TO US ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY, HE BROUGHT IT DOWN TO PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN A PERSON'S LIFE- LUKE 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to (1) preach the gospel to the poor; (2) he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, (3) to preach deliverance to the captives, and (4) recovering of sight to the blind, (5) to set at liberty them that are bruised.

SALVATION ALLOWS US TO BE SET FREE FROM THE BONDAGE TO:

1. WEALTH: WE KNOW WE HAVE A LOVING FATHER WHO CARES FOR US
2. HEARTBREAK: WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD
3. HABITS: DRUGS, OR DRINK, OR ANGER, OR BITTERNESS
4. BLINDNESS: HE OPENS OUR EYES TO SEE HE HAS A PLAN FOR US.
5. "BRUISING SITUATIONS" [THINGS IN LIFE THAT CONTINUALLY KEEP US "SORE AND IRRITATED"]:

A) PERSONALITY FLAWS- I'M TOO SLOW. I'M NOT OUTGOING [GOD MADE YOU AND HE CAN USE YOU AS YOU ARE OR GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO CHANGE]

B) PROBLEMS IN YOUR LIFE- FEAR OF FAILURE (IN YOUR JOB, YOUR MARRIAGE, YOUR FAMILY, ETC), FEAR OF SUCCESS (WILL I BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT? DO I REALLY WANT THE EXTRA RESPONSIBILITIES?), FEAR OF FEAR (UNEXPECTED THINGS: "WHAT IF...", UNKNOWN THINGS: "HOW CAN I START WHEN I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING YET?")

HOPELESS SITUATIONS: ABRAHAM AGAINST HOPE BELIEVED IN HOPE

HELPLESS SITUATIONS: I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

THE THING YOU MUST UNDERSTAND ABOUT LIBERTY IS THAT LIBERTY SIMPLY MEANS FREEDOM TO CHOOSE YOUR MASTER. EVERY MAN SERVES EITHER GOD OR SATAN. SIN BINDS US TO SATAN AND HIS DESTRUCTION OF OUR LIVES AND SOUL. SALVATION ALLOWS US TO WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY BECOME A BOND SLAVE TO CHRIST WITH ABUNDANT LIFE HERE AND ETERNAL LIFE TO COME. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CHOOSE NEITHER GOD NOR SATAN- THAT WOULD MAKE YOU A "GOD" SINCE YOU WOULD BE ANSWERABLE TO NO ONE BUT YOURSELF; AND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE UNIVERSE TO EXIST WITH SO MANY "GODS".

THAT MEANS YOU MUST MAKE A CHOICE TODAY. THE LIBERTY OF LOVE IN CHRIST OR THE BONDAGE OF SIN IN SATAN.

## THOMAS: THE DOUBTER

JOHN 11:14-16 14:5-7 20:26-29

"RED" AND "SHORTY" AND "BUDDY" ARE JUST A FEW OF THE NICKNAMES THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO ENDURE IN LIFE; BUT THEY BECOME SUCH A PART OF THEIR IDENTITY UNTIL THEIR REAL NAMES ARE FORGOTTEN (WE HAVE SEVERAL "MARION'S IN CHURCH. ONE HAD THE NICKNAME "BIRDDOG". ONE DAY WHEN WE WERE FIRST ON RADIO [AND VERY NERVOUS] THIS MARION WAS HELPING TO RECEIVE THE OFFERING. WHEN I CALLED ON HIM TO ASK THE BLESSING THE ONLY NAME I COULD THINK OF WAS WHAT WE ALWAYS CALLED HIM, "BIRDDOG". I CAN STILL IMAGINE THE FACE OF SOMEONE TUNED TO THE BROADCAST THAT DAY WHO HEARD ME ASK "BIRDDOG" TO PRAY!!).

THE DISCIPLE THOMAS KNEW A LOT ABOUT NICKNAMES; IN FACT WE AREN'T SURE THAT WE KNOW HIS REAL NAME- THOMAS IS THE HEBREW WORD FOR TWIN AND IN OTHER PLACES HE IS CALLED "DIDYMUS" WHICH IS THE GREEK WORD FOR TWIN. THE HISTORIAN EUSEBIUS REPORTED THAT HIS REAL NAME WAS JUDAS, A BROTHER OF JESUS, AND THAT HE BORE A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO JESUS (WHICH WAS WHY JUDAS ISCARIOT HAD TO IDENTIFY JESUS WITH A KISS EVEN THOUGH HE WAS WELL KNOWN IN JERUSALEM). OTHERS SPECULATE THAT HE HAD A TWIN SISTER OR THAT HE WAS TWIN TO MATTHEW (SINCE THEY ARE ALWAYS MENTIONED TOGETHER IN THE APOSTOLIC ORDER).

REGARDLESS OF HIS REAL NAME, THE NICKNAME THAT FINALLY "STUCK" TO THOMAS IS ONE THAT I'M SURE HE WOULD ALWAYS REGRET- "DOUBTING THOMAS". ONE MOMENT, ONE FAILURE, CHANGED PEOPLE PERSPECTIVE OF THOMAS FOREVER- ECC 10:1 *Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor.* 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 FALL 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 LOST 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 FAILURE IN FAITH ON LACK OF STAMINA OR STRENGTH BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE.

WE CANNOT DOUBT THOMAS' DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND- THOMAS SAITH UNTO HIM (JN 14:5), *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 FAILURE IN FAITH ON LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OR EDUCATION.

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. (FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE WORD- ROM 10:17)

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 would you leave your home and job and family to go somewhere you've never seen because you believe God has called you to do so????????). Faith is the Evidence of things not seen.

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. MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE ARE LOST BECAUSE THEY DOUBT GOD'S ABILITY: A) I CAN'T WITHSTAND 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. NEVER DOUBT GOD "IN THE DARK"

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 eye, 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 OF YOUR LIFE?

## A GOOD REPORT THROUGH FAITH

HEB 11:32-40

HEB 11:39-40 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

AS WE STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF HEBREWS WE FIND THAT FAITH IS THE ALL IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. HEBREWS WAS WRITTEN TO A PEOPLE WHO WERE IN DANGER OF TURNING BACK FROM FAITH IN CHRIST BECAUSE OF TROUBLES AND TRIALS. THE AUTHOR PROCLAIMS TO THESE PEOPLE THAT CHRIST IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF SALVATION. HE SHOWS THAT CHRIST IS GREATER THAN ANGELS, PROPHETS, PRIESTS, OR MIGHTY MEN AND THE MEDIATOR OF A NEW COVENANT WHO IS IN HEAVEN TODAY PLEADING OUR CAUSE. HE THEN SHOWS THEM THE DANGER OF FAILING FROM FAITH AND EXHORTS THEM TO REMAIN STEADFAST.

THEN HE BRINGS US TO THE GREAT "FAITH HALL OF FAME" IN CHAPTER 11 AND SHOWS US FAITH DEFINED IN WORD AND ACTION. HE LETS US KNOW THAT FAITH AFFECTS EVERY AREA OF OUR LIFE:

MENTALLY- "BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND" 11:3

MORALLY- "BY FAITH ENOCH WALKED WITH AND PLEASED GOD" AND THEN SAYS IT IS "IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH" 11:5-6

PHYSICALLY- "BY FAITH SARA RECEIVED STRENGTH TO CONCEIVE" 11:11

RELIGIOUSLY- "BY FAITH ABEL OFFERED THE CORRECT SACRIFICE" 11:4

FAMILY- "BY FAITH JACOB BLESSED THE SONS OF JOSEPH" (11:21) AND "MOSES WAS HIS BY HIS MOTHER" 11:23

SOCIALLY- "BY FAITH MOSES REFUSED THE EGYPTIAN COURTS AND CHOSE

RATHER TO SUFFER AFFLICTION WITH GOD'S PEOPLE" 11:24-26

EVEN UNTO DEATH- "THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH" 11:13 (FROM BIRTH- MOSES UNTO DEATH- JOSEPH REGARDING HIS BODY; FAITH IS OUR GUIDE)

THAT'S WHEN THE AUTHOR BRINGS US TO THE LAST PORTION OF HEBREWS 11 AND SHOWS US HOW WE TOO CAN HAVE A GOOD REPORT THROUGH FAITH. LET US LEARN FROM, AND HEED THE EXAMPLE OF THESE "MEN OF FAITH".

# 1. THEY BELIEVED GOD COULD USE THEM REGARDLESS OF THEIR DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES vs 32

Some were Cowards (Odedon) and some were Heroes (David). Some were Strong Men (Samson) and some were Young Boys (Samuel). Some were Men who had to be pushed by a woman (Barak pushed by Deborah) and some were Mighty men of Valor (Jephthah- who was also the son of a harlot!!).

Even today God's "Toolchest" confounds men- 1 Cor 1:26-29 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.

FAITH REALIZES GOD'S ABILITY TO USE MY INABILITY!! (REMEMBER THAT GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING! HEB 11:3).  
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE?? OR AN OPPORTUNITY??



## II. THEY BELIEVED GOD HAD DIFFERENT PURPOSES FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE

A) Some were chosen to Triumph vs 33-35a Who through Faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens, women received their dead raised to life again. WHAT A GLORY IT IS TO BE CHOSEN TO BE A CONQUEROR. PEOPLE PRAISE YOU, PROBLEMS FALL BEFORE YOU, AND PERSECUTION IS MORE TALKED OF THAN DEALT WITH. BE AWARE OF YOUR SPECIAL TEMPTATIONS OF PRIDE AND ATTITUDE (I MUST BE BETTER THAN THEM BECAUSE I DON'T SUFFER LIKE THEM).

B) Some were Tortured vs 35b Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection. WHAT AN AGONY IT IS TO BE CHOSEN TO WEAR A CROWN OF THORNS. SOME WERE DELIVERED FROM THE FIERY FURNACE AND LION'S DEN BUT MOST WEREN'T. NEVER ALLOW SUFFERING TO MAKE YOU DOUBT THE SAVIOUR'S LOVE. I PET 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed: but let him glorify God on this behalf.

C) Some were chosen for Trials vs 36-38 Others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins: being destitute, afflicted, tormented: (Of whom the world was not worthy;) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. DAILY WE MUST TAKE UP OUR CROSS AND FOLLOW CHRIST. THIS MAY INVOLVE:

MENTAL ABUSE- "CRUEL MOCKINGS"

PHYSICAL ABUSE- "SCOURGINGS, BONDS, IMPRISONMENT, STONED, SAWNED ASUNDER (LIKE ISAIAH)"

SPIRITUAL BATTLES- "TEMPTED" (RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THESE OTHERS AS IF IT'S AS DIFFICULT!!)

DEATH- "SLAIN WITH THE SWORD"

DESTITUTION- "WANDERED (NO HOME) IN SHEEPSKINS AND GOATSKINS (NO CLOTHES) OF WHOM THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY (LOSE OF FRIENDS)"

THESE ALL RECEIVED A GOOD REPORT BY BEING AND DOING WHAT GOD WANTED. WHATEVER THEIR LOT, THEIR FAITH WAS IN THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF GOD.

WHEN GOD HANDS OUT THE "REPORT CARD OF FAITH" WILL YOU RECEIVE A GOOD REPORT- "WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT"????



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## TO KNOW AND TO SHOW CHRIST

**VACATION-** IT MAY BE THAT MY PEOPLE JUST LOOK FOR ANY EXCUSE TO GET RID OF ME FOR A WEEK BUT I SURE APPRECIATE THEIR LOVE AND CONCERN FOR MY WIFE AND I. WE HAD PLANNED TO TAKE A FEW DAYS OFF DURING THE FOURTH OF JULY WEEK END BUT WERE UNABLE TO DO MUCH BECAUSE OF FINANCES. THE PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH GOT TOGETHER AND SURPRISED MY WIFE AND I AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR LIBERTY CELEBRATION WITH A GIFT OF \$500 TO USE ON OUR VACATION!!!! I APPRECIATE THE PRIVILEGE OF PASTURING SUCH A CARING GROUP OF PEOPLE AND PRAISE GOD FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE AND SHARE.

WE ENJOYED THE FEW DAYS WE SPENT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND APPRECIATE EVERYONE WHO FILLED IN FOR US DURING OUR ABSENCE. I ALSO ENJOYED SPEAKING AT THE SOUTHSIDE FWB CHURCH OF HICKORY, NC ON MY SUNDAY "OFF". REV. ROGER TRIPP IS THE PASTOR OF THIS MISSION CHURCH AND I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE WORK HE IS DOING, AND HAS DONE, THERE.

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**SONG BOOKS-** THE LORD CONTINUES TO BLESS IN MIRACULOUS WAYS. LAST WEEK ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH CAME BY AND GAVE ME ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY 70 NEW "REJOICE" SONG BOOKS FOR THE CHURCH. THEY HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED AND WE WILL BEGIN USING THEM THIS WEEK!! COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT WE EXPECT OUR NEW CHOIR CHAIRS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND HAVE ALREADY BEGUN A SUNDAY NIGHT CHOIR PRACTICE TO HELP US HAVE THE BEST

CHOIR IN LAKE CITY AND YOU CAN SEE WHY I'M EXCITED ABOUT OUR MUSIC MINISTRY HERE AT GRACE! (BY THE WAY, WE STILL HAVE A FEW SPACES LEFT IN OUR CHOIR FOR DEDICATED, DETERMINED PEOPLE WHO WANT TO USE THEIR TALENT TO GLORIFY GOD). [WHEN (NOTICE I DIDN'T SAY "IF") WE GET ON TV WITH OUR MORNING SERVICES THE CHOIR WILL BE SEEN EVERY WEEK SO YOU NEED TO GET INVOLVED NOW WHILE THERE'S STILL ROOM!!!].

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**CANOE TRIP-** WE ARE PLANNING A SPECIAL OUTING FOR OUR TEENS (8-18) THIS SATURDAY TO WOODS BAY STATE PARK FOR A CANOE TRIP AND NATURE WALK. WE WILL LEAVE THE CHURCH AT 8:30AM AND RETURN AROUND NOON. EACH PARTICIPATE IS ASKED TO BRING \$2.00 TO PAY FOR THE CANOE AND REFRESHMENTS. MRS CONNIE MATHIS IS IN CHARGE.

**MINISTRY SUPPORT-** I TREMENDOUSLY APPRECIATE THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THIS MINISTRY. PRODUCING BOOKLETS, PUBLISHING NEWSLETTERS, AND DISTRIBUTING TAPES GETS EXPENSIVE AT TIME BUT THE LORD CONTINUES TO MEET EVERY NEED EXACTLY ON TIME. THANKS TO MR AND MRS OLEE ELMORE, DAVID AND JACKIE JOHNSON, CALVIN AND MERRY GROOMS, TOM AND ANNE MCKNIGHT, JACK AND DEVONNE HANNA, AND WAYNE AND LOIS MIXON FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

I ALSO ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR LONG TIME SUPPORTER MRS ELISE MCBRIDE. SHE'S SICK PRESENTLY AND WE LOOK FOR GOD'S HEALING FOR HER

=====

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Permit # 8

## THE SERMON GOD PREACHED

EXODUS 20:1-21

EXODUS 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,... THUS BEGINS THE SERMON GOD PREACHED TO HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL UPON THEIR ESCAPE FROM EGYPT. THEY WERE CHANGING FROM A NATION IN BONDAGE INTO A NATION RULED AS A THEOCRACY (RULED BY GOD AND GUIDED BY HIS WORD). THIS SERMON PREACHED BY GOD GIVES THE BASIC GUIDELINES FOR THE GOVERNING OF THE PEOPLE UNDER THIS NEW AND EXCITING WAY OF LIFE.

### I. GOD'S RULES FOR LIVING vs 1-17

#### A) THE BASIS OF THE LAW vs 1-2

1. Who God is- I AM THE LORD (YAHWEH) THY GOD. [LORD HERE LITERALLY MEANS "THE SELF-EXISTENT ONE WHO REVEALS HIMSELF". GOD BEGINS THIS SERMON BY SHOWING THAT HE HAD THE RIGHT {SELF-EXISTENT ONE} AND THE REASON {REVEALS HIMSELF} TO PREACH].

2. What God did- "BROUGHT THEE OUT OF EGYPT'S BONDAGE". GOD IS ABLE TO DIRECT THE PEOPLE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS PERSON BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF HIS POWER.

#### B) THE BASICS OF THE LAW vs 3-17 (SEE MARK 12:29-31)

##### 1. Man's relationship to God

1. GOD IS TO OCCUPY FIRST PLACE IN EVERYTHING WE DO
2. GOD IS TO BE WORSHIPPED IN SPIRIT, NOT IN STATUES [WRONG CONCEPTS OF GOD EFFECT PEOPLE FOR GENERATIONS!!].
3. GOD'S NAME MUST BE REVERENCED (SINCE IT IS THE BASIS OF OUR DEALING WITH GOD-- "IN JESUS' NAME")
4. GOD'S DAY IS TO BE SET APART FOR FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP.

##### 2. Man's Relationship to Man

5. PARENTS ARE IN THE LINE OF AUTHORITY THAT COMES FROM GOD. THEY ARE TO BE HONORED (RESPECTED) SO THAT GOD CAN BLESS.
6. MURDER, (7)ADULTERY, (8)STEALING, (9)BEARING FALSE WITNESS, AND (10)WRONGFULLY DESIRING ANOTHER'S PROPERTY IS CONDEMNED. [THIS DEALS WITH HATE, LUST, DECEIT, LYING, AND COVETING; ALL OF THE THINGS THAT MOTIVATE MEN TO DO WRONG TO OTHER MEN].

### II. GOD RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE vs 18-21

- A) THEY WITNESSED HIS POWER AND THAT PRODUCED RESPECT vs 18
- B) THEY ASKED FOR A "GO BETWEEN" (MEDIATOR) vs 19
- C) RESPECTFUL FEAR OF GOD IS A GUARD AGAINST SIN vs 20
- D) THE MEDIATOR IS HIDDEN BUT WORKING (TODAY CIRCUMSTANCES, PROBLEMS, AND TROUBLES HIDE GOD BUT HE'S STILL THERE!! WITH CHRIST AT HIS RIGHT HAND WORKING FOR US).

GOD HAS GIVEN US GUIDELINES TO GO BY AND DEMANDS THAT WE RESPECT HIM. ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE RULES?? DO YOU REVERENCE GOD?

## NATHANAEL: THE GUILLESS

JOHN 1: 43-51

NATHANAEL WAS A NATIVE OF CANA OF GALILEE (JN 21:2). HIS NAME MEANS "GIVEN OF GOD"; SO HE MUST HAVE COME FROM A "RELIGIOUS" FAMILY. LIKE MOST OF THE DISCIPLES, HE HAD ANOTHER NAME- BARTHOLOMEW (BAR= "SON OF" [AS PETER WAS CALLED SIMON BAR-JONAS SINCE HE WAS THE SON OF JONAS]. SOME THINK THIS WOULD MAKE HIS "FAMILY NAME" THOLOMEW AND WOULD LINK HIM TO TALMAI THE GRANDFATHER OF DAVID'S SON ABSALOM [II SAM 3:3] WHILE OTHERS THINK IT REFERS TO THE EGYPTIAN KINGLY LINE OF PTOLEMYS. BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW, IT IS SIMPLY ANOTHER NAME!).

NATHANAEL'S APOSTOLIC SYMBOL IS 3 PARALLEL KNIVES SINCE HE IS REPUTED TO HAVE DIED PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN INDIA BY BEING BEATEN WITH CLUBS, FLAYED ALIVE, AND CRUCIFIED UPSIDEDOWN. HIS BODY WAS THEN TIED IN A SACK AND TOSSED INTO THE SEA.

NATHANAEL IS A VERY GOOD PICTURE OF A SINCERE, DEDICATED, MORAL MAN WHO NEEDED TO MEET JESUS; BE SAVED, AND THEN FIND DIRECTION FOR HIS LIFE. THERE ARE MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE LIKE HIM; RELIGIOUS BUT LOST, TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH LIFE "THE BEST THEY CAN", BUT MISSING OUT ON THE JOY AND WONDER OF SALVATION AND SERVICE FOR THE LORD. LET'S SEE HOW HE MET THE MASTER; CAME TO REALIZE HIS CONDITION; RECEIVED PROMISES FROM GOD; AND THEN LET'S APPLY IT IN OUR LIVES.

I. HIS CALL- PHILIP, HIS FRIEND, MET JESUS AND IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF NATHANAEL (THANK GOD FOR FRIENDS LIKE THAT--ARE YOU ONE???). PHILIP TOLD NATHANAEL THAT HE HAD FOUND WHAT NATHANAEL WAS LOOKING FOR AND INVITED HIM TO COME MEET JESUS-- THAT'S WHAT BEING A WITNESS FOR CHRIST IS ALL ABOUT: (1) Meet Jesus yourself (2) Be concerned ABOUT OTHERS WHO NEED TO MEET JESUS (3) Be convinced THAT YOU'VE FOUND WHAT THE LOST PERSON NEEDS (4) Show them Christ is the answer AND INVITE THEM TO MEET HIM.

II. HIS CHARACTER- NATHANAEL HAD PROBLEMS AND PRAISEWORTHINESS, JUST LIKE ANYONE.

A) His Problem: Fixed Opinion (PREJUDICE)- "CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH?" MULTITUDES ARE LOST BECAUSE THEY EXPECT A CERTAIN FEELING, OR EVENT TO HAPPEN WHEN THEY HEAR ABOUT JESUS. MULTITUDES MORE ARE LOST BECAUSE THEY REFUSE TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS.

B) His Praise-

1. HE WAS CONSISTENT IN HIS LIVING: "BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED, IN WHOM IS NO GUILF". THE WORD GUILF HERE MEANS HYPOCRISY. JESUS WAS COMMENDING HIM FOR NOT "PUTTING ON A FACE".

2. HE SOUGHT THE LORD: "WHEN THOU WAST UNDER THE FIG TREE I SAW THEE". GOD VALUES CONSISTENCY IN LIFE- DO YOU HAVE A "FIG TREE" THAT YOU MET GOD BENEATH? [BE AWARE THAT GOD KNOWS OUR ACTIVITIES- JESUS SAW HIM WHILE HE WAS UNDER THE FIG TREE PRAYING].

3. HE READILY SUBMITTED TO CHRIST ONCE HE MET HIM: "THOU ART THE SON OF GOD; THOU ART THE KING OF ISRAEL". ONCE YOU HEAR THE EVIDENCE ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE A DECISION?

CHRIST'S PROMISE TO HIM- Thou shalt see greater things than these. Hereafter ye shall see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. WHEN YOU MEET CHRIST YOUR ABUNDANT LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN. NATHANAEL SAW MIRACLES FROM GOD AND HEARD MESSAGES FROM GOD AND FOUND THAT LIFE WAS NOT WAITING FOR A MESSIAH BUT LIVING WITH THE LORD!!

HAVE YOU MET THIS CHRIST??

**MATTHEW: THE PUBLICAN**

LUKE 5:27-32 MATT 10:3

MATTHEW IS ALSO CALLED LEVI AND THE SON OF ALPHEUS. BY OCCUPATION HE WAS A TAX COLLECTOR OR "PUBLICAN". THE PUBLICANS WERE DIVIDED INTO 2 GROUPS (1) "GABBAI" TAX COLLECTORS WHO WERE GENERAL TAX COLLECTORS AND ONLY COLLECTED TAXES ON WINES, FRUITS, AND GENERAL ITEMS. (2) "MIKHSÁ" OR "CUSTOM-HOUSE" COLLECTORS WHO COLLECTED TAXES ON ALMOST ANYTHING THAT WAS TRANSPORTED (THEY WOULD STOP INDIVIDUALS AND SEARCH THEM AND EVEN USE A SHARP ROD TO PIERCE ANY BAGGAGE BEING TRANSPORTED). MATTHEW BELONGED TO THIS LAST GROUP OF TAX COLLECTORS.

MOST "MIKHSÁ" WERE DISHONEST (THEY PAID A CERTAIN FEE TO ROME AND WHATEVER THEY COLLECTED OVER THAT WAS THEIRS SO THEY TAXED ACCORDING TO THEIR DESIRE) AND DISLOYAL (THEY WERE HIRELINGS OF THE DESPISED ROMAN EMPIRE). THESE PUBLICANS WERE SO DESPISED UNTIL THEY WERE COMMONLY LINKED AS "PUBLICANS AND SINNERS". THEY WERE ALSO DISQUALIFIED AS WITNESSES IN COURT; CALLED COMMON CRIMINALS BY THE COMMON PEOPLE; AND REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO THE SYNAGOGUE (WHERE EVEN THEIR MONEY WAS REFUSED!).

I. HIS CHARACTER- WILLING TO SACRIFICE FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND COUNTRY IN ORDER TO MAKE MONEY. The Love of Money is the root of all evil- IT'S NOT HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE BUT HOW MUCH MONEY HAS YOU!! MANY PEOPLE HAVE "SOLD THEIR SOUL" IN ORDER TO SATISFY THEIR WANTS.

II. HIS CHANGE- CALLED BY JESUS, HE LEFT HIS OLD WAY OF LIFE, AND BECAME A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST. THAT'S REPENTANCE AND COMMITMENT

**III. HIS CONTRIBUTION-**

A) AS A WITNESS- WAS A WITNESS TO OTHER PUBLICANS OF GOD'S SAVING GRACE. HE HAD A "GOSPEL GET-TOGETHER" FOR ALL HIS FRIENDS TO GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE CHRIST HE HAD FOUND AS HIS SAVIOUR.

B) AS A WRITER- WROTE BOOK OF MATTHEW THAT SHOWED CHRIST AS KING. THIS FIRST GOSPEL WAS WRITTEN TO THE JEWS BUT WITHOUT IT WE WOULD KNOW LITTLE OF THE "SERMON ON THE MOUNT", THE 7 PARABLES THAT GIVE SUCH A WONDERFUL DESCRIPTION OF THE "KINGDOM OF GOD", AND THE MARVELOUS "OLIVET DISCOURSE" THAT TELL US SO MUCH ABOUT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

**SOME LESSONS FROM MATTHEW:**

- 1> GOD CAN SAVE EVEN "TAX COLLECTORS" LIKE MATTHEW.
- 2> EXPECT CRITICISM FOR CARING FOR LOST SOULS
- 3> YOU CAN BE SO "GOOD" CHRIST CAN'T SAVE YOU BUT NOT TOO BAD! LUKE 5:31-32 Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician: but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
- 4> WHILE ACCEPTING CHRIST WILL CHANGE YOUR DESTINY AND MAKE YOU A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST, GOD STILL WILL USE YOUR PERSONALITY TO ADVANCE HIS WORK (MATTHEW'S SYSTEMATIC MIND THAT HAD BEEN USED SO WRONGLY WITH TAXES WAS PUT TO GOOD USE IN WRITING THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW).
- 5> MATTHEW WAS THE FIRST "WHITE COLLAR" DISCIPLE CALLED. JESUS HAS A PLACE IN HIS WORK FOR FINANCIERS AS WELL AS FISHERMEN!

## LIFE WITH A VIEW

PROV 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

DURING THE KOREAN AND VIET NAM WARS ONE OF THE PRIMARY INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO SOLDIERS ABOUT BEING CAPTURED WAS THAT THEY MUST NEVER GIVEN IN TO DEPRESSION AND SELF PITY. NUMEROUS SOLDIERS WHO WERE CAPTURED DID SO AND ACTUALLY DIED FROM SIMPLY "GIVING UP".

THAT SAME ATTITUDE HAS INVADDED MANY PEOPLE IN TODAY'S WORLD. THEY ARE BOMBARDED BY DEATH, DISASTER, AND DESTRUCTION EVERY EVENING ON THE NEWS; JOB SECURITY IS A THING OF THE PAST TO MOST PEOPLE AS COMPANIES ARE CONSTANTLY BEING SOLD AND RE-STRUCTURED; AND HARDLY A FAMILY IS IMMUNE FROM DIVORCE OR DRUG PROBLEMS.

LIFE HAS LOST MUCH OF IT'S MEANING TO MANY OF THESE PEOPLE. THEY SIMPLY EXIST FROM DAY TO DAY AND END UP EACH NIGHT "NUMBING" THEMSELVES IN FRONT OF THE TV BEFORE FINALLY FALLING INTO THE BED FOR A FEW HOURS SLEEP BEFORE THEY WEARILY DRAG THEMSELVES OUT OF BED TO FACE ANOTHER DULL DEPRESSING DAY. LIFE TO THEM HAS LOST IT'S MOTIVATION AND ENTHUSIASM AND THEY HAVE BECOME PART OF THAT VAST MULTITUDE OF THE "LIVING WITHOUT LIFE".

THE "GOOD NEWS" OF THE GOSPEL IS THAT JESUS CAME TO GIVE US LIFE; AND ABUNDANT LIFE AT THAT!! LET'S SEE WHAT THESE PEOPLE NEED IN ORDER TO CATCH A VISION THAT WILL PUT MEANING AND MOTIVATION INTO THEIR LIVES.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE YOU NEED A VISION OF YOUR:

### I. LABOR-

A) Function- IF YOU WILL FIND MEANING TO LIFE YOU MUST REALIZE THAT YOU ARE PART OF GOD'S PLAN AND THAT YOUR LIFE AND WORK HAVE MEANING TO GOD'S KINGDOM. EVERY CHRISTIAN IS PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST AND AS SUCH IS IMPORTANT TO THE WORK OF GOD- SOME ARE "CORE" THUMBS, SOME ARE "FUNNY BONES", SOME ARE ANKLES OR NECKS OR KNEES; BUT EVERY PART IS IMPORTANT TO THE BODY OF CHRIST.

WHAT FUNCTION DO YOUR PERFORM? PRAYER, PAYER, PLAYER, SAYER

B) Faithfulness- EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL ONE DAY STAND BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AND RECEIVE REWARDS ARE REBUKES ACCORDING TO THEIR LABOR- WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH APART FROM WORKS BUT JESUS SAID THAT IF YOU LOVED HIM YOU WOULD KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. WE NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY AWARE THAT GOD RECOGNIZES AND WILL ONE DAY REWARD OUR LABOR. THAT WILL PRODUCE FAITHFULNESS AS WE FEAR TO FAIL THE LORD AND YET REALIZE THAT HE SEES AND ACKNOWLEDGES EVEN WHEN OTHERS DO NOT.

DO YOU LABOR FOR THE SAVIOUR OR FOR SELF??

### II. LOVE-

A) Rest in God's Love for You- YOU MAY THINK NOONE CARES BUT GOD CARES AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU.

B) Respond to others; LOVE TO BE LOVED- LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF IS NOT JUST A GOOD STATEMENT BUT A GOOD WAY TO LIVE.

III. LORD- YOUR VISION MUST PROGRESS BEYOND YOURSELF, TO OTHERS, AND ULTIMATELY TO THE LORD. YOUR VIEW OF THE LORD WILL DETERMINE HOW YOU LIVE AND YOUR PREPARATION FOR DYING.

A) Isaiah [Is. 6]- HIS VISION REVEALED GOD'S HOLINESS

B) John [REV 1]- HIS VISION REVEALED GOD'S HEAVEN

DOES YOUR LIFE HAVE A VISION?? OR ARE YOU BLINDED BY LIFE'S PROBLEMS AND PRESSURES?? A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD IS THE ANSWER.

## SEARCHING FOR SALVATION

REV MIRCHEAL JONES

1. WHO WAS SAVED ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS \_\_\_\_\_ (ACTS 9)
2. WHO MET JESUS BESIDE THE ROAD COLLECTING TAXES \_\_\_\_\_ (MK 2:14)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ SAT BESIDE THE ROAD AND CALLED JESUS UNTIL HE GOT AN ANSWER. (MARK 10:46-52)
4. FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS \_\_\_\_\_ (JAMES 2:17)
5. FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE \_\_\_\_\_ (ROM 10:17)
6. THE \_\_\_\_\_ SHALL LIVE BY FAITH (ROM 1:17)
7. FAITH IS THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THINGS NOT SEEN. (HEB 11:1)
8. FAITH CAUSED: (HEB 11:-)
  - ABRAHAM TO OFFER \_\_\_\_\_ FOR A SACRIFICE
  - NOAH TO BUILD AN \_\_\_\_\_ TO SAVE HIS HOUSE
  - MOSES TO GIVE UP \_\_\_\_\_ TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE
  - THE ELDERS TO RECEIVE A \_\_\_\_\_
9. FAITH CAN BE SMALL AS A GRAIN OF \_\_\_\_\_ AND STILL MOVE A \_\_\_\_\_ (MATT 17:20)
10. JESUS SAID UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, IF ANY MAN COME AFTER ME, LET HIM \_\_\_\_\_ HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ ME. MATT 16:24
11. FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE \_\_\_\_\_ AND LOSE HIS OWN \_\_\_\_\_? MATT 16:26
12. WHEN GOD CALLED MOSES TO SERVE HIM HE USED A \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE DESERT. WHEN HE CALLED PETER HE USED A GREAT CATCH OF \_\_\_\_\_ NATHANAEL WAS CALLED WHILE HE WAS \_\_\_\_\_ UNDER A FIG TREE. THE SAMARITAN WOMAN MET JESUS AT A \_\_\_\_\_ WHILE THE "MAD MAN OF GADARA" MET HIM AMONG THE \_\_\_\_\_ (EXODUS 3:2; LUKE 5:8-9; JOHN 1:48; JOHN 4:7, MARK 5:2)
13. ALL HAVE \_\_\_\_\_ AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD (ROM 3:23)
14. GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET \_\_\_\_\_, CHRIST DIED FOR US. (ROM 5:8)
15. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF SIN IS DEATH; BUT THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. (ROM 6:23)
16. THAT IF THOU SHALT \_\_\_\_\_ WITH THY MOUTH THE LORD JESUS, AND SHALT \_\_\_\_\_ IN THINE HEART THAT GOD HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, THOU SHALT BE SAVED. (ROM 10:9)
17. \_\_\_\_\_ HELPED PAUL FIND CHRIST. (ACTS 9:17)
18. \_\_\_\_\_ BROUGHT PETER TO THE LORD (JOHN 1:41)
19. \_\_\_\_\_ BROUGHT THE PALSY MAN TO CHRIST THRU THE ROOF (MK 2:4)
20. A \_\_\_\_\_ SAVED RAHAB (JOSHUA 2:18) WHEN JERICHO FELL.  
A \_\_\_\_\_ SAVED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WHEN THEY WERE BITTEN BY SNAKES (NUM 21:8).

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR SALVATION?? JESUS IS THE DOOR TO HEAVEN, THE WAY TO ABUNDANT LIFE, AND THE ONLY NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED.

I, JOHN 5:11-12. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

# Grace & Glory

Grace Free Will Baptist Church P O Box 1003 Lake City, S C 29560  
Pastor Mircheal Jones (803)394-3725 Vol 6 Num 15 Aug 11, 1988

## To Know and to Show CHRIST\*

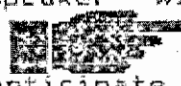


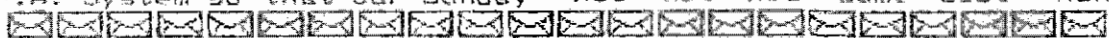
Do you know that there is hardly a week that goes by that the Lord doesn't give us a SPECIAL BLESSING or two. I know He's spoiling us, but I LIKE IT!!! Thanks to our many Ministry friends who not only support us in our Outreach Work but also pray for us each week. Your friendship and support is invaluable and tremendously appreciated. (Special Thanks for recent contributions from Beth Broach, Rev Talmadge Brown, Rev C B Dunn, Mr and Mrs Olee Elmore, Mr and Mrs W M Mixon, Mrs Lila Tisdale, and Mr and Mrs Jimmy Floyd. Multitudes of people are being touched by our newsletter, booklet, tapes, and charity ministries; all made possible by your concern).

  
**MUSIC MINISTRY-** When the Lord decides to Bless a certain Phrase of our Work He does so in a BIG way. Recently Brother Damon Runion not only began singing specials for us but he also donated a professional quality P.A. System to the Church. Once this system is correctly installed it will greatly enhance our Music as well as our Cassette Ministry. We had not been able to use our old P.A. system on Sunday Morning due to the fact that it hummed when the Radio Transmitter was on but this new system has no hum and allows us to use the back up tapes for our special music. We're also looking into the possibility of hooking the radio transmitter into the P.A. System so that our Sunday

Morning Radio Congregation will be able to hear the true quality of our Special music. And the "cherry on top" is that there was so much equipment in the P.A. system until we could not use it all in the Church and so we're going to put a P.A. System in the Fellowship Building also (The Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and the Adult Sunday School Class meet there and this will help both).

**SPECIAL SONG SERVICE:** Our Choir Practice on Sunday Night has been such a Blessing lately until I decided we need to let it be a part of a regular service. Sunday Night (August 14) during the 6pm Worship Service we will emphasis our Music Ministry with specials by our Choir, Brother Damon Runion, The Young Family, Todd Newell, Anne Thigpen, Sully Sullivan, and ????. Join us for this time of Worship and Praise.

**HOME COMING** will be Sunday, September 11. Our Special Guest speaker will be Rev Carlisle  Hanna, Missionary to India and we anticipate the largest attendance of the year. All of the day's offering will go to help Brother Carlisle's Mission account (Presently \$2000 in the red with the tremendous added expense of returning to India yet to come. He also needs approximately \$30,000 to fund some projects in the India work). This is one of the first years I know of that the Church has not had some debt "hanging



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over it" that needed to be paid with our Home Coming Offering and I appreciate their willingness to use what is normally one of our largest offerings of the year to help this need.

There will be special displays and activities all day, including our traditional Fellowship Meal following the Morning Service (more about all of this later) and then at 2:00pm we will host a special SINGING SERVICE featuring the "Sabers Quartet".

This fine group of singers will highlight a program that will include many of the local Churches bringing a special Offering to help Brother Carlisle's Account (We also anticipate that some of these local churches will provide special music).

Mark September 11 on your calendar and make your plans to celebrate God's Blessings with us here at Grace.

(For the information of our Ladies, the Church will provide the Fried Chicken and dinner rolls for the Fellowship

Dinner; and, of course, the ice, plates, and utensils).

We have a tremendous group of Ladies here at Grace and I appreciate all the work they do during the year. They are an invaluable asset to the Church and the work of the Lord and we are Blessed to have them (they also always remember to send the Pastor a plate each time they have a meeting and I like that!).

The Ladies Auxiliary will conduct their yearly EMPHASIS PROGRAM Sunday Night, August 21 at 6:00pm. The Ladies will be in charge of the service and the offering will go to the Ladies Auxiliary. This is normally a great service so plan to be here.

BETHEL BIBLE INSTITUTE will begin it's Fall Session Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30pm. We will offer "Music Appreciation" directed by Mr. Tommy Graham and "James: Faith on Trial" taught by Rev Mike Jones. The cost will be minimal (\$25) for this 13 weeks course and we hope many will avail themselves of this opportunity. These courses will be taught simultaneously so some members of the family can get a background in music while the others are grounded in the basic doctrines of the Bible found in James.

Multitudes of things to do for the Lord before His return. Are you as busy as you should be?? Preacher Mike

#### LADIES AUXILIARY OFFICERS FOR 1988-89

|                     |                                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| President-----      | Paula Jones                                   |
| Vice President----  | Althea Coker                                  |
| Sec/Treasurer-----  | Jenene Brown                                  |
| Mission Study-----  | Jackie Lowder, Hope Frye, Marjorie McAllister |
| Mission Prayer----- | Dot Sullivan, Sylvia Gowdy, Connie Mathis     |
| Mission Action----- | Miriam McAllister, Anne McKnight, Billie Ard  |
| Cards/Flowers-----  | Althea Coker                                  |
| Ham Fund-----       | Beth Broach                                   |
| Food Committee----- | Susan Spring, Betty Lou Thompson, Kathy Lewis |

# READY FOR HIS RETURN

I THESS 5:1-9

RECENTLY THE CHRISTIAN WORLD HAS BEEN DISTURBED BY A BOOKLET MAILED TO ALL THE PASTORS IN THE AREA ENTITLED "88 REASONS CHRIST WILL RETURN IN 1988". IT IS NOT THE RANTING OF SOME WILD-EYED FANATIC BUT THE CONSCIOUS STUDYING OF A MAN SERIOUSLY SEEKING TO DISCERN THE LORD'S WILL AND TIME. IN THIS BOOKLET THE AUTHOR HAS RELATED THE COMING OF THE LORD TO THE JEWISH FEASTS AND COMES TO THE CONCLUSION THAT CHRIST WILL RETURN BEFORE THE JEWISH FEAST OF "YOM KIPPUR" ON SEPTEMBER 21 OF 1988.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SKEPTICAL OF THE IDEA [AFTER ALL, NOONE KNOWS THE DAY OR THE HOUR OF CHRIST'S RETURN--BUT HE DEALS VERY ABLY WITH THIS FACT IN THE BEGINNING OF HIS BOOKLET]. SOME SIMPLY SCOFF, BUT REMEMBER II PET 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, 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. HOWEVER SOME HEAR IT AS A CLEAR SOUND FOR CHRISTIANS TO BE WARNED ABOUT THEIR LUKEWARM STATES AND RENEW THEIR ZEAL FOR THE LORD--II PETER 3: 11-13 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. THE IDEA MUST BE FOR CHRISTIANS TO LIVE SO THAT IF THE LORD COMES BACK IN SEPTEMBER, OR AUGUST, OR WHENEVER! WE ARE READY FOR HIS RETURN.

THERE ARE 3 BASIC REASON FOR HIS RETURN FOR THE CHRISTIAN:  
CHRIST IS COMING TO:

- A) Redeem our bodies- ROM 8:23 "FLESHLY" WILL BECOME "SPIRITUAL"
- B) Receive us into His Presence- JN 14:3, I THESS 4:17 WE'LL BE WITH HIM!! SEE REV 21:3

C) Reward us- REV 22:12. THE 5 CROWNS THE BELIEVER MAY RECEIVE ARE:  
1. The Incorruptible Crown (HAVING TO DO WITH OUR WORKS) I COR 9:25 Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things, They do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.  
2. The Crown of Righteousness- (HAVING TO DO WITH OUR LOVE AND PURITY- SEE I JN 3:2-3) II TIM 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.  
3. The Crown of Life (HAVING TO DO WITH OUR STEADFASTNESS). 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 has promised to them that love him.  
4. The Crown of Glory (FOR FAITHFUL PASTORS) I PET 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.  
5. The Crown of Rejoicing (SOUL WINNER'S CROWN) I THESS 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

THIS IS THE TIME THAT CHRISTIANS WILL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST- ROM 14:10-12 For we shall all stand before the Judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

SOME OF THE THINGS WE MAY BE JUDGED FOR ARE:

- A. HOW WE EXERCISE AUTHORITY OVER OTHERS
- B. HOW WE TREAT OTHER BELIEVERS
- C. HOW WE USE OUR TALENTS
- D. HOW WE SUFFERED FOR JESUS
- E. HOW EFFECTIVELY WE CONTROL OUR OLD NATURE
- F. HOW MANY SOUL WE WITNESS TO
- G. HOW WE REACT TO TEMPTATIONS
- H. HOW MUCH WE READ AND LIVE THE WORD OF GOD
- I. HOW FAITHFUL WE ARE TO CHURCH
- J. HOW MUCH WE LIVE OUR LIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S PLAN

HERE ARE 2 BASIC REASONS THE LORD IS RETURNING AS IT CONCERNS SINNERS:

1. To Punish the Rebellious: II THESS 1:7-9 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

THIS PUNISHMENT WILL INVOLVE 7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION THAT WILL MAKE MEN CRY FOR DEATH AND BE UNABLE TO FIND IT; AND YET CONTINUE TO BLASPHEME GOD!! MEN WILL GO FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO POLITICAL LEADERS AND FINALLY LEARN THAT CONTINUED REBELLION AGAINST GOD CAN ONLY RESULT IN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. THESE REBELLIOUS MEN WILL FINALLY END UP BEFORE THE "GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT" WHERE THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED TO ETERNITY IN THE LAKE OF FIRE.

2. To Purge the Earth: II PET 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

GOD WILL MAKE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH WHEREIN DWELLS RIGHTEOUSNESS. ALL OF THE THINGS THAT MEN HAVE BUILT AND BOUGHT AND SACRIFICED THEIR SOULS FOR WILL BE DESTROYED. IN THEIR PLACE THE LORD WILL BUILD A NEW EARTH WITH IT'S CAPITAL OF NEW JERUSALEM FROM WHENCE WILL FLOW THE BEAUTY AND BLESSEDNESS OF GOD.

YOU ARE FACED WITH A CHOICE TODAY- YOU CAN REBEL AGAINST GOD AND HIS WILL FOR YOUR LIFE AND SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES; OR YOU CAN PREPARE YOUR HEART SO THAT YOU WILL BE READY WHEN CHRIST RETURNS. TODAY YOU HAVE A CHOICE; THAT CHOICE MAY SOON END!!

## THE ORDINANCES: 3 WITNESSES

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 3 GOSPEL ORDINANCES:

1) BAPTISM- THE IMMERSION OF BELIEVER IN WATER SHOWING OUR FAITH IN THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. (PAYMENT FOR AND POWER OVER SIN). A WITNESS OF SALVATION

2) COMMUNION- PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP AS SYMBOLS OF THE BROKEN BODY AND SHED BLOOD OF CHRIST.  
A WITNESS OF SUFFERING (BROKEN BODY) AND SACRIFICE (SHED BLOOD).  
WE USE THE NON-FERMENTED JUICE OF THE GRAPE FOR THE CUP AND UNLEAVENED (NO YEAST) BREAD FOR THE BODY. (BOTH OF WHICH SYMBOLIZE THE SINLESSNESS OF CHRIST SINCE NO DECAY HAS TAKEN PLACE IN EITHER).

3) WASHING THE SAINT'S FEET- WE PAIR OFF INTO "COUPLES" AND WASH EACH OTHER'S FEET [SEVERAL BASINS OF WATER AND TOWELS ARE PROVIDED. WE PUT WATER ON THE PERSON'S FOOT AND THEN DRY THEM OFF; THIS IS NOT A BATH!] (FOR PURPOSES OF MODESTY, THE MEN MEET IN ONE ROOM WHILE THE LADIES MEET IN ANOTHER. THIS IS NORMALLY DONE FOLLOWING COMMUNION AND WE MEET BACK TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH AT IT'S CONCLUSION TO SING A HYMN BEFORE WE ARE DISMISSED).  
A WITNESS OF SERVICE

SOME GUIDELINES FROM THE SCRIPTURES: (1 COR 11:19-34)

1. Order- 19-22 (DON'T SWIM IN THE BAPTISMAL POOL; DON'T EAT STEAK, EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD; DON'T TALK ABOUT BALL GAMES WHILE WASHING FEET)  
2. Example- 23-26 EACH OF THESE SHOW THE LORD TO A WATCHING WORLD; THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD BE DONE PUBLICLY AND OFTEN.

3. Examination- 27-32

A. THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH ASKED, "WHAT DOES HINDER ME FROM BEING BAPTIZED?". YOU MAY IF YOU BELIEVE.

B. LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF BEFORE HE EATS THE LORD'S SUPPER. NO ONE IS SINLESS BUT WE NEED TO LOOK AT OUR MOTIVES- ARE YOU LOOKING TO GLORIFY GOD OR SHOW OFF TO MAN?

C. AM I "PROUD" OF MY HUMILITY IN WASHING FEET OR AM I REALLY SEEKING TO SERVE OTHERS; REALIZING THAT HE THAT WOULD BE GREATEST OF ALL SHALL BE SERVANT OF ALL.

4. Brotherly Consideration- 33-34

A. WAIT ON ONE ANOTHER; BE PATIENT (WE WAIT UNTIL ALL ARE SERVED). [THIS IS NOT A MEAL BUT A MESSAGE!! IT IS NOT A TIME OF GLUTTONY BUT A TIME OF GLORY].

B. SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER (IN THE ORIGINAL CHURCH EACH BROKE OFF THE SAME LOAF). THIS IS THE TIME WHEN ALL PARTS OF THE "BODY OF BELIEVERS" GATHER TOGETHER TO SHOW AND SHARE.

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS:

A. A COMMANDED OBSERVANCE- "THIS DO"

B. A SYMBOLIC OBSERVANCE- THE BREAD REPRESENTS THE BROKEN BODY AND THE CUP THE SHED BLOOD OF CHRIST.

C. A MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE- "IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME" 1 COR 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

D. A CONTINUING OBSERVANCE- "TIL HE COME"

**PASSOVER: PROTECTION AND DELIVERANCE**

EXODUS 12:1-14 21-28

SOON WE WILL CELEBRATE COMMUNION: "THE LORD'S SUPPER". THIS IS A MEMORIAL CELEBRATING THE SUFFERING AND SACRIFICE THAT CHRIST MADE SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST SACRED AND HOLY PRIVILEGES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND YOU SHOULD LIFT PRAISE TO GOD FOR HIS ALLOWING YOU TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THIS MEMORIAL.

THE ORIGINAL "LORD'S SUPPER" WAS HELD BY JESUS THE NIGHT BEFORE HE WAS BETRAYED AND CRUCIFIED AND WAS A CELEBRATION OF THE JEWISH PASSOVER. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO REALIZE THE MEANING OF THE PASSOVER IF WE ARE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE "LORD'S SUPPER". SO I WANT US TO LOOK AT 4 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THE NEED OF AND BLESSING FROM THE PASSOVER:

1. **PROBLEMS:** DURING A TIME OF FAMINE THE NATION OF ISRAEL (NUMBERING ONLY 70 SOULS AT THE TIME) CAME TO DWELL IN EGYPT UNDER THE DIRECTION AND PROTECTION OF JOSEPH. AS LONG AS JOSEPH AND THOSE WHO KNEW HIM LIVED THE ISRAELITES WERE PROTECTED AND HONORED BUT THERE CAME A DAY WHEN THIS PROTECTION WAS LOST AND THE ISRAELITES BECAME LITTLE MORE THAN SLAVES. THEIR LABORS WERE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANOTHER MASTER; THEIR LIVES WERE FULL OF PAIN AND PUNISHMENT; AND THEIR CHILDREN WERE BEING KILLED BY THEIR MASTERS---WHAT A PICTURE OF WHAT SIN DOES IN A PERSON'S LIFE!!

FINALLY THE PROBLEMS BECAME SO HEAVY UNTIL THE PEOPLE CONTINUALLY CRIED OUT TO GOD FOR DELIVERANCE AND GOD RAISED UP A MAN TO STAND FOR THEM--A MAN WITH A MIRACULOUS BIRTH; WHO COULD HAVE BEEN KING BUT WAS INSTEAD A SHEPHERD; AND WHO USED SIGNS AND SERMONS TO BRING THE PEOPLE TO DELIVERANCE (HOW MUCH LIKE JESUS MOSES WAS!).

2. **PLAGUES:** IN ORDER TO GAIN ATTENTION, MOSES USED PLAGUES UPON THE NATION OF EGYPT. EACH OF THE PLAGUES WAS DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT GOD WAS GREATER THAN THE GODS OF EGYPT AND TO INSTILL FAITH IN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THAT GOD COULD AND WOULD DELIVER THEM. IN MUCH THE SAME WAY TODAY THE LORD ALLOWS TROUBLES AND TRIBULATIONS TO COME OUR WAY TO SHOW US THE ERROR OF TRUSTING IN FLESH AND HUMAN REASONING. SOME PEOPLE, LIKE PHARAOH, ALLOW THIS TO HARDEN THEIR HEART INSTEAD OF DRAW THEM TO GOD. OTHERS REALIZE THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE AND CRY OUT FOR FINAL DELIVERANCE.

3. **PASSOVER:** CONVICTION WAS NOT ENOUGH; GOD WAS LOOKING FOR CONVERSION!! AND THAT COULD ONLY COME THROUGH SHED BLOOD. SO GOD INSTITUTED THE PASSOVER FEAST AT WHICH THE BLOOD OF A LAMB WAS APPLIED TO THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE PROVIDING A SIGN SO THAT THE DEATH ANGEL WOULD "PASSOVER" THAT HOUSE (JUST AT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST APPLIED TO OUR HEARTS TODAY PROVIDES PAYMENT FOR THE WAGES OF SIN). THIS PASSOVER WAS A MEAL AND A MEMORIAL JUST AS THE "LORD'S SUPPER" IS TODAY.

4. **PROMISED LAND:** THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF YEARS AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE FOR THE NATION OF ISRAEL. FROM THIS NIGHT THEY WOULD BE A DELIVERED PEOPLE HEADED TO THE PROMISED LAND; SLAVES NO MORE!!

GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WHEN THE BLOOD IS APPLIED: YOU ESCAPE DEATH; YOU GET A NEW DESTINATION; AND YOU ARE DELIVERED TO A NEW LIFE. IS THE BLOOD APPLIED ON THE "DOOR" OF YOUR HEART TODAY?? COMMUNION IS FOR CHRISTIANS, ARE YOU ONE??

## DEADLY DIFFICULTIES

EZEKIEL 37:11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

WHILE VISITING IN THE HOSPITAL IN CHARLESTON RECENTLY I DECIDED TO GO DOWN TO THE GROUND FLOOR TO SEE SOME OF THE FAMILY WHILE I WAS AWAITING AN OPERATION TO FINISH. I WAS ON THE 7TH FLOOR BUT I ALWAYS TRY TO USE THE STAIRS WHEN POSSIBLE SO I FOUND THE STAIRWAY AND WALKED DOWN TO THE GROUND FLOOR; ONLY TO FIND THAT THE HOSPITAL WAS IN THE PROCESS OF REMODELING AND HAD PUT A WALL WHERE THE BOTTOM FLOOR EXIT SHOULD BE. MY INTENTIONS WERE GOOD, MY DIRECTIONS WERE GOOD (FOLLOWED THE "EXIT" SIGNS AND RECOGNIZED EACH FLOOR NUMBER) BUT I ENDED UP AT A "BRICK WALL".

I'M NOT VERY SMART BUT I AM PERSISTENT. I WALKED BACK UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR, WALKED THE LENGTH OF THE HOSPITAL WING, AND TRIED ANOTHER STAIRWAY. THIS ONE LED ME TO A DOOR LEADING INTO THE ROOM I WAS SEEKING; BUT THE DOOR WAS LOCKED AND I COULD NOT GET THROUGH. I COULD SEE THE PLACE I WANTED TO BE BUT COULD NOT GET THERE. FINALLY, IN FRUSTRATION, I WALKED BACK UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR, FOUND THE ELEVATOR, AND RODE IT DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR.

SOMETIMES LIFE TREATS US LIKE THAT! WE "MAKE ALL THE RIGHT MOVES" AND YET END UP "BUTTING OUR HEADS" AGAINST BRICK WALLS OR LOCKED DOORS. AND THE FRUSTRATION, THE FAILURES, AND THE CONSTANT "FIGHT" TO GET WHERE WE'RE GOING DEplete OUR STRENGTH AND DIMS OUR HOPE. SOME, IN FINAL FRUSTRATION, GIVE UP ON LIFE AND SEEK TO ESCAPE INTO THE FANTASY WORLD OF DRUGS, DRINK, TV, OR RECREATION. OTHERS STAND OUTSIDE THE LOCKED DOORS OF LIFE WEEPING AND WAITING FOR THE WALL TO FALL DOWN OR SOMEONE TO SHOW THEM WHAT TO DO.

TODAY I WANT US TO SEE THAT EVEN IF YOUR SITUATION IS A "VALLEY OF VERY DRY BONES" YET YOU CAN HAVE HELP AND HOPE IN THE LORD. I WANT US TO LOOK FIRST AT SOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AND THEN LEARN SOME PRINCIPLES THAT WILL SUSTAIN US IN THESE DIFFICULT DAYS.

THERE ARE 3 TIMES THAT JESUS RAISED THE DEAD IN THE GOSPELS. EACH OF THESE TIMES REPRESENT A DIFFICULT SITUATION THAT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH.

1. THE RAISING OF Jarius's Daughter (Mk 5:35-43) REPRESENTS THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE A PROBLEM THAT HAS JUST BEGUN (JARIUS'S DAUGHTER HAD JUST DIED). IT'S A SERIOUS BUT RECENT PROBLEM THAT IS BEYOND NORMAL METHODS TO HANDLE- YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE, YOU NEED A MIRACLE!! [YOU'VE JUST FOUND YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER IS ON DRUGS, YOU'VE JUST LEARNED YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE IS HAVING AN AFFAIR, A MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEM IS FOUND, ETC.].

2. THE Widow of Nain's son (LUKE 7:11-15) REPRESENTS THOSE WHOSE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED LONG ENOUGH TO BEGIN TO SET INTO A PATTERN AND HABIT OF LIFE- YOU'RE NOT IN THE GRAVE YET BUT YOU'RE ON THE WAY. [YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD CONTROL YOUR TEMPER BUT NOW YOU REALIZE IT CONTROLS YOU. YOU ONCE ENTERTAINED THOSE EVIL THOUGHTS BUT NOW THEY ENSLAVE YOU. DEPRESSION, DESPAIR, AND DOUBT HAVE BECOME CONSTANT COMPANIONS INSTEAD OF OCCASIONAL VISITORS.



3. Lazarus WAS RAISED AFTER HAVING BEEN DEAD 4 DAYS (JOHN 11:39) AND EVEN HIS SISTER THOUGHT HE WAS A "STINKER". SOMETIMES PROBLEMS HAVE GONE PAST DIFFICULT INTO DECAY. AT FIRST YOU WERE ABLE TO COVER IT WITH PRETTY FLOWERS AND PLATITUDES BUT NOW YOU KNOW THAT IF IT'S EVER UNCOVERED IT'S SMELL WILL REACH THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD. [LUSTFUL THOUGHTS HAVE BECOME ADULTEROUS DEEDS. THE FAMILY QUARREL NOW BECOMES A FAMILY FIGHT. THE INNOCENT USE OF OFFICE SUPPLIES HAS BECOME AN EMBARRASSING EMBEZZLEMENT].

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THESE "DEADLY" DIFFICULTIES?? HOW DO YOU HANDLE IT WHEN YOU ARE PUT DOWN IN A VALLEY OF DRY BONES AND TOLD TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT??

FIRST YOU NEED HOPE- GOD TOLD EZEKIEL THAT HE PUT HIM IN THIS "DEADLY DIFFICULTY" IN ORDER TO SHOW ISRAEL HOPE. HOPE GIVES YOU ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM TO KEEP GOING INSTEAD OF GIVING UP. HERE ARE 3 THINGS THAT SHOULD GIVE US HOPE:

1. God is able- WHEN THE 3 HEBREW CHILDREN FACED THE "DEADLY DIFFICULTY" OF THE FIERY FURNACE THEY BRAVELY PROCLAIMED THAT GOD WAS ABLE TO DELIVER THEM (JUST REMEMBER, GOD DIDN'T DELIVER THEM FROM BUT HE DID DELIVER THEM THROUGH). REMEMBER GOD'S ABILITY.

2. God Cares- NEVER DOUBT IN THE DARK WHAT GOD HAS TOLD YOU IN THE LIGHT. MARY AND MARTHA THOUGHT JESUS HAD FAILED THEM BECAUSE HE DELAYED IN COMING TO LAZARUS BUT SOON THEY WOULD SEE A GREATER GLORY. OFTEN WE ARE FACED WITH SITUATIONS IN WHICH IT APPEARS THAT GOD HAS FORGOTTEN US OR FORSAKEN US BUT HIS LOVE EVER OVERSHADOWS US.

3. God has a Plan- (A) YOUR PART MAY NOT ALLOW YOU TO SEE EVERYTHING SO DON'T BE DISCOURAGED IF YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT ALL. (B) DON'T TRY TO FIT YOUR PART OF THE "PUZZLE" INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S SITUATION. JOHN THE BAPTIST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION FROM HIS JAIL CELL BUT JESUS SAID *Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist!* (MAT 11:11).

SECOND YOU NEED HELP- THE JOB IS TOO HARD FOR YOU. YOU CAN'T RAISE THE DEAD!! YOU NEED THE "PROPHECY OF THE WORD" AND THE POWER OF THE WIND (EZ 37:4 & 9).

1. The Admonition of the Word IS THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE AND CHANGE IS NECESSARY IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. ONE OF THE clearest examples of this is EPH 4:28 LET HIM THAT STOLE STEAL NO MORE: BUT RATHER LET HIM LABOR, WORKING WITH HIS HANDS THE THING WHICH IS GOOD, THAT HE MAY HAVE TO GIVE TO HIM THAT NEEDETH. YOU ARE NOT SIMPLY TO STOP STEALING; YOU ARE TO REPLACE THIS EMPTY SPACE WITH CHARITY WORK. THIS REPRESENTS A CHANGE OF HEART; ONCE YOU ONLY DESIRED TO GET FOR YOURSELF; NOW YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO GIVE TO OTHERS. *[This is extremely important. Jesus said if you simply swept the house and left it empty you ended up worse off than at the beginning (Matt 12:43-45)]*.

2. The Transforming Power of the Spirit IS WHAT GIVES LIFE TO "DEADLY DIFFICULTIES". SELF EFFORT ONLY LEAVES US TIRED AND DISCOURAGED. SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT GIVES US VICTORY AND VITALITY. MANY TIMES THE "DEADLY DIFFICULTIES" OF LIFE LEAVE US CRYING LIKE PAUL; *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?* BUT *if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.* (ROM 7:24, 8:11).

GOD HAS A WAY PAST YOUR "BRICK WALL" TODAY- ACCEPT IT.



# B R I D G E AND B L O C K "To Know and Show Christ"

## Grace Free Will Baptist Church

Bible Study Hour 10:00am  
 Morning Evangelistic Service 11:00am  
 (live over WJOT)  
 Evening Worship Service 6:00pm  
 Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm  
 Mircheal Jones, Pastor (909) 394-3725

Vol VI Num 16 348 Lawrence St \* P O Box 1003 \* Lake City, S C 29560

I was thinking the other day about what a great privilege God has given me to be able to come into nearly 600 homes every other week and share God's Goodness and Good News. Counting our Newsletter, Radio, Tape, Sunday School, Preaching, and Seniors Ministries we reach well over 1000 people every 2 weeks. That's a tremendous privilege but also a great responsibility-- Many Preachers and Sunday School Teachers use portions of our newsletter notes in their sermons and Sunday School Lessons; The Bible quizzes are used in home Bible Studies, bulletins, and Wednesday Night services in various denominations and churches; and tapes of our services are passed from family member to family member to friend.... That means that when I have only 35 to show up for a Sunday Night Service sometimes I must constantly be aware that 20 times that many will really be ministered to, or when I look out at "Sleepy Saints" on hot Dog Day August Sundays I must continually remind myself that 10 times that many people will be effected by the message as they read the newsletter in the comfort of their easy chair or listen to the tape as they fight traffic and need the encouragement or exhortation of the Word of God. I ask for your Prayers as I continually seek new and better methods of reaching as many people as possible in order to

get them to "Know and Show Christ".

As most of you know, This is a Faith Ministry that operates and expands only as God supplies. I operate under the Church but the Church assumes no financial part of the ministry (I do much of the Outreach Work on what is supposed to be my "day off" and assume the responsibility for printing bulletins and Church news with Outreach Finances). The Lord has gloriously provided every need I've had from equipment to mailing costs from the beginning and I stand in humble awe of His constant supply- Thanks to Mrs Pauline Evans, Mr and Mrs Monette Jones, Damon and Janice Runion, Jack B Hanna, Rev & Mrs Johnny Evans, and Mrs Josie Poston for recent help. Also Special Thanks to Brother Damon Runion for building a set of booklet correlators so that Mrs Anne McKnight can more easily put together booklets for distribution.

**SUPER SEPTEMBER** is just around the corner:

August 31-Clean up night at the Church  
 Sept 06- Bethel Bible Institute  
 Begins 7:30-9:00pm each week  
 Sept 11- HOME COMING with Special Guest, Rev Carlisle Hanna, Missionary to India. Special Joint service with area churches in the afternoon (2:00-4:00pm) featuring the "Sabers Qt".  
 Sept 12-14 Pastor will teach a "Teacher Training Course" at Bethany FWB Church.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
 P O Box 1003  
 Lake City, S C 29560

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**PHILIP: THE WITNESS**

JOHN 1:43-46, 6:5-14, 12:19-22, 14:8-11

FROM THE TOWN OF BETHSAIDA, HE WAS PROBABLY A FISHERMAN AND WELL ACQUAINTED WITH PETER, ANDREW, JAMES, AND JOHN.

JOHN 1:45 SAYS THAT PHILIP WAS A STUDENT OF THE SCRIPTURES.

PHILIP IS OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS HAVING A "PESSIMISTIC MIND" BECAUSE OF HIS INABILITY TO "LAUNCH OUT ON FAITH" (TOLD NATHANIEL "COME AND SEE"; QUESTIONED JESUS ABOUT HOW TO PROCURE FOOD TO FEED THE 5000; WONDERED ABOUT BRINGING THE GREEKS; AND WANTED TO SEE A "PHYSICAL" FATHER).

TRADITION SAYS THAT PHILIP PREACHED IN HIERAPOLIS, A CITY OF PHRYGIA, NEAR LAODICEA. HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY HANGED FOR HIS FAITH AND REQUESTED TO BE BURIED WRAPPED IN PAPYRUS INSTEAD OF CLOTH AND SPICES SINCE HE DID NOT FEEL HIMSELF WORTHY TO BE TREATED LIKE THE MASTER. (HE IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH PHILIP THE DEACON IN THE BOOK OF ACTS).

HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF SOME OF THE QUALITIES NEEDED IN A CONSISTENT AND COMPASSION SOUL WINNER:

**I. FIND A FRIEND-** JN 1:43-46 HE FOLLOWED THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST-JESUS...FINDETH PHILIP (VS 43) AND PHILIP FINDETH NATHANAE (VS 45). PSALM 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. TOO MANY CHRISTIANS GET SO WRAPPED UP IN LIVING CHRISTIANITY UNTIL THEY FAIL TO SHARE CHRIST!! AND YOU WON'T FIND SOMEONE IF YOU'RE NOT LOOKING!!

**II. SEE A NEED-** JN 6:5-14 JESUS BROUGHT PHILIP TO AN "AWARENESS" OF THE PROBLEM SO IT COULD BE DEALT WITH. SADLY, PHILIP COULD ONLY SEE PHYSICAL METHODS TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM INSTEAD OF SPIRITUAL ONES BUT HE WAS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED. MOST POLITICIANS AND MANY PEOPLE TODAY SEEM TO THINK THAT THE PROBLEM IS WHAT YOU SEE ON THE SURFACE; A PROBLEM THAT CAN BE SOLVED WITH MORE MONEY OR EDUCATION. WE CHRISTIANS KNOW THAT THE "HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM OF THE HEART" AND THAT ONLY A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST CAN SOLVE THAT. THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL IS THAT CHRIST CAN CHANGE PEOPLE'S SITUATION BY CHANGING THEIR HEART.

**III. BRING AN INQUIRER-** JN 12:20-22 WHEN CERTAIN GREEKS WANTED TO SEE JESUS THEY CAME TO PHILIP BECAUSE HE WAS FROM THE TOWN OF BETHSAIDA AND PROBABLY HAD DEALINGS WITH GREEKS ON A REGULAR BASIS. THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE WHOM YOU CAN REACH THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN REACH BECAUSE THEY RELATE TO YOU IN SOME SPECIAL WAY- BACKGROUND, JOB, MARITAL SITUATION, AGE, COLOR, ETC.. BE ESPECIALLY AWARE OF YOUR OBLIGATION TO THESE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

**IV. SHOW THEM JESUS IS GOD-** JN 14:8-11 PHILIP WANTED TO SEE A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF THE FATHER BUT HE CAME TO REALIZE THAT THAT WAS WHAT JESUS WAS. WE MUST GET PEOPLE BEYOND THE GOOD MORAL TEACHINGS OF CHRIST TO THE PLACE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS GOD AND CAN DEAL WITH ANY SITUATION THEY HAVE. MOST ONLY WANT OUT FROM UNDER THE PRESSURE OF LIFE WHEN THEY NEED TO ESCAPE THE PENALTY OF SIN!! AND ONLY CHRIST CAN DO THAT.

DO YOU KNOW ANY ONE THAT NEEDS TO KNOW JESUS?? DO YOU SEE NEEDS THAT ONLY JESUS CAN HELP? IS THERE SOMEONE YOU CAN REACH THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN REACH?? DO YOU PROCLAIM CHRIST AS THE ANSWER MEN NEED??

# SUICIDE

THE #1 KILLER OF YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY IS SUICIDE. MORE AND MORE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE LOOKING FOR AN "ESCAPE" FROM LIFE'S PRESSURES AND PROBLEMS AND SEE DEATH AS THE ONLY WAY OUT. I WANT US TO LOOK AT THE CAUSES OF SUICIDE, THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUICIDE, AND THE CURE FOR THE SUICIDAL ATTITUDE.

I. THE CAUSES OF SUICIDE: IT ALMOST VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON BUT I THINK THE BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF SUICIDE WILL GIVE US SOME IDEAS-

1. Remorse over your actions: Judas hanging himself- Matt 27:15
2. When faced with rejection: II Samuel 17:23 And when Ahitophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.
3. When faced with defeat in life: I Kings 16:18 And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died. SAUL FALLING ON HIS SWORD WHEN HE WAS DEFEATED IN BATTLE (I SAMUEL 31:4-5).
4. Failure in your job: Acts 16:27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.
5. Unable to live with the situation you've gotten yourself into: SAMSON PULLING THE BUILDING DOWN UPON HIMSELF- JUDGES 16:30

I THINK 3 GENERAL REASONS SUMMARIZE THE CAUSES OF SUICIDE:

- A) Feeling of Personal Inadequacy- YOU CAN'T COPE WITH THE PRESENT AND FEEL INADEQUATE TO HANDLE THE FUTURE. THE HOPELESSNESS AND HELPLESSNESS OF THE SITUATION CAUSES YOU TO THINK THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OUT.
- B) Feeling of Isolation and/or rejection- You think no one else has or is suffering like you. You feel unloved and unwanted.
- C) A sense of Emptiness- YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR GOALS AND ARE UNABLE TO FORMULATE MORE. YOU HAVE "BURNED OUT" AND DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF THE PRESSURE YOU'RE UNDER.

BEFORE YOU MAKE THIS DRASTIC AND FINAL STEP LET'S LOOK AT

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUICIDE:

- A) You violate God's Law- SUICIDE IS WRONG IN THAT IT VIOLATES THE 6TH COMMANDMENT, "THOU SHALT NOT KILL".
- B) You Question God's Love- IT SAYS THAT GOD DOES NOT CARE ABOUT OR CANNOT CONTROL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR LIFE. IT IS A MANIFEST LACK OF FAITH IN GOD, WHICH IS SIN- Whatsoever is not of Faith is sin.
- C) You modify God's Plans-
  - 1) LOSS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTIAN.
  - 2) DISTRESS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS LEFT BEHIND.
- D) You may jump from the "frying pan into the fire"-

SUICIDE DOES NOT END IT ALL! After Death the Judgment

  1. JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST FOR CHRISTIANS
  2. WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT FOR SINNERS

SUICIDE EFFECTS YOU, YOUR LOVED ONES, AND THE WORK OF GOD; AND SIMPLY ENDS YOUR LIFE ON EARTH. IN FACT, There is coming a time when God will not allow Suicidell Rev 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

A GENERAL OBSERVATION AND THEN WE'LL GO FROM BEING CURIOUS ABOUT SUICIDE TO FINDING A CURE FOR IT.

Even though Suicide is wrong it is not the unpardonable sin-

A) SAMSON LISTED IN THE "HALL OF FAITH" IN HEBREW 11:32; BUT IT IS A METHOD THAT SATAN TRIES TO USE TO GET PEOPLE TO MISS GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIVES-- The Devil tried to get Jesus to commit suicide- Matt 4:5-7 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. {THE DEVIL WAS PLAYING BOTH "ENDS AGAINST THE MIDDLE" HERE. IF JESUS JUMPED AND DIED THEN SATAN WINS; IF HE JUMPS AND GOD MUST SAVE HIM THEN HE TEMPTS GOD!}.

B) IN A "MANNER OF SPEAKING" {THIS IS NOT A THEOLOGICAL TRUTH BUT A GENERAL OBSERVATION} JESUS COMMITTED SUICIDE- JOHN 10:17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. JESUS COULD HAVE PREVENTED HIS DEATH BY CALLING THE ANGELS TO RESCUE HIM BUT HE KNEW HIS DEATH WAS NECESSARY FOR THE SALVATION OF MANKIND (JOHN 18:36-37). THE THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT JESUS DIED EXACTLY ON TIME, EXACTLY IN THE PLACE, AND EXACTLY FOR THE PURPOSE, GOD INTENDED.

III. THE CURE FOR SUICIDE: MANY OF GOD'S MEN HAVE "DESPAIRED OF LIFE" AND HAVE HAD TO SEE GOD'S PURPOSE, PLAN, OR POWER.

1. PAUL- II COR 1:8-9 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

2. MOSES- NUM 11:14-15 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favor in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness. GOD THEN SHOWS HIM HIS PLAN TO INCORPORATE OTHERS INTO THE WORK TO SHARE THE LOAD AND MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDES QUAILS FOR FOOD FOR THE DISCONTENTED PEOPLE.

3. ELIJAH SAT UNDER THE JUNIPER TREE AND ASKED TO DIE BECAUSE HIS WORK WAS NOT APPRECIATED AND GOD HAD TO RECOMMISSION HIM AND GIVE HIM A HELPER- ELISHA (I KINGS 19).

4. JOB FINALLY CAME TO THE PLACE IN LOSS OF FAMILY AND HEALTH THAT HE REQUESTED TO DIE (JOB 6:8-9) AND HAD TO BE BROUGHT TO THE PLACE WHERE HE DIDN'T JUST KNOW ABOUT GOD BUT HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (42:5).

5. IT'S NOT A GOOD EXAMPLE BUT EVEN JONAH CAME TO THE PLACE IN HIS "POUTING PREACHING" THAT HE WANTED TO DIE BECAUSE GOD WOULDN'T DO THINGS HIS WAY- JONAH 4:3

TODAY THERE ARE MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE LIKE THESE WHO HAVE ALLOWED TROUBLES (PAUL), PRESSURES (MOSES), EXHAUSTION (ELIJAH), HEALTH (JOB), AND EVEN HURT PRIDE (JONAH) TO BRING THEM TO THE "END OF THEIR ROPE". THEY MUST COME TO realize the Sovereignty of God (WHAT HE DOES DOES NOT HAVE TO MAKE "SENSE" TO US) AND rest in the Love of God (HE WILL NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT IS NOT ULTIMATELY FOR OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY).

SUICIDE IS NOT THE ESCAPE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR; CALVARY IS!! YOU NEED A PLACE OF DEATH BUT IT MUST BE THE CROSS OF CHRIST WHERE YOU FIND DEATH TO SIN AND SELF AND ABUNDANT LIFE IN SERVICE FOR THE LORD.

## JUDAS: THE BETRAYER

WE ARE DOWN TO THE FINAL TWO DISCIPLES--THE TWO MOST FAMOUS; THE BETRAYER AND THE "LEADER".

WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT THE CALL OR BACKGROUND OF JUDAS ISCARIOT [THE NAME ISCARIOT MEANS "INHABITANT OF KERIOTH" (A TOWN IN SOUTHERN JUDEA). IF THIS WAS USED TO DESIGNATE JUDAS'S HOMETOWN THEN JUDAS WAS THE ONLY DISCIPLE FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF ISRAEL]. HE WAS THE SON OF A MAN NAMED SIMON (JN 6:71) AND WAS THOUGHT TO BE A "ZEALOT", ALTHOUGH THAT IS NEVER SPECIFICALLY SAID.

HE WAS WELL THOUGHT OF BY THOSE HE ASSOCIATED WITH: 1) HE WAS THE TREASURER OF THE DISCIPLES (JN 12:6). 2) WHEN JESUS SAID ONE OF THE DISCIPLES WOULD BETRAY HIM THE OTHER DISCIPLES WERE MORE WILLING TO SAY, "IS IT I?" INSTEAD OF "IT'S JUDAS".

THERE ARE 3 PHRASES THAT DESCRIBES THE SAD STATE OF JUDAS:

I. HIS SATANIC INFLUENCE- JN 6:70-71 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil ["devil" here means demon]? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him being one of the twelve.

JN 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

JUDAS IS THE ONLY MAN WHO IS SAID TO BE INHABITED BY SATAN; OTHERS ARE "DEMON POSSESSED". BECAUSE OF THIS JUDAS IS THOUGHT BY SOME TO BE THE ANTICHRIST TO COME- COMPARE JOHN 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled, with II THESS 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, 'he son of perdition'.

NOTICE THAT JUDAS WENT FROM DEMON POSSESSION TO SATANIC POSSESSION; AND YET WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING HE WENT WITH THE OTHER DISCIPLES TO CAST OUT DEMONS AND HEAL DISEASES AND WAS CONSTANTLY UNDER THE PREACHING OF JESUS. HOW HORRIBLE IT IS TO SEE SOMEONE WITH TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY ALLOW HIMSELF TO FALL INTO THE PITS OF CORRUPTION AND DEGRADATION. YET IT HAPPENS, NOT JUST TO JUDAS, BUT TO MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE RAISED IN THE CHURCH AND WITH BIBLICAL TEACHING BUT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE LURED BY THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL AND TAKE THE DOWNWARD DIRECTION TO SHAME AND SIN.

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS THAT JUDAS MAY HAVE FALLEN:

1. His discontent with the way Jesus was working; HE WANTED HIM TO BOLDLY PROCLAIM HIMSELF AS KING AND REVOLT AGAINST THE ROMANS. TODAY THERE ARE MANY WHO BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH THE CHURCH AND THE LORD BECAUSE THINGS DON'T GO THE WAY THEY THINK THEY SHOULD.

2. His unwillingness to deal with a problem in his life- JOHN 12:6 SAYS THAT JUDAS WAS A THIEF. HE MAY HAVE FEARED BEING FOUND OUT BY THE REMAINING DISCIPLES AND DISGRACED. TODAY THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO ATTEND CHURCH BECAUSE THEIR PRIDE WAS HURT OR THEY DON'T WANT TO FACE EXPOSURE.

## II. HIS SELFISH ATTITUDE-

A) He was more concerned with something that would benefit him than he was with someone serving the Lord= Jn 12:4-6 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

TODAY THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT THE CHURCH ONLY AS LONG AS IT BENEFITS THEM. THEY MAKE "RELIGIOUS" SOUNDS WHEN THEY ARE SICK OR IN NEED BUT ARE QUICK TO CRITICIZE CHRISTIANS AND THE CHURCH IF EVERYTHING IS NOT DONE TO SATISFY THEM.

B) He was willing to sell his friend or even his "soul" for a profit. MATT 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him. A FARMER BROUGHT GRAIN TO A BIN ONE DAY AND THOUGHT THAT THE MANAGER DID NOT SEE AS HE STEPPED ON THE SCALE JUST AS THE GRAIN WAS BEING WEIGHTED. THE MANAGER GAVE THE MAN HIS RECEIPT AND COMMENTED, "YOU JUST SOLD YOURSELF FOR \$10"! IT IS AMAZING TODAY TO SEE HOW MANY "CHRISTIANS" ABANDON CHURCH FOR A 50 CENT AN HOUR RAISE OR A SUPPOSED SLIGHT BY SOMEONE.

III. HIS SUICIDAL END- MATT 27:3-5 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed and went and hanged himself.

ACTS 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT WHEN JUDAS HANGED HIMSELF THE ROPE BROKE AND HE FELL UPON A ROCK WHICH PUNCTURED HIM.

HE RETURNED THE MONEY AND ADMITTED TO THE PRIESTS THAT HE HAD ERRED BUT HAD ONLY REMORSE FOR HIS SIN; NEVER REPENTANCE. MANY TODAY ARE SAD THAT THINGS AREN'T WORKING LIKE THEY EXPECTED AND FEEL REMORSE WHEN THEY ARE CAUGHT IN A WRONG BUT NEVER TURN IN HUMBLE REPENTANCE TO CHRIST ADMITTING THEY ARE SINNER WHO'S ONLY HOPE IN CHRIST.

MANY ARE WILLING TO KISS THE SAVIOUR BUT AREN'T WILLING TO KNEEL BEFORE HIM! MATT 26:47-49 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, Master; and kissed him.

WHEN JESUS EXAMINES YOUR BOOKS WILL HE FIND A "THIEF AT HEART" AND A BETRAYER; OR WILL HE FIND A REPENTANT SINNER SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH??



**JOHN: THE BELOVED**

JOHN 13:21-30

WHILE ALL OF US SEEM TO FIND EXTRA PLEASURE IN CALLING SOMEONE "TEACHER'S PET", I'M OF THE BELIEF THAT WE DO SO OUT OF ENVY FOR THAT PERSON'S POSITION AND A CRAVING TO OBTAIN LOVE OR RECOGNITION THAT WE THINK WE'VE LOST. TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT THE APOSTLE JOHN WHO WAS CALLED "THE BELOVED" BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD-- A RELATIONSHIP THAT I HOPE ALL OF US ENVY AND HOPE TO OBTAIN. LET'S SEE THE BACKGROUND OF JOHN AND THEN THE BELOVED JOHN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.

**I. HIS BACKGROUND:**

THE SON OF ZEBEDEE AND BROTHER OF JAMES, JOHN WAS A FISHERMAN FROM THE TOWN OF CAPERNAUM. HE IS THOUGHT TO BE THE YOUNGEST OF THE DISCIPLES BUT HE WAS THE ONLY DISCIPLE THOUGHT TO HAVE DIED A NATURAL DEATH. TRADITION SAYS THAT HE WAS THE PASTOR OF THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS FOR A TIME BEFORE HE WAS ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO ROME. IT IS SAID THAT ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO KILL HIM BY THROWING HIM IN BOILING OIL AND BY POISONING HIM BUT WHEN THESE ATTEMPTS FAILED HE WAS EXILED TO THE ISLE OF PATMOS (WHERE HE WROTE THE REVELATION).

HE WAS PART OF THE "INNER CIRCLE" OF DISCIPLES AND NICKNAMED BOANERGES, "SONS OF THUNDER" ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER JAMES. HE CAME FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY (THEY HAD SERVANTS TO HELP WITH THE FISHING BUSINESS) THAT WAS EVIDENTLY AMBITIOUS (FIRST THEIR MOTHER AND THEN THE BOYS CAME TO JESUS TO ASK FOR THE POSITIONS OF HONOR IN JESUS' KINGDOM).

SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH, JOHN WAS PAIRED WITH PETER RATHER THAN HIS BROTHER JAMES IN MANY OF THE MAJOR HAPPENINGS:

1. IN PREPARING FOR THE "LAST SUPPER" (LUKE 22:8),
2. WHEN CHRIST WAS ON TRIAL (JOHN 18:15-16),
3. IN THE VISIT TO THE TOMB (JOHN 20:4-6),
4. IN THE RETURN TO FISHING (It was John who identified Jesus on the shore -John 21:7),
5. WHEN THE LAME MAN WAS HEALED AT THE TEMPLE IN ACTS CHAPTER 3, AND
6. WHEN THE GOSPEL WAS CARRIED TO THE SAMARITANS (ACTS 8:14).
7. PAUL ALSO PAIRED HIM WITH PETER AND JAMES (NOT HIS BROTHER) AS PILLARS OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN GAL 2:9.

**II. HIS EXAMPLE:**

HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE Transforming power of Christ IN CHANGING THIS "SON OF THUNDER" INTO A DISCIPLE OF LOVE.

HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE Practical side of Christianity IN HIS CARING FOR JESUS'S MOTHER MARY.

HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE Witnessing PART OF CHRISTIANITY IN HIS GOSPEL written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (JOHN 20:31).

HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE Disciplining PART OF CHRISTIANITY IN HIS BOOK OF I JOHN; THAT HAS PROBABLY BEEN READ BY MORE NEW CONVERTS THAN ANY OTHER BOOK IN THE BIBLE.

HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE NEED OF Separation in the Christian life IN HIS BOOKS OF II JOHN (WHICH FORBIDS US TO EVEN BID "GOODSPEED" TO THOSE WHO ARE DOING WRONG) AND III JOHN (WHICH DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN TRUE AND FALSE WORKERS IN THE CHURCH).



### III. HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST:

ALL OF US OUGHT TO "ENVY" AND EMULATE THE CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP JOHN HAD WITH CHRIST. HOW SAD IT IS THAT THE FIRST FAULT CHRIST FOUND WITH THE CHURCH WAS THAT IT "LOST IT'S FIRST LOVE" (REV 2:4).

WHILE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IDENTIFIES US AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST (I JOHN 4:7) IT IS DEVOTION TO CHRIST THAT WILL MAKE US OBEY HIM (JN 14:15). AND IT IS THIS DEVOTION AND DEDICATION THAT SEEMS TO BE MISSING IN MANY PEOPLE'S LIVES TODAY-- MANY PEOPLE WORK FOR THE LORD BECAUSE OF PRESSURE INSTEAD OF PLEASURE! OUT OF OBLIGATION INSTEAD OF ADORATION!. HOW CAN WE OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST??

A) DESIRE- JOHN SAT CLOSE TO CHRIST AT SUPPER AND DESIRED TO BE CLOSE TO CHRIST IN THE COMING KINGDOM. DO YOU DESIRE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH AND WORK FOR THE LORD?? OR DO YOU SIMPLY DESIRE FOR GOD TO MEET YOUR EVERY WHIM AND EVENTUALLY PAMPER YOU IN THE PLEASURES OF HEAVEN. DESIRE WILL DRIVE YOU AND CAUSE YOU TO Separate FROM THE WORLD IN ORDER TO BE CLOSE TO CHRIST AS WELL AS Sacrifice YOUR TIME, MONEY, AND EFFORT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A RELATIONSHIP (IF MY WIFE WOULD HAVE SAID SHE LOVED ME BUT WAS UNWILLING TO GIVE UP HER OLD BOY FRIENDS OR COME LIVE WITH ME THEN I WOULD HAVE REASON TO DOUBT HER STATEMENT; YET MULTITUDES OF CHRISTIANS CLAIM TO LOVE THE LORD BUT STILL CLING TO THE WORLD AND GIVE CHRIST THEIR CRUMBS INSTEAD OF COMMITMENT).

B) DEDICATION- JOHN WENT WITH JESUS TO HIS TRIAL, STAYED WITH HIM AT THE CROSS, AND WAS THE FIRST MAN AT THE TOMB. IF YOUR LOVE FOR CHRIST IS ONLY "CROCODILE TEARS IN THE CHURCH" THEN YOU'VE MISSED REAL RELATIONSHIP. LOVE FOR CHRIST IS STEADFAST IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS AND TROUBLES AND STRENGTHENED BY SUFFERING TOGETHER (PAUL HAD LOVED AND SERVED THE LORD FOR YEARS BUT HIS EARNEST PRAYER WAS THAT HE MIGHT know Christ, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. PHIL 3:10).

DEDICATION MEANS COMMITMENT; A COMMITMENT THAT WILL CARRY YOU THROUGH THE TRIALS OF LIFE, INTO THE VALLEY OF DEATH, AND TO THE GLORIOUS MORNING OF RESURRECTION!! IT'S NOT A COMMITMENT TO LOVE THE LORD JUST AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES EVERY DAY BUT "UNTIL DEATH DO US PART"!!

JESUS WILL REWARD YOU FOR YOUR LABOR BUT HE WILL EXAMINE YOUR LOVE!! DO YOU LOVE THE LORD TODAY ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD??

# **"To Know and Show Christ"**

Vol VI Num 17 348 Lawrence St \* P O Box 1003 \* Lake City, S C 29560

## **Grace Free Will Baptist Church**


Bible Study Hour 10:00am  
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 Evening Worship Service 6:00pm  
 Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm  
 Mircheal Jones, Pastor (803) 894-3725

**HOME COMING** is this **September 7, 1988** **Bethel Bible Institute**

Sunday (September 11) and we're looking for the biggest and best services of the year. We expect ALL of our "regulars" and many Visitors in our Bible Study Hour at 10:00am. Then at 11:00am we will celebrate the Lord's Blessings on our Church during the past year with special songs and activities. The Choir will dedicate our **NEW CHOIR CHAIRS** with a special arrangement of "I Believe in a Hill called Mount Calvary" before we receive our special Offering for Brother Carlisle's account. **Missionary to India, Rev. Carlisle Hanna**, will then deliver God's Message.

Then we'll all join in a time of Food and Fellowship in the Fellowship Building. Time to renew old friendships and make new ones; time to remember old times by reviewing pictures of past events (that will be posted throughout the building); and time to enjoy some of the best cooking in this part of the country!

And the Day has hardly begun!! From 2:00pm - 4:00pm we will have


**a SPECIAL SONG SERVICE** featuring the "Saber's Quartet" from Hemingway, Special Music from Sister Churches, and our own special talent. We will also receive another Special Offering for Brother Carlisle's Account to give our sister Churches an opportunity to share in the Blessing.

got off to a good start with 8 students the first night. We anticipate more in the following weeks as word gets around about the benefits to be derived from the courses--"Music Appreciation" will help anyone that wants to learn how to sing or sing better and "James" will help anyone who faces real life situations and wants Bible answers. The sessions meet each Tuesday night from 7:30pm until 8:45pm and the cost is only \$25. Hope to see you this Tuesday at Grace FWB Church.

Pastor Jones will be teaching a **TEACHER TRAINING COURSE** at Bethany FWB Church of Timmonsville Monday - Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:00pm. This 3 night course is designed to show people the seriousness of their task and then equip them to do that task in the best way possible.

Monday- The Teacher  
 Tuesday- The Tools  
 Wednesday- The Task



Rev Rick Cason is the Pastor of this fine Church and he invites anyone to join then for these special services. (Everyone who attends will receive a booklet of notes to help them in their teaching).

Special Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this work in the past few weeks. Your help is invaluable and appreciated. God is continuing to give more and more "doors" for us to use and I praise HIM. **Preacher Mike**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
 P O Box 1003  
 Lake City, S C 29560

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# RAISING DEAD CHILDREN

II KINGS 4:18-37

IN THIS STORY OF THE SHUNAMMITE'S DEAD CHILD WE HAVE A CLASSIC ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT IS NEEDED TO "RAISE A DEAD CHILD" (LOST ARE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS).

## I. THE MOTHER (PARENTAL CONCERN)

- A) Her Faith- "IT SHALL BE WELL" VS 23
- B) Her Fervency- RIDE AND DON'T SLACK. GRABBED ELISHA BY THE FEET. HER SOUL IN HER VEXED
- C) Her Faithfulness- WOULDN'T LEAVE THE MAN OF GOD (I'M NOT LEAVING TIL I SEE HIM ALIVE).

## II. THE SERVANT (SOME EASY WAY TO DO THE JOB- THERE IS NO EASY WAY TO BIRTH A CHILD!!!)

- A) WORRIED ABOUT OUTWARD SHOW- VS 27
- B) SENT ON A JOB- GIRDING AND STEADFAST
- C) FAILED- AFTER HAVING DONE EXACTLY AS ORDERED!! THE STAFF WAS GOOD (MOSES USED A STAFF) BUT NOT WHAT WAS NEEDED IN THIS CASE. THE CHILD NEEDED SOMEONE TO BREATHE THE BREATH OF LIFE

## III. THE PROPHET

- A) Saw the Problem- CHILD WAS DEAD, NOT ASLEEP
- B) Separated the Problem- THEY TWO ALONE. THEN HE PRAYED; BUT HE NEEDED MORE THAN PRAYER!!
- C) Shared the Problem- STRETCHED HIMSELF (NOT SHORTENED)- CHILDREN REQUIRE EXTRA EFFORT. I THESS 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children; so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted to you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear unto us.
- D) Sustained His Actions- WARM WASN'T ENOUGH; HE WANTED LIFE (IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO DRESS YOUNG CORPSES IN GOOD CLOTHES). A SNEEZE IS A WONDERFUL SOUND FROM A DEAD CHILD (MAN NOT KNOW ALL THE DOCTRINES).
- E) Salvation was wrought- A LIVE CHILD GIVEN TO MOM'S CARE (NOW THE CHILD MUST BE FED, CLOTHED, AND CARED FOR).

## LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

(FROM A TAPE BY ED GREEN)

MATT 18:14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish  
CHRIST WOULD RATHER SAVE FROM SIN THAN OUT OF SIN.  
REALIZE THE POTENTIAL OF THE CHILD- IS THIS ANOTHER MOODY, OR SUNDAY

## WAYS TO TELL IF A CHILD IS INTERESTED IN SALVATION:

- 1. WHEN A CHILD STARTS ASKING ABOUT SPIRITUAL THINGS
- 2. WHEN A CHILD LINGERS BEHIND AFTER A LESSON
- 3. MISBEHAVING CHILDREN  
SOME WANT ATTENTION BUT SOME WANT TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST.
- 4. RESPONDS TO INVITATION (CLASS OR CHURCH)
  - A. SOME FOR REDEDICATION (GET IT CLEAR IN THEIR MIND)
  - B. SOME FOR SALVATION (MAKE SURE THEY TELL YOU THEY'RE SAVED)
  - C. OTHER PROBLEMS- LOVE STARVED, FAMILY PROBLEMS...

## WORKING WITH THE CHILD:

- 1. EXPLAIN SIN (DOING WRONG, NOT DOING RIGHT)
- 2. EXPLAIN GOD HATES SIN BUT NOT THE SINNER
- 3. EXPLAIN GOD LOVED ENOUGH TO SEND CHRIST TO DIE FOR THEM
- 4. HAVE THEM PRAY A PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

## TRIUMPHANT IN CHRIST

II COR 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

### 4 REASON WE DON'T HAVE THE VICTORY:

1. Self- ROM 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

WE PAMPER OUR SELF

WE EXCUSE OUR SELF

2. Sin- I JOHN 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (THE VERY ACT OF SAYING WE HAVE NO SIN IS A SIN!!)

SINS OF OMISSION- GOOD WE FAIL TO DO

SINS OF COMMISSION- BAD WE DO DO

3. Slothfulness- MARK 4:18-19 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

THE WORLD, WEALTH, AND WANDERING EYES TAKE AWAY FRUIT AND FRUITLESSNESS IS FAILURE

4. Satan- EPHESIANS 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.

DISGUISE- HE COMES AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT

DESTRUCTION- HE COMES AS A ROARING LION

DECEIT- HE IS THE FATHER OF LIES

BUT PAUL TOLD THE CORINTHIANS THAT THERE WAS A WAY TO VICTORY:

1. The Frequency of Triumph- ALWAYS (WE WON'T ALWAYS GET OUR WAY BUT WE CAN KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE THE LORD AND ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE). IT'S NOT SO BAD TO FIGHT WHEN YOU ALWAYS KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO WIN!!!

2. The Place of Triumph- IN CHRIST (NOT "PHYSICALLY" WITHIN BUT BY FAITH ACCEPTING CHRIST AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE AND SACRIFICE. LIKE CHRIST THE WILL OF THE FATHER AND THE WORK OF THE FATHER ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN YOUR LIFE).

3. The Source of Triumph- GOD...CAUSETH (WHAT A GLORIOUS PRIVILEGE IT IS TO NOT HAVE TO DEPEND ON YOUR OWN STRENGTH AND ABILITY TO HANDLE DIFFICULTIES. YOU SIMPLY TAKE THEM TO GOD IN PRAYER AND BELIEVE HIS PROMISES. WHAT A RELIEF THAT IS!!).

PS 92:4 For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

PS 106:47 Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

ARE YOU DEFEATED OR TRIUMPHANT??

# THE UNKNOWN DISCIPLES

WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SEVERAL OF THE DISCIPLES EXCEPT THEIR NAMES. THE BIBLE GIVES US NO MORE DETAILS ABOUT THEM AND HISTORY IS VERY VAGUE ABOUT THEIR MINISTRY AND DEATH. LET'S EXAMINE THE FEW DETAILS WE DO KNOW AND DETERMINE SOME LESSONS ABOUT HOW GOD USES EVEN "NON-HEROES" TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK.

## I. JAMES THE SON OF ALPHEUS

THE SON OF ALPHEUS AND CLEOPAS WITH POSSIBLY MATTHEW AND THADDEUS AS HIS BROTHERS [ALTHOUGH MOST PEOPLE THINK THEY SIMPLY HAD FATHERS WITH THE SAME NAME].

SOME SAY HE WROTE THE BOOK OF JAMES, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT LIKELY.

TRADITION INDICATES THAT HE WAS A PERSON OF STRONG CONVICTIONS AND A FIERY PERSONALITY. THESE TRAITS ALONG WITH HIS COMPANIONS SEEM TO MAKE HIM A MEMBER OF THE ZEALOTS

HIS DEATH IS SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED SOMEWHERE IN PERSIA. HE WAS STONED, BEATEN TO DEATH WITH CLUBS, AND THEN SAWN IN HALF.

HIS APOSTOLIC SYMBOL IS A SAW.

## II. SIMON THE ZEALOT

HE WAS FROM THE AREA OF CANAAN, AND WAS PUBLICLY KNOWN AS A ZEALOT. HE WAS SO ACTIVE IN THIS REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT UNTIL IT BECAME A PART OF HIS IDENTIFICATION.

NOTHING ELSE IS REVEALED ABOUT HIM IN SCRIPTURE, AND TRADITION HAS NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT HIM.

HE IS SAID TO HAVE DIED A MARTYR ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS ARE KNOWN.

HIS APOSTOLIC SYMBOL IS A FISH LYING ON AN OPEN BIBLE. THIS IS BECAUSE HE CHANGED FROM A FISHERMAN TO A FISHER OF MEN.

THESE TWO DISCIPLES REPRESENT THE VAST THROG OF CHRISTIANS WHO NEVER MAKE THE "FRONT PAGE" BUT WHO ARE STILL PART OF GOD'S PROGRAM.

1. James is identified by means of his family; EVEN AS MANY CHRISTIANS ARE DAILY WORKING TO BRING THEIR FAMILY TO THE LORD AND DEVELOP THEM INTO THE FAMILY THEY SHOULD BE. THESE PEOPLE GO ABOUT THEIR LIVES; EARNING A LIVING; RAISING THEIR CHILDREN; SUPPORTING THE CHURCH; AND LIVING THE "ORDINARY LIFE". BUT REMEMBER THE ONLY "CLAIM TO FAME" THAT THE SAINTS LISTED IN GENESIS CHAPTER 5 HAVE IS THAT THEY RAISED CHILDREN! AND PASSED TO THESE CHILDREN THE EXPECTATION OF THE COMING MESSIAH. WHEN GOD CALLS THE ROLL OF THE "HEROES OF HEAVEN" WILL HE SAY ABOUT ONE OF YOUR CHILDREN, "HE WAS THE SON OF ....."??

2. Simon is identified by means of his love of country. A "ZEALOT" WAS SOMEONE WHO WANTED ISRAEL FREED FROM DOMINATION BY ROME SO BAD UNTIL THEY WERE WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LIVES IF NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT. THE FACTS THAT THIS ZEAL WAS MANY TIMES MISPLACED AND NO ZEALOT BECAME A LEADER OF THE DISCIPLES MAY POINT OUT SOME DISADVANTAGES IN THIS TYPE BEHAVIOR BUT I BELIEVE THERE IS A PLACE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE FOR PEOPLE WHO NOT ONLY LOVE THEIR CHURCH BUT ALSO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY. PEOPLE LIKE POLICEMEN, TEACHERS, DOCTORS AND NURSES, AND EVEN POLITICIANS [MANY OF THE GREAT MEN OF GOD IN THE BIBLE WERE INVOLVED IN GOVERNMENT]. THESE PEOPLE HELP MAINTAIN A STABLE SOCIETY, A LEARNED SOCIETY, A HEALTHY SOCIETY, AND A REGULATED SOCIETY AND AS SUCH BECOME PART OF GOD'S SYSTEM- ROM 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive unto themselves damnation.

YOU MAY BE AN "UNKNOWN DISCIPLE" TO THIS WORLD BUT REST ASSURED THAT GOD KNOWS EVERY THING YOU DO AND WILL REWARD YOU ACCORDING TO WHAT HE SEES INSTEAD OF WHAT MEN SAY.

# WHEAT

JOHN 12:24

## I. SOME WILL BE SATISFIED TO BE HUSK

A) No Purpose- Ps 114 The Ungodly are not so; but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. SIN IS MISSING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

B) No Profit- JER 23:28 What is the Chaff to the wheat? FIT ONLY TO BE BURNED. THE MAN WHO HID HIS TALENT WAS CONDEMNED.

C) No Pride- THE PRODIGAL WOULD HAVE FILLED HIS BELLY WITH THE HUSK OF THE WHEAT; FIT ONLY FOR THE HOGS!! (LUKE 15:16)

## II. SOME WILL BE HARVESTED FOR BREAD

A) Some will be Unwilling Bread: THE DISAPPOINTMENTS AND UNEQUALNESS OF LIFE WILL GRIND YOU UP; THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION WILL BAKE YOU; AND THE WORLD WILL EAT YOU!! AND HUNGER THE NEXT DAY!!

B) Some will be Living Bread: JOHN 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh; which I will give for the life of the world. THERE IS SOMETIMES A NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF SACRIFICE. WE ARE AT WAR!! SOMETIMES YOU MUST SACRIFICE A FEW LIVES TO SAVE MANY.

III. SOME WILL BE SEED TO GROW MORE JOHN 12:24 Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die; it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

SEPARATION- "A CORN OF WHEAT" CAN'T GROW IN THE BAG!

SACRIFICE- "FALL INTO THE GROUND AND DIE" ONLY WAY TO LIFE

SUBSTANCE- "IT BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT"

## THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWTH:

1. SEED- THE WORD OF GOD (MARK 4:14)

2. SOIL- 4 KINDS OF HEARERS: WAYSIDE (DISTRACTED), HARD "HEART" (NO ENDURANCE), CHOKED (BY WEEDS OF THE WORLD), FRUITFUL (MARK 4:15-20)

3. SUN- THE ENERGY EMANATING FROM THE SUN WARMS THE EARTH SO THE SEED WILL SPROUT. THE SUNLIGHT ALSO GIVES THE PLANT LIFE [PHOTOSYNTHESIS]. IN THE SAME WAY THE WORD GROWS UNDER THE PULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CHRISTIANS LIVE IN THE POWER OF GOD.

4. WATER- NORMALLY COMES DURING RAIN STORMS OR FROM ROOTS BURIED DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH; EVEN SO CHRISTIANS NEED THE STORMS OF LIFE TO DEVELOP US AND WE FIND STRENGTH IN A DEEP PRIVATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

ARE YOU CHAFF OR WHEAT?? REMEMBER THE CHAFF WILL BURN!!

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE "BAKED" OR "BURIED" FOR THE WORK OF GOD?

WHEN HARVEST DAY COMES WILL YOU BE GATHERED WITH THE WHEAT OR CAST ASIDE WITH THE WEEDS??

# STRIVE

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT SIMPLY FAITH; IT'S ALSO A FIGHT. THE DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION NEEDED TO SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE IS MISSING IN MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY AND AS A RESULT THE DEVIL IS DESTROYING OUR FOUNDATIONS AND OUR FAMILIES. I WANT TO LOOK AT SOME THINGS THE BIBLE COMMANDS US TO "STRIVE" TO DO AND HELP US TO SEE OUR OBLIGATION TO GOD AND HIS WORK.

## THE BIBLE SAYS WE ARE TO STRIVE:

1. To enter the strait Gate LUKE 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. THE WORD "STRIVE" HERE MEANS "TO STRUGGLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING" AND LITERALLY MEANS TO "STRUGGLE AS IN AGONY". THIS INVOLVES DETERMINATION AND A WILLINGNESS TO SUFFER TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING. COMPARE THAT WITH THE AVERAGE CHRISTIAN TODAY WHO IS UNWILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR THE LORD IF IT INVOLVES INCONVENIENCE OR DISCOMFORT. HOW MANY CHRISTIANS "WRESTLE" IN PRAYER, FAST, READ THE BIBLE REGULARLY?

2. For the Mastery (REWARD GIVEN TO THE WINNER) II TIM 2:5 STRIVE [TO CONTENT IN THE GAMES] FOR THE MASTERY (SEE I COR 9:25- And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.)

AMERICAN PRAISE OUR OLYMPIC ATHLETES BUT FEW OF THEM ARE WILLING TO PUT IN THE TIME AND EFFORT OF THE ATHLETE IN ORDER TO BECOME THE "BEST IN THE WORLD". IN SIMILAR FASHION, MOST CHRISTIANS WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING "GREAT" FOR THE LORD BUT ARE UNWILLING TO PUT IN THE NECESSARY TIME AND EFFORT.

3. Against Sin HEB 12:4 YE HAVE NOT YET RESISTED UNTO BLOOD, STRIVING AGAINST SIN. HERE THE WORD MEANS "TO STRUGGLE AGAINST" AND GIVES THE IDEA OF STRUGGLING TO THE POINT OF INJURY. MOST CHRISTIANS SEEM MUCH MORE EAGER TO EMBRACE SIN THAN TO EXPOSE IT. ARE WE STRUGGLING AGAINST SIN OR SNUGLING UP TO IT???

4. As a group- IN PRAYER ROM 15:30 Striving [TO STRUGGLE IN COMPANY WITH] together in prayers. GROUP PRAYERS ARE GREAT!!

FOR FAITH PHIL 1:27 Strive together for the Faith A BODY OF BELIEVERS TEND TO ACT AS "CHECKS AND BALANCES" ON SOMEONE STRAYING FROM THE RIGHT PATH- BUT THERE MUST BE CONCERN.

5. Not about words- II TIM 2:14 Strive not about words to no profit DO WE SIMPLY TALK A GOOD LIFE OR LIVE ONE??

6. In God's Power- COL 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily. DO WE REALIZE THAT ALL OF OUR EFFORTS WILL FAIL APART FROM THE POWER OF GOD?? DO WE CONSEQUENTLY SEEK TO HAVE THAT POWER ON OUR LIVES??

Don't Strive with God- ISAIAH 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What maketh thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? BUT REALIZE THAT GOD WILL NOT ALWAYS STRIVE WITH YOU!! GEN 6:2 My Spirit shall not always strive [TO APPEAR IN COURT] with man



## "To Know and Show Christ"

Vol VI Num 16 348 Lawrence St \* P O Box 1003 \* Los Angeles, S C 29560

September 22, 1988

service in which a


Tisdale into the  
Fellowship of our  
Church. Mrs. Lila has attended our  
Church for many years as an "Honorary"  
member and we are proud to have her  
officially as one of our "Family " now.  
HOME COMING was a tremendous  
SUCCESS and I praise God for all  
the work and cooperation that was  
evident. We enjoyed Brother  
Carlisle's Sermon and the Sabers'  
Singing (Tapes available for  
anyone desiring them) and  
appreciate the large number of  
visitors and former members that  
attended during the day. We were  
especially appreciative of the  
offering received for Brother  
Carlisle's Account-- \$3120  
[ \$266 from Sand Hill FWB  
Church; \$125 from Salem FWB  
Church; \$75 from Camp Branch FWB  
Church; \$60 from St John FWB  
Church; \$125.85 from Lebanon FWB  
Church; \$100 from Gilead FWB  
Church; and \$2368.15 from Grace  
FWB Church. New Town FWB Church  
also contributed but it was sent  
directly to Brother Norwood and I  
do not know the amount]. Thank the  
Lord for these churches joining us  
in this very worthwhile effort.

The LADIES AUXILIARY really "Pulled one" on the Pastor and Paula during their regular meeting Monday. They asked me to attend since they were installing officers but as soon as they concluded with that they went into a special Pastor Appreciation

**GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Bible Study Hour             | 10:00am        |
| Morning Evangelistic Service | 11:00am        |
| (Live over WJOT )            |                |
| Evening Worship Service      | 6:00pm         |
| Wednesday Prayer Service     | 7:30pm         |
| Mircheal Jonas, Pastor       | (803) 394-3725 |

number of the Ladies gave very kind comments centered around various words that describe the Pastor. Also included was a skit by Connie Mathis and Susan Spring about what some members "Might" say about a Pastor (Which "earned" them the right to "Volunteer" to be on the "Family Fun Night" Committee!!!). They concluded the service with a \$25 gift to Paula and I so I could carry her to supper and then served the Pastor's favorite meal, Hot Dogs!. Paula and I thank them for their kindness.


 You're in for a SPECIAL TREAT this Sunday Night. Brother Russel Lowder obtained and, is allowing us to use, a Video entitled "Where Jesus Walked". It shows the Holy Land and allows us to see a semblance of what it must have looked like during the time of Jesus' Ministry. We will view it during our Evening Service . beginning at 6:00pm.

Part of the reason we're able to do this is the purchase of a new VCR for the Outreach Ministry (Plus the Large screen TV that was donated to the Church earlier this year). The Lord kept laying on my heart recently to buy a VCR but I didn't have any desire to do so. I have a number of other things that I felt were more important for the ministry but the Lord would not give me any rest so I went ahead and purchased it.

[Continued on back]

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Now I'm beginning to see some of the possibilities— Increased use of Videos (We are planning a series of Family help videos in our Sunday School soon), recording of our Sunday Morning Service and then the distribution of several Videos of our Services as well as our continued Cassette Ministry (That will allow people to see as well as hear God's Blessings on our Church), and eventually we'll get so used to seeing ourselves on TV until we'll just assume that's where we need to be!!

This is made possible because of Prayers and contributions and I appreciate everyone who has continued to support this ministry of getting as many people as possible to

### **Know and Show**

**Christ** (People like Rev Larry McAlister, Mrs Sylvia Anderson, Wilbur Hicks, Mr and Mrs John D Otnes, and a number of others who have given on a regular basis recently. You don't know how much I value your trust and how hard I try to make sure that I use your contributions wisely and in the Will of the Lord).

Another area of excitement is the



very real probability that we will move the Music Appreciation Class from Tuesday Night to Sunday Night! This will make it a part of our normal Choir Practice and allow many more members of the Choir to take this very valuable training. It was almost unbelievable to see how God worked out the arrangements for this (I keep getting the feeling that God has something VERY special in store for our Choir the way He's been working with them recently). Many of the Choir members could not attend the Tuesday night classes because of other commitments so I asked Brother Tommy Graham if he would consider giving the course for a week (Hoping to get as many as possible to attend 5 nights in a row instead of one night 13 weeks in a row). He suggested that we have it on Sunday Night and I immediately became VERY EXCITED. I did not know that his schedule allows him to be off most Sunday Nights but that will work out so well with us because we normally have Choir practice on Sunday night anyway. I haven't had the opportunity to talk with the Choir about

it yet but I feel sure they will be agreeable and we hope to start Sunday night Oct. 9. (Just a note here for other Pastors. Brother Tommy does an excellent job and has expressed an interest in doing this type of course in other churches as part of his ministry for the Lord. I'll be glad to get you in contact with him if you're interested in having him AFTER he works with our Choir). If you think our choir sounds good on cassette wait until you see them on video with their new song books, new choir chairs, in their new choir loft, with their new organ and P A System; all of which have been added this year. Now if I can just get them to wear choir robes, get enough new people into the Church so that they will have to stay in the choir loft during the sermon, and stay awake! things will really brighten up in our church.



And people ask me why I smile all the time?? Who can help it when every week brings something new and exciting from the Lord. Hope to see you in some of our services soon. May the Lord Bless you as you serve HIM.  
Preacher Mike

**PETER: THE PEBBLE**

WE HAVE COME TO THE LAST OF THE APOSTLES; THE ONE THAT IS ALWAYS LISTED FIRST. WE HAVE DISCOVERED A LITTLE ABOUT EACH OF THE OTHERS AND TRIED TO APPLY THEIR CHARACTER TO REAL LIFE SITUATIONS BUT WE HAVE NOT "LINGERED AT LENGTH" ON ANY OF THEM. WE WILL WITH PETER.

A BRIEF REVIEW AND THEN WE WILL TAKE AN OVERVIEW OF PETER'S LIFE AND MINISTRY. WE BEGAN BY LOOKING AT PETER'S BROTHER ANDREW; THE FIRST DISCIPLE CALLED; THE FIRST HOME MISSIONARY; AND, BY BRINGING THE GREEKS; THE FIRST FOREIGN MISSIONARY AMONG THE DISCIPLES. NEXT WE LOOKED AT THOMAS' DOUBTS (AND SAW SOME OF OUR OWN); THADDEUS' QUESTION ABOUT JESUS' PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION; HOW CHRIST BROUGHT A "WHITE COLLAR WORKER" INTO THE GROUP IN CALLING MATTHEW; THE FACT THAT JESUS APPROVED OF THE "GUILTELESS" LIFESTYLE OF NATHANAEL; UNCOVERED TWO "UNKNOWN DISCIPLES"; JAMES OF ALPHEUS AND SIMON THE ZEALOT; LOOKED AT THE PRIDE OF JAMES; DISCOVERED WHY JOHN WAS THE BELOVED; DETERMINED TO BE WITNESSES LIKE PHILIP; AND SORROWED OVER THE BETRAYAL OF JUDAS. NOW WE WANT TO LOOK AT "PETER; THE LITTLE ROCK" AND, BY GAINING SOME INSIGHT INTO HIS MINISTRY; LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW WE CAN SERVE GOD AND BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

LET ME QUOTE A PARAGRAPH FROM ALEXANDER WHYTE'S BOOK OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTERS ABOUT PETER- "THE FOUR GOSPELS ARE FULL OF PETER. AFTER THE NAME OF OUR LORD HIMSELF, NO NAME COMES UP SO OFTEN IN THE 4 GOSPELS AS PETER'S. NO DISCIPLE SPEAKS SO OFTEN AND SO MUCH AS PETER. OUR LORD SPEAKS OFTENER TO PETER THAN TO ANY OTHER OF HIS DISCIPLES; SOMETIMES IN BLAME AND SOMETIMES IN PRAISE. NO DISCIPLE IS SO POINTEDLY REPROVED BY OUR LORD AS PETER; AND NO DISCIPLES EVER VENTURES TO REPROVE HIS MASTER BUT PETER. NO DISCIPLE EVER SO BOLDLY CONFESSED AND OUTSPOKENLY ACKNOWLEDGED AND ENCOURAGED OUR LORD AS PETER REPEATEDLY DID; AND NO ONE EVER INTRUDED, AND INTERFERED, AND TEMPTED HIM AS PETER REPEATEDLY DID. HIS MASTER SPOKE WORDS OF APPROVAL, AND PRAISE, AND EVEN BLESSING TO PETER THE LIKE OF WHICH HE NEVER SPOKE TO ANY OTHER MAN. AND AT THE SAME TIME, AND ALMOST IN THE SAME BREATH, HE SAID HARDER THINGS TO PETER THAN HE EVER SAID TO ANY OTHER OF HIS DISCIPLES, UNLESS IT WAS PERHAPS TO JUDAS."

NO OTHER DISCIPLE SPAKE AS OFTEN AND AS CONTRADICTIONARY AT PETER: "DEPART FROM ME, FOR I AM A SINFUL MAN; O LORD/ LO, WE HAVE LEFT ALL AND FOLLOWED THEE; WHAT SHALL WE HAVE THEREFORE?. LORD, IF IT BE THOU, BID ME COME UNTO THEE ON THE WATER/ LORD, SAVE ME!. THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD/ BE IT FAR FROM THEE, LORD; THIS SHALL NEVER BE TO THEE. THOU SHALT NEVER WASH MY FEET/ NOT MY FEET ONLY, BUT ALSO MY HANDS AND MY HEAD. THOUGH ALL MEN DENY THEE, YET WILL NOT I/ I KNOW NOT THE MAN!." HE ASKED HOW OFTEN HE HAD TO FORGIVE HIS BROTHER AND LATER WEPT AS JESUS ASKED HIM, "DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?". HE SLEPT WHILE JESUS WAS CONVERSING WITH MOSES AND ELISA ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION BUT THEN WANTED TO BUILD 3 TABERNACLES FOR THEM AND REMAIN ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.

ALMOST LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA, WE SEE PETER TIME AFTER TIME RISE TO SPLENDID HEIGHTS ONLY TO COME CRASHING DOWN AGAIN. IN IT'S "BIRTHING STAGE" THE CHURCH NEEDED A MAN WITH THE EMOTION AND ENTHUSIASM OF PETER; THAT'S WHY CHRIST GAVE HIM THE "KEYS OF THE KINGDOM". LATER THE CHURCH WOULD NEED STABILITY AND DIRECTION AND GOD HAD PAUL "WAITING IN THE WINGS", BUT IN IT'S INFANCY PETER IS THE "PEBBLE" THAT GOD WOULD USE TO "CRACK THE EGG" AND ALLOW THE CHURCH TO SPRING FORTH INTO LIFE. ISN'T IT WONDERFUL HOW GOD USES DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND PERSONALITIES TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK!

## I. HIS BACKGROUND

BORN IN BETHSAIDA, HE LATER MOVED TO CAPERNAUM WHERE HE WAS A FISHERMAN, PARTNERED WITH JAMES AND JOHN (LUKE 5:10). HE WAS MARRIED (MATT 8:14) AND POSSIBLY CARRIED HIS WIFE WITH HIM AS HE TRAVELED (1 COR 9:5).

HIS NAME WAS ORIGINALLY SIMON BUT JESUS CHANGED IT TO CEPHAS (PETER IN GREEK- THE PEBBLE, LITTLE ROCK) SIGNIFYING HIS RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST, THE ROCK. THIS WAS NOT A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HE WAS BUT WHAT HE COULD BECOME IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. HE WAS A MAN OF ACTION AND ENERGY, A NATURAL LEADER; AND YET IMPULSIVE, RASH, HASTY, AND APT TO ACT WITHOUT THINKING. YET GIVEN THE TIME TO CONSIDER SOMETHING HE SEEMED TO GAIN AN INSIGHT ABOVE THE OTHER DISCIPLES (HIS CONFESSION OF CHRIST AS SAVIOUR...).

I THINK ALL OF US CAN SEE OURSELVES IN THE CHARACTER OF PETER; MOMENTS OF FAITH FOLLOWED BY MOMENTS OF FAILURES; WE TRY TO BE A ROCK BUT WE FEEL LIKE SHIFTING SAND. LIKE PETER, WE WANT TO WALK ON WATER BUT WE WILT IN STORMY SEAS [SOME TEACH A GREAT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON UNTIL IT'S THEIR CHILD THAT'S SICK]; WE CALL CHRIST, CHRIST BUT REBUKE HIM FOR DOING GOD'S WILL IN GOING TO THE CROSS [WE WORSHIP HIM ON SUNDAY MORNING BUT CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S BUILDING PATIENCE WITH A TRAFFIC JAM ON MONDAY MORNING]; WE CUT OFF THE SERVANT'S EAR TO DEFEND CHRIST AND END UP DENYING HIM IN THE COURTYARD [IT'S EASY TO BE A "SOLDIER OF THE CROSS" IN CHURCH BUT HARDER WHEN EVERYONE AT WORK OR IN CLASS IS LAUGHING AT RELIGIOUS FANATICS].

## II. HIS BEGINNING- LUKE 5:1-11 JOHN 1:40-42

A) His Need- HE HAD TO BE BROUGHT TO THE PLACE THAT HE WOULD KNEEL AT THE FEET OF JESUS AND PROCLAIM, "I AM A SINFUL MAN, O LORD." IN HIS CASE, JESUS USED PREACHING AND THEN A MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH TO CONVICT PETER; IN MANY PEOPLE'S SITUATION HE MUST USE DEATH, DISASTER, OR SOME MAJOR DISTURBANCE (FAMILY TROUBLES, JOB LOSS, SICKNESS, ETC) TO BRING PEOPLE TO A REALIZATION OF THEIR NEED. AS LONG AS PEOPLE ARE "COMFORTABLE IN THEIR SIN" THEN THEY WILL EASE THEIR WAY INTO HELL. GOD HAS TO "GET THEIR ATTENTION" BEFORE HE CAN HELP THEM.

B) His Name Change- THE GREATNESS OF THE GOSPEL IS THAT IT DOES NOT JUST SHOW YOU YOUR NEED BUT GIVES YOU A WAY OUT AND A WAY UP. JESUS KNEW WHAT PETER WAS, AND ALSO WHAT HE COULD BECOME SO HE CHANGED HIS NAME FROM SIMON (THE LISTENER) TO PETER (THE ROCK). IN THE SAME WAY WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES INTO OUR LIFE AND WE BECOME NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST; OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY, BEHOLD ALL THINGS BECOME NEW.

THERE'S MORE!! JESUS ALSO GAVE HIM A DIRECTION AND PURPOSE IN LIFE, "FROM HENCEFORTH THOU SHALT CATCH MEN". GOD CHANGED THIS FISHERMAN TO A FISHER OF MEN; HIS LIFE STILL HAD SOME "UPS AND DOWNS" BUT NOW ALWAYS GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

SO PETER, THE "PEBBLE", IS NOW GOING TO BE MOLDED INTO A MAN GOD CAN USE. IT WILL TAKE MANY TWISTS OF THE MASTER'S HAND UNTIL THE VESSEL IS WHAT GOD WANTS BUT THE PROCESS HAS BEGUN-- HAS IT BEGUN IN YOUR LIFE??? ARE YOU TRYING TO DO THE BEST YOU CAN OR IS GOD'S TRANSFORMING POWER AT WORK IN YOUR LIFE??

## PETER: CONFESSION AND CONFUSION

MARK 8:27-38

NO STUDY OF PETER WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A CLOSE LOOK AT ONE OF THE PIVOTAL POINTS IN HIS MINISTRY--AND IN THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST. CHRIST WAS COMING TO THE END OF HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY; SOON HE WOULD TURN SOUTHWARD FROM HIS MINISTRY IN GALILEE AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS AND JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM AND THE CROSS. HE HAD BEEN TEACHING THE PEOPLE, AND THE DISCIPLES, WITH SERMONS AND SIGNS BUT HE HAD NOW COME TO THE TIME OF "FINAL EXAMS". HE WANTED TO KNOW IF THE DISCIPLES REALLY UNDERSTOOD THE THINGS HE WAS TELLING THEM.

THE "FINALS" BEGAN WITH A LITTLE "POP QUIZ" AS THE PHARISEES CAME TO JESUS AND DEMANDED A SPECIFIC "SIGN" THAT WOULD SATISFY THEM AS TO THE FACT THAT JESUS WAS IN FACT THE MESSIAH. JESUS REFUSED TO GIVE IN TO THEIR DEMANDS AND THEN TOLD THE DISCIPLES PRIVATELY TO BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN (YEAST) OF THE PHARISEES. SADLY, THE DISCIPLES FAILED THIS FIRST PART OF THE QUIZ AS THEY IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT JESUS WAS REPRIMANDING THEM FOR FAILING TO BRING PHYSICAL BREAD INSTEAD OF WARNING THEM ABOUT THE DESTRUCTIVE DOCTRINE OF THE PHARISEES (THE PHARISEES WERE MORE INTERESTED IN AN OUTWARD SHOW THAT IN THE INNER HEART! LIKE PEOPLE TODAY WHO WOULD NEVER ATTEND CHURCH IN DIRTY CLOTHES BUT NEVER CLEAN THEIR HEART AND HEAD OF IT'S FILTH!).

NEXT CAME A STRANGE LITTLE INCIDENT IN WHICH JESUS REFUSED TO HEAL A BLIND MAN IN THE TOWN OF BETHSAIDA AND THEN ORDERED HIM NOT TO GO BACK INTO THE TOWN AFTER HE WAS HEALED. THE SYMBOLISM IS OBVIOUS TO US, BUT I WONDER IF IT WAS TO THE DISCIPLES! JESUS IS SHOWING THAT THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO REJECT HIM NOT ONLY WILL NOT SEE HIS MIRACLES BUT ALSO WILL NOT EVEN RECEIVE HIS MESSAGE OF HOPE!! (SEE MATT 11:20-24 AND MARK 6:5-6).

NOW THE "FINALS" ARE BEFORE US. WHILE WALKING ALONG THE WAY, JESUS SUDDENLY INTERJECTS INTO THE CONVERSATION AN UNUSUAL QUESTION, "WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I AM?". I CAN ALMOST SEE THE DISCIPLES LOOK AT EACH OTHER AS THEY PRODUCE DIFFERENT ANSWERS- SOME SAY YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT AND ENERGY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST; SOME SAY YOU SHOW THE MIRACLES OF ELIJAH (THE FORERUNNER OF THE MESSIAH); SOME SAY YOU ARE JUST ANOTHER IN THE LONG LINE OF PROPHETS.... AND THEN THE "BIGGIE", "WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?".

PETER'S ANSWER IS: (SEE MATT 16:13-19)

A) Immediate- "THOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.". THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECLARATION THAT ANY MAN CAN EVER MAKE! AND EVERY MAN WILL MAKE IT SOME DAY (PHIL 2:10-11).

B) Spirit-Inspired- "FLESH AND BLOOD HATH NOT REVEALED THIS UNTO THEE, BUT MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.". PETER HAD TO LEARN THAT IT WAS NOT HIS "SMARTNESS" OR SUPERIORITY THAT "PASSED THIS TEST" BUT HIS LISTENING TO GOD. SINNERS TODAY MUST REALIZE THAT THEY DO NOT CALL GOD UNTIL GOD FIRST CALLS THEM; THAT THEY CAN'T COME ON THEIR TIME AND THEIR WAY BUT THEY MUST COME ON GOD'S TIME AND GOD'S WAY.

C) Blessed- PETER WAS GIVEN THE "KEYS OF THE KINGDOM" TO OPEN THE GOSPEL DOOR TO THE JEWS FIRST AND THEN TO THE GENTILES. THIS IS THE FIRST PLACE THAT THE "CHURCH" IS MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND PETER'S CONFESSION OF CHRIST AS THE MESSIAH IS THE ROCK UPON WHICH THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE CHURCH WILL BE BUILT (SEE I COR 3:11 & EPH 2:20).

THIS INESCAPABLE QUESTION IS BEING ASKED EVERYONE TODAY, "WHO DO YOU SAY CHRIST IS???". GIVE AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER AS YOU LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT AND RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF BECOMING A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST TODAY.

NOW COMES THE CONFUSION!! THE "A" PART OF THE TEST WAS ABOUT CHRIST BUT THE "B" PART IS ABOUT THE CROSS AND MANY FAIL HERE.

INSTEAD OF TELLING THE DISCIPLES TO "SHOUT IT FROM THE ROOFTOPS" THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH, CHRIST ORDERS THEM TO KEEP QUIET. HOW STRANGE THIS MUST HAVE SEEMED TO THEM. THE REASON HE DID THIS WAS BECAUSE THE DISCIPLES AND THE PEOPLE THOUGHT OF MESSIAH AS A PHYSICAL KING WHO WOULD ESTABLISH A PHYSICAL KINGDOM IN ISRAEL INSTEAD OF A SUFFERING SAVIOUR THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM IN MEN'S HEARTS (HOW LIKE TODAY WHEN MEN ONLY WANT TO HEAR PREACHING THAT WILL TELL THEM HOW TO NEVER BE SICK, POOR, OR HAVE ANY PROBLEMS!). BLESSED IS THE CHRISTIAN WHO KNOWS WHEN TO GIVE A Living Testimony AND WHEN TO GIVE A Lip Testimony (IF THOSE YOUNG "STREET PREACHING BOYS" WOULD SHOW AS MUCH ZEAL FOR SHOWING CHRIST AS THEY DO FOR SHOWING OFF THEN THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO WIN THEIR CLASSMATES. SOME PEOPLE WANT TO BE WITNESSES AT WORK BUT THEY'D BE MUCH BETTER WITNESSES IF THEY'D WORK!).

THEN CHRIST BEGAN TO TEACH PUBLICLY WHAT HE HAD BEEN SAYING PRIVATELY, THAT HE MUST SUFFER AND DIE AND BE RESURRECTED. FINALLY PETER TOOK HIM (THE IDEA IS THAT HE GRABBED HIM AND LED HIM AWAY FROM THE CROWD IN ORDER TO SET HIM STRAIGHT!) AND BEGAN TO REBUKE HIM. JESUS MUST HAVE LISTENED FOR A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE HE TURNED TO THE OTHER DISCIPLES (WHO WERE PROBABLY MILLING AROUND IN EMBARRASSMENT) AND CALLED THIS MAN, TO WHOM HE HAD JUST HANDED THE "KEYS TO THE KINGDOM", SATAN AND REBUKED HIM FOR DESIRING MAN'S WAYS ABOVE GOD'S WAYS. WHEN PETER TOOK A "TEST" HE EITHER PASSED IT WITH FLYING COLORS OR FAILED IT THE SAME WAY!!

THEN JESUS GAVE THE DISCIPLES HIS DEFINITION OF COMMITMENT; SOMETHING THAT WENT FAR BEYOND CONFESSION OF CHRIST AS MESSIAH WITH YOUR LIPS TO THE PLACE OF BEARING A CROSS IN YOUR LIFE. IN THIS DAY OF "CHEAP EASY BELIEVISM" IN WHICH EVERYONE BELIEVES THERE WAS A "CHRIST" AND HE HAS MERIT IN THEIR LIFE, WE NEED DESPERATELY TO HEAR AGAIN THE REBUKE AND REQUIREMENTS OF CHRIST TO HIS DISCIPLES.

1. Self Denial- "IF ANY MAN COME AFTER ME LET HIM DENY HIMSELF". CHRIST DOES NOT CALL US TO "FIND" OURSELVES BUT TO DENY OURSELVES!! HE DOES NOT CALL US TO USE THE POWER OF GOD TO SERVE SELF BUT RATHER TO DENY SELF-- AND IF YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S DIFFICULT, TRY DIETING OR A REGULAR PROGRAM OF EXERCISE. TRY SEEKING TO SERVE INSTEAD OF BEING SERVED!

HOW MANY CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE THAT?? HOW MANY PEOPLE THINK THE CHURCH AND CHRIST ARE TO MAKE THEM HAPPY INSTEAD OF HOLY; TO GIVE THEM THINGS INSTEAD OF TRUTHS. BUT IF YOU THINK DENIAL "CULLS THE CHRISTIANS" WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT "DEATH" DOES!

2. Submitting to Death- "TAKE UP HIS CROSS...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.". GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE ON EARTH INVOLVES A CROSS INSTEAD OF A CROWN; MORE OFTEN BRINGS JEERS INSTEAD OF CHEERS-- BUT TURNS OUT SONS INSTEAD OF SERVANTS! THANK GOD HE LOVED US ENOUGH TO MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS NECESSARY FOR US TO HAVE REAL LIFE; NOT THE "PALE-GRAY" IMITATION EVERYONE IS SEEKING. (NOT LONG AFTER THIS JESUS TAKES PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN UP ON A MOUNTAIN AND IS TRANSFIGURED BEFORE THEM. IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WANTS TO GIVE PETER A REAL LIFE EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEEKING MAN'S WAY AND GOING GOD'S WAY).

WHO DO YOU SAY CHRIST IS?? IF YOU SAY HE IS GOD THEN YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUBMIT TO HIS WILL, REGARDLESS OF WHAT IT IS!! BUT REST ASSURED IT WILL NEVER BE WRONG; BECAUSE HE IS GOD!!



# **BRIDE** AND **GROOM** "To Know and Show Christ"

## **Grace Free Will Baptist Church**

Bible Study Hour 10:00am  
Morning Evangelistic Service 11:00am  
(Live over WJOT)  
Evening Worship Service 6:00pm  
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm  
Mircheal Jones, Pastor (803) 894-8725

Vol VI Num 19 348 Lawrence St \* P O Box 1003 \* Lake City, S C 29560



Cool, Crisp

October days have arrived. Nice to get a little relief from the heat before "Indian Summer" sets in. Then we'll be into winter with it's colds, viruses, and flu; and everyone locked up trying to stay warm. These change of seasons show us how God likes variety as He gives us a time and season for everything. Isn't it great that God is not "dull and dreary" but continually has something different and delightful for His people.

### **OCTOBER ACTIVITIES:**

**Oct 5:** Quarterly Church Conference. The main item of business was the decision by the *Thank you!* Church to begin giving a \$10 a week honorarium to Mrs Jackie Lowder and Mrs Anne Thigpen for their service to the Church each week in playing our Piano and Organ (We don't collect enough to give them what they're worth!).

We also designated Sunday, Dec 18 as time for our annual "White Christmas" Offering (We don't exchange gifts at the Church. We try to give something extra to the Lord to advance His work). Our Christmas Play will be Wednesday, Dec 21 and we will have a service on Christmas Morning (Time to be announced).

**Oct 7:** South Carolina Quarterly Conference at Jefferson Road FWB Church in Sumter.

**Oct 9:** Music Classes begin with

\*\*\*\*\*  
Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
P O Box 1003  
Lake City, S C 29560

October 6, 1988

Brother Tommy Graham.

They'll be conducted each Sunday Night from 5:30-6:30pm and everyone who has an interest in Music is urged to attend.



**Oct 10:** Ladies Auxiliary meeting

**Oct 26:** Family Fun Night. Games and Fun for everyone as we show that you don't have to "act like the devil" to enjoy Halloween time. Each family will be asked to bring a bag of candy and the church will supply Hot Dogs. Brother Damon Runion will give a special performance, games will be provided for everyone, and, of course, we will have a devotion before the fellowship meal (Everyone is invited to wear a costume if they desire but remember we are trying to promote good and not evil).

**Oct 30:** Time Change. Everyone ought to be on time for Sunday School and Preaching

**Oct 25-31** Pastor will be visiting first at Shiloh FWB Church in Bratt, Florida (Wednesday Oct 26) and then will preach Home Coming at Beech Springs FWB Church in Saltillo, Mississippi on Sunday, Oct 30. Looking forward to seeing friends we haven't seen in a long time.

October is a good month for you to be faithful to the Lord and His work- Hope to see you Sunday.  
Preacher Mike

### **ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?**

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# GOD'S GOALS

MANY PEOPLE TODAY SEEM LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT GOD WANTS WITH THEM. THEIR MAIN CONCERN SEEMS TO BE THAT GOD MEETS THEIR EVERY WHIM AND MAKES SURE THEY STAY HEALTHY, WEALTHY, AND HAPPY. GOD HAS BEEN TURNED FROM THE SOVEREIGN TO A SERVANT AND AS SUCH MEN SEEK TO CONTROL HIM INSTEAD OF OBEY HIM.

ONE OF THE REASONS MEN ARE MISUSING GOD IS THAT THEY ARE "MISTY" ABOUT WHAT GOD'S GOALS REALLY ARE. I THINK IT'S TIME WE RE-EXAMINED GOD'S GOALS FOR:

1. **HIS PEOPLE**- That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him EPH 1:10. GOD DESIRES TO UNITE THE BODY OF CHRIST WITH THE "HEAD" AND THE BRIDE OF CHRIST WITH HER "GROOM". OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO GIVE HIM OUR SERVICE AND OUR LOVE. THE ENEMY TRIES TO DEFEAT GOD'S GOAL BY GETTING US TO USE OUR TIME AND TALENTS FOR THE WORLD, THE FLESH, OR THE DEVIL; OR BY "STEALING" OUR LOVE WITH THE LURE AND LUST OF THE WORLD.

DO YOU REALIZE YOU WERE SAVED TO SERVE GOD; OR DO YOU THINK GOD HAD TO SAVE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE "SPECIAL" AND MUST BE SATISFIED??

2. **OUR PERSONALITY**- For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren ROM 8:29. GOD'S GOAL FOR OUR SIN-WARPED NATURES IS THAT WE BECOME PLEASING TO HIM AS DEMONSTRATED BY HIS SON JESUS. THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT INDWELLS US CHANGES THE WORKS OF THE FLESH INTO THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT AS WE YIELD OURSELVES TO HIM SO WE CAN SAY WITH PAUL, 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 (GAL 2:20).

DO YOU PRAY FOR GOD TO GIVE YOU A LIFE OF EASE; OR DO YOU ASK HIM TO USE WHATEVER PRESSURE IS NECESSARY TO MAKE YOU LIKE JESUS???

3. **PREACHING**- Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: COL 1:28. GOD'S GOAL IN OUR PREACHING AND TEACHING IS THAT EVERY MAN MAY BECOME "MATURE" (THAT'S WHAT "PERFECT" MEANS IN GREEK) IN CHRIST. FAR FAR TOO MANY PREACHERS AND TEACHERS SIMPLY WANT TO "GET THROUGH" THEIR HOUR IN SUCH A WAY AS TO RECEIVE A PAT ON THE BACK WHEN THEY CONCLUDE. THEY ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOAL OF "GETTING THROUGH" THE HOUR BUT THEY FAIL MISERABLY IN ACCOMPLISHING GOD'S GOAL OF MATURING BABY CHRISTIANS INTO MATURE SONS OF GOD (AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE LARGE AMOUNT OF "FIGHTING, FEUDING, AND FUSSING" AMONG CHURCH MEMBERS). THIS SORT OF PREACHING AND TEACHING INVOLVES:

A) Evangelism- Showing a lost world the folly of Sin and the need of Faith in Christ. You can't mature a "dead" person!! They must be Born Again first. Let's stop trying to make well dressed, well behaved corpses!! Get them Saved first.

B) Education- Teaching new baby Christians how to Grow in Christ while at the same time showing them the "Doctrines of Devils" to avoid (These are "Foods" to eat and these are things to avoid). Multitudes of people attend Sunday School and Church week after week and yet live on the world's "Junk food" so that they are so spiritual anemic they never have the strength to do anything for God.

C) Edification- Comforting those who mourn, giving Hope to those who are depressed, Warning those who are growing Lukewarm. Building up the Body of Christ so that it's more than a "Mind"; it's a living working organism.

Whose Goals are you trying to accomplish? Yours or God's???

## A SALVATION WORTH SUFFERING FOR

I PETER 1:1-9

FIRST PETER WAS WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PETER AROUND 64-68 AD PRIMARILY TO THE JEWISH CHRISTIANS SCATTERED (DISPERSED) THROUGHOUT ASIA MINOR. THE MAJOR PERSECUTIONS OF NERO HAD JUST BEGUN AS A RESULT OF THE BURNING OF ROME IN THE FALL OF 64AD. PAUL WAS RELEASED IN THE SPRING OF 64AD AND JOURNEYED TO SPAIN. PETER FELT IMPRESSED TO WRITE TO PEOPLE PAUL WOULD NORMALLY HAVE WRITTEN TO AND ENCOURAGE THEM DURING THIS TIME OF GREAT TESTING (SHOWING THE CLOSENESS BETWEEN PAUL AND PETER'S THINKING).

THE CONSTANT AND SUPREME PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO GLORIFY GOD IN ALL THINGS- AS SUBJECTS, AS EMPLOYEES, AS WIVES, AS HUSBANDS, IN OUR SOCIAL CONTACTS, IN SUFFERING, IN OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS. ALL OF THESE AREAS ARE COVERED IN I PETER BUT NONE ALLOW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHOWING A LOST WORLD OUR FAITH AND FAITHFULNESS LIKE OUR CONSTANT CHRISTIANITY DURING SUFFERING.

[THE 8 "HEBREW CHRISTIAN" LETTERS DEAL WITH 2 BASIC TESTINGS FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN- SUFFERING AND FALSE DOCTRINE. HEBREWS, JAMES, AND I PETER DEAL WITH HELP FOR SUFFERING SAINTS. II PETER; I, II, AND III JOHN; AND JUDE DEAL WITH FALSE DOCTRINE IN THE CHURCH. HEBREWS SHOWS PEOPLE THAT FAITH IS THE NECESSARY "ROOT" DURING SUFFERING. JAMES POINTS TO THE NEED OF THE "FRUIT" OF WORKS DURING SUFFERING. I PETER SHOWS THAT HOPE IS THE "SAP" THAT CARRIES US THROUGH THE SUFFERINGS].

I PETER SHOWS US THAT SUFFERING HAS A PURPOSE 1:6-7; 2:19-20; 3:14; 4:14 ; IS TO BE EXPECTED 4:12; IS NOT TO BE DREADED 3:14; IS TO BE BORNE PATIENTLY 2:23; 3:9; IS TO BE REJOICED IN 4:13; AND IS IN THE LORD'S WILL 4:19- AS SHOWN BY THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST 1:11; 2:21, 4:1-2, 5:1. BUT IF SUFFERING IS TO BE "ENJOYED" AND NOT JUST ENDURED WE MUST SEE IT'S GOOD AND IT'S GOAL AS WELL AS REALIZE IT'S REASONS.

PETER BEGINS HIS LETTER BY SHOWING A CORRELATION BETWEEN SALVATION AND SUFFERING IN ORDER FOR HIS READERS TO SEE THAT SALVATION IS WORTH SOME SUFFERING. PETER KNOWS THAT THE ONLY THING THAT CAN KEEP SUFFERING FROM DEFEATING US IS A STEADFAST HOPE IN GOD. SO HE GIVES US A THREE-FOLD LOOK AT THE HOPE THAT IS OURS AS CHRISTIANS AND AS SUCH SHOWS US A SALVATION WORTH SUFFERING FOR.

1) A LIVING HOPE 1:1-4

A) BECAUSE OF OUR REDEMPTION. WE WERE:

1. Chosen by the Father- Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. GOD KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING WHO WOULD ACCEPT HIS WONDERFUL SALVATION AND HE CHOSE THOSE TO BE THE BODY AND BRIDE OF CHRIST. HIS KNOWLEDGE DOES NOT CAUSE MEN TO ACCEPT OR DENY HIM; IT IS SIMPLY PART OF HIS OMNISCIENCE (ALL KNOWLEDGE), BUT ISN'T IT WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT GOD PLANNED FOR US EVEN BEFORE HE PARDONED US.

WHEN SATAN SAYS GOD DOESN'T CARE ABOUT US WHEN WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING WE REST IN THE FACT THAT GOD LOVED US ENOUGH TO CHOSE US FOR HIS OWN.

2. Set apart by the Spirit- SANCTIFICATION SIMPLY MEANS TO BE SET APART ESPECIALLY FOR GOD (THE REASON A CHURCH IS A CHURCH INSTEAD OF A "BEER HALL" IS THAT IT IS SET APART FOR GOD). WE ARE SET APART BECAUSE WE BECOME THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (I COR 6:19). WHAT A COMFORT IN SUFFERING TO KNOW THAT GOD IS NOT ONLY LOOKING OUT FOR US BUT ALSO FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT DWELLS IN US.

3. Cleansed by the Son- HE LIVED THE PERFECT LIFE AND THEN PAID THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS WITH HIS SHED BLOOD. DO YOU THINK GOD CARED THAT MUCH FOR US BEFORE OUR SALVATION AND THEN WOULD ABANDON US AFTER WE ARE SAVED???

8) BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION. YOU CAN'T HEAD US OFF IF YOU CUT OFF OUR HEAD!! CHRIST HAS DEFEATED DEATH AND NOW WE ARE NO LONGER SERVANTS TO FEAR (HEB 2:15 *And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*).

## II) A LASTING HOPE-

A) Because of the Permanence of our Inheritance. THIS INHERITANCE IS  
INCORRUPTIBLE- FLAWLESS  
UNDEFILED- FAULTLESS  
UNFADABLE- FADELESS  
RESERVED IN HEAVEN

B) Because of the Power of God. BASED ON THE POWER OF GOD (AS THOUGH SURROUNDED BY A MILITARY GUARD TO MAINTAIN SECURITY). NOT ETERNAL SECURITY BUT ETERNAL ASSURANCE! WE CAN LEAVE GOD BUT HE WILL NEVER LEAVE US. WHAT A MARVELOUS FACT! OUR INHERITANCE IS SECURE AND OUR GOD IS STRONG; ISN'T THAT WORTH SUFFERING FOR???

III) A TESTED HOPE- (A FAITH THAT CANNOT BE TESTED CANNOT BE TRUSTED!) THERE ARE NUMEROUS THINGS THAT TEST OUR HOPE: *ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations*

A) THE "FREEDOM" WE THINK THE WICKED ENJOY.

B) THE FINANCES THE WEALTHY ACCUMULATE NOW.

C) THE "WRONGS" THAT LIFE SENDS OUR WAY.

1. The Goal of this Testing. THIS SAVING FAITH IS PUT THROUGH THE TRIAL OF SUFFERING THAT IT MIGHT BE FOUND UNTO PRAISE AND HONOR AND GLORY WHEN JESUS APPEARS. THE THREE THINGS THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN DESIRES TO DO FOR GOD ARE DONE IN RIGHTEOUS SUFFERING- WE GIVE HIM PRAISE, HONOR, AND GLORY!

2. The Good of this Testing. THIS SAVING FAITH GIVES US UNSPEAKABLE JOY AND COMPLETE GLORY AND WILL ONE DAY BE BROUGHT TO A WONDERFUL CONCLUSION. JUST AS CHASTENING SHOWS THAT WE ARE TRUE SONS OF GOD (HEB 12:8) SO SUFFERING SHOWS US GOD'S DESIRE TO MATURE US AND AS SUCH SHOULD GIVE US UNSPEAKABLE JOY (BY KNOWING THAT GOD WANTS US TO GROW TO THE PLACE THAT HE CAN GIVE US GREATER FREEDOM- WITH RIGHTS COME RESPONSIBILITIES BUT WHEN WE HANDLE THE RESPONSIBILITIES WE GET MORE RIGHTS).

GOD TOLD HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE, "I HAVE TRIED THEE IN THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION" BUT LOOK WHAT ELSE HE SAID- IS 43:2 *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.* PSALM 66:10-12 *For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our reins. Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads: we went through fire and through water; but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.*

GOD'S AIM IN SUFFERING IS THAT THE BELIEVER'S FAITH MAY BE PROVED GENUINE; THAT THIS GENUINE FAITH MAY RESULT IN "PRAISE, HONOR, AND GLORY" TO CHRIST AT HIS SECOND COMING; AND THAT THE BELIEVER MAY SEE THE REAL VALUE OF HIS FAITH "MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD" IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT GROW IN LOVE FOR CHRIST AND HAVE "EXUBERANT JOY" IN THIS FAITH. THEN NO MATTER WHAT SUFFERING COMES OUR WAY WE KNOW IT'S WORTH IT FOR THE GREAT SALVATION WE HAVE.

## FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

I PETER 2:19-26

ONE OF THE GREATEST AND MOST POPULAR OF THE BOOKS OF CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IS "IN HIS STEPS" BY CHARLES SHELDON. IN THIS BOOK A PASTOR CHALLENGES HIS PEOPLE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS OF JESUS BY ALWAYS ASKING "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?". THE DIFFERENCES IN PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS ARE PROFOUND AND THERE IS A GREAT LESSON FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN TO LEARN BUT THIS IS NOT THE MEANING THAT PETER IS REFERRING TO IN TODAY'S SCRIPTURE (ALTHOUGH MOST CHRISTIANS AND PASTORS USE IT THAT WAY MOST OF THE TIME). PETER IS REFERRING TO FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE IN SUFFERING; AND THAT IS SOMETHING THAT MOST CHRISTIANS DON'T WANT ANY PART OF (EVEN THOUGH PAUL PRAYED FOR JUST SUCH A PRIVILEGE- PHIL 3:10).

IT IS EASY ENOUGH FOR PETER TO TELL US THE VALUE AND VIRTUE OF SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ACTUAL LIVING??? IS THIS SOME FANCY THEORY HATCHED IN AN "IVORY TOWER" SOMEWHERE OR IS IT SOMETHING THAT REALLY WORKS IN THE REAL WORLD?? PETER GIVES US AN EXHORTATION AND THEN AN EXAMPLE TODAY.

AT FIRST MOST CHRISTIANS WILL LOOK AT ME IN DISMAY AND SAY, "I DON'T NEED, OR WANT TO HEAR ABOUT, MORE SUFFERING. I HAVE ENOUGH OF THAT AS IT IS!". AND IT'S TRUE THAT MOST OF OUR LIVES HAVE ENOUGH HARDSHIPS AND HEARTACHES RIGHT NOW; MY POINT TODAY, HOWEVER, IS THAT MANY OF THESE Problems are of our own making INSTEAD OF BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. THIS IS A MAJOR WEAKNESS OF TODAY'S CHRISTIANITY; IT IS BUILT ON SUCCESS INSTEAD OF SUFFERING! (MOST CHRISTIANS ARE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN BEING ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD RATHER THAN BEING EXAMPLES TO THE WORLD). THIS ATTITUDE LEADS TO COMPROMISE AND COMPLAIN INSTEAD OF COMMITTED LIVES. SO LET'S LOOK AT SOME REASONS FOR SUFFERING, SEE WHAT OUR REACTION TO SUFFERING SHOULD BE, AND THEN REVIEW THE EXAMPLE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF CHRIST.

1. THE REASON FOR SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN- 2 REASONS ARE GIVEN BY PETER FOR SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN (THIS IS NOT NATURAL SUFFERING SUCH AS A HEADACHE OR SICKNESS; OR SUFFERING FOR DOING WRONG- "WHAT GLORY IS IT WHEN YOU BE BUFFETED FOR YOUR FAULTS"?; BUT SUFFERING THAT COMES AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE WORLD'S ANGER OVER YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD):

1. Your Conscience- "FOR CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD". YOU BELIEVE SOME THINGS ARE WRONG OR RIGHT SO MUCH UNTIL YOU SUFFER TO OPPOSE OR SUPPORT THEM. (FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE TODAY SEEM TO HAVE A "SEARED CONSCIENCE" (I TIM 4:2) AND THINK ANYTHING GOES

2. Christ's Example- "CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE". (EXAMPLE HERE IS A WORD USED TO DESCRIBE TRACING LETTERS WRITTEN BY A SCHOOL TEACHER IN ORDER TO LEARN TO DO IT CORRECTLY). THE TYPE OF SUFFERING REFERRED TO: ENDURE GRIEF; SUFFERING WRONGFULLY

SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE IS A NATURAL RESULT OF THE CHRISTIAN COMING IN CONTACT WITH AN UNBELIEVING WORLD. THIS IS BECAUSE THE CHRISTIAN IRRITATES BY HIS NATURAL CHARACTER OF BEING:

1. SALT- MATT 5:13 (WE "RUB" IN THE WOUND OF SIN). SALT ADDS FLAVOR AND THE WORLD ONLY WANTS FLAVOR ADDED BY THE "ONIONS OF EGYPT".

2. LIGHT- MATT 5:14. SEE JOHN 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. WE EXPOSE THEIR SIN AND SINFULNESS.

3. PURE- POUR SOME FRESH CEMENT AND LET SOMEONE COME BY! THAT'S WHY VANDALS SPRAY PAINT WALLS; AND NEWSPAPERMEN LOVE TO FIND SOME "DIRT " TO PUT ON SOMEONE. PURITY AND CLEANLINESS JUST SEEM TO IRRITATE ANYONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE A PURE HEART.

(I. THE REACTION TO SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN)

A) Praise- "THIS IS THANKSWORTHY" ("THIS IS ACCEPTABLE" 1:1 vs 20 THE SAME WORD). LIKE THE DISCIPLES, WE REJOICE THAT WE ARE COUNTED WORTHY TO SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE (ACTS 5:41). PERSECUTION MAY HURT THE CHRISTIAN BUT IT ALSO HELPS HIM TO HAVE THE HEART OF GOD.

B) Patience- THE WAY CHRIST SUFFERED: PATIENTLY. WE FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AS HE COMMITTED HIMSELF TO HIM THAT JUDGEETH RIGHTEOUSLY; COMMITTED HERE MEANS TO "HAND OVER, TO DELIVER SOMETHING TO SOMEONE TO KEEP, TAKE CARE OF, MANAGE. JESUS HANDED OVER THE REVILING AND THE REVILERS TO GOD TO TAKE CARE OF.

A. GOD IS ABLE TO VIEW THEM CORRECTLY (NOT JUST OUR POINT OF VIEW)

B. GOD IS WHO VENGEANCE BELONGS TO- HE WILL CARE FOR IT IN HIS TIME AND IN HIS WAY.

THIS IS NOT THE NORMAL ATTITUDE OR ACTIONS IN REGARDS TO SUFFERING. IN ORDER TO DO THIS IT TAKES A HIGHER PRINCIPLE AND POWER AT WORK IN OUR LIVES- THE CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE PRODUCED BY THE INDWELLING SPIRIT. THAT MEANS WE MUST BE SURE OF OUR OWN SALVATION AND DEDICATED ENOUGH TO STAND WITH GOD.

THEN OUR LIVES AS WELL AS OUR LIPS WILL BEAR WITNESS TO THE CHANGE WROUGHT IN OUR HEARTS BY COMING TO CHRIST; AND WE CAN EMULATE THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST:

DID NO SIN (HOLY LIVING)

NO GUILT WAS FOUND IN HIS MOUTH (NOT DOUBLE TONGUED)

WHEN HE WAS REVILED, REVILED NOT AGAIN (DIDN'T STRIKE BACK)

WHEN HE SUFFERED, HE THREATENED NOT; BUT COMMITTED HIMSELF TO HIM THAT JUDGEETH RIGHTEOUSLY (DEPENDS ON GOD'S VENGEANCE)

BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE. BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED. (CARED FOR OTHERS ENOUGH TO DIE FOR THEM)

DO YOU LOVE CHRIST ENOUGH TO SUFFER FOR HIM?? IF NOT, YOU DON'T REALLY LOVE HIM.

# GRACE AND GLOBE "To Know and Show Christ"

## Grace Free Will Baptist Church

October 20, 1988

Bible Study Hour 10:00am  
Morning Evangelistic Service 11:00am  
(Live over WJOT)  
Evening Worship Service 6:00pm  
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm  
Mircheal Jones, Pastor (803) 394-3725

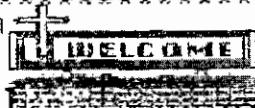
Vol VI Num 20 348 Lawrence St \* P O Box 1003 \* Lake City, S C 29560

Excitement, Expansion, and Enablement are the best way to describe the past few weeks around here. **EXCITEMENT**- I know you think I'd be used to the Lord doing unexpected and marvelous things but it still amazes and excites me to see the unexpected and unusual way the Lord accomplishes His work. Seriously, if someone else told me that the Lord did as many things for them as He does for me I'd think they were "stretching the truth" a little; and even when it's happening to me there are times I go running into the living room exclaiming to my wife, "You won't believe what the Lord did this time!". I wish I had the time and ability to share with you how the Lord supplies this ministry's needs but maybe when we get to Heaven I can spend 100 years or so preaching about the goodness and greatness of God.

**EXPANSION**- I had been praying for several months about a change in the main program I use in the ministry work. The program I have been using (the one that came with the computer) was a good program but it was not compatible with most other programs and was limited in it's capabilities. After a great deal of prayer, consultation, and experimentation, I finally decided to make the change to a Word Perfect 5.0 program. My difficulty was that it cost over \$200. Well, if you haven't guessed by now, the Lord marvelously provided that much "extra" (That is, not required for postage, paper, or tapes) and I was able to purchase the program last week. Now for the "icing on the cake". One of the main reasons I wanted to change programs was because I was looking forward to obtaining a "Modem" in the future so I would be able to transfer booklets and sermons over the phone to other computers. Just before I went to get the new program someone gave me a gift of \$130!!! The Modem cost \$150 but the dealer gave me a \$20 discount on the program; just what I needed to allow me to get the program and the modem. Now, as soon as I get my material transferred over to the new program, I'll be able to send helps and books to anyone who has a comparable computer setup as soon as they need them. It's another step in my continued determination to help as many people as possible "to **KNOW and SHOW CHRIST**".

**ENABLEMENT**- Not only has the Lord provided the needed money for the ministry expansion but He also provided enough to enable me to carry many booklets and tapes to Florida and Mississippi next week. But there's more! In addition to newsletters, booklets, tapes, and other helps I try to give monetary assistance to someone each month. Recently I found a need and as I prayed about it I devised a plan that would allow someone that had promised to give some money to the ministry to give the money to this need instead. When I shared this with the person giving the gift they did a wonderful thing in giving a generous donation to the need [CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

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and then gave something to the ministry as well!! Then when I shared that blessing with someone they gave a gift for the need also!! God allowed me to Give and Get all at the same time!! **Ain't God Good!!** [Special Thanks to Mr and Mrs W C Bell, Mr and Mrs Mixon, Damon and Janice Runion, Rev Larry McAlister, Wilbur Hicks, Tom and Anne McKnight, John Dtnes, Mrs Billie Ard, Bill and Elise McBride, Mr and Mrs Jack B Hanna, Marion Coker, and Rev and Mrs Johnny Evans. I couldn't do it without you].

Let me brag on my "youngens" a little now. We are trying to make sure that every child who attends our Church learns Bible truths and helps that they can carry with them throughout life. This year we are trying to make sure each of them know the Books of the Bible, the 12 disciples, and the 12 commandments (10 + 2 Jesus taught). In addition many are already learning the next "Phase": Psalm 23, Psalm 1, and the Roman Road to Salvation. Last Wednesday night I allowed everyone to help as we went through these but Sunday, Lee Thigpen and Robbie Gowdy, said all the books of the Bible, the 12 disciples, and the ten commandments. I'm proud of them for learning them and for being willing to say them before the entire church. My prayer and goal is that God will enable us to *"train up our children in the way they should go so that when they become old they will not depart from it"*.

We're coming to some very **SPECIAL SERVICES** in the next two weeks and I hope everyone will be here to share in the Blessings. While the Pastor is away visiting friends in Florida and speaking at Home Coming in Mississippi, Brother Marion Coker will be in charge of the Wednesday, Oct. 26, service here at the church [I haven't told his wife yet but she'll probably be in charge of a Bible activity following the service that night!]. Then on Sunday, Oct 30, Rev Johnny Evans will speak in the Morning Service and lead in a special **Prng** service that night. I know everyone will receive a Blessing from his message and music. "Family Fun Night" was rescheduled for Wednesday, November 2 to allow the pastor to take part (thanks to Connie Mathis and Susan Spring for coordinating the activities). We try to discourage our children from making "witches and goblins" their idols at Halloween by showing them they should have good fun instead of ghoulisn fright. We have lots of games, some entertainment, and even allow everyone to dress up (although we encourage them to remember who we represent). We invite everyone to join us for any and all of these activities.

**BOOKLETS AVAILABLE:** These booklets are always available in our booklet racks at the church when you visit but since many of you live in

different states and locations I thought it would be good to remind you that you can obtain Free copies of: Revelation- chapter by chapter; James- chapter by chapter; I Timothy- chapter by chapter; Teacher Training course- material to help make you a better teacher; Old Testament Survey- An outline and overview of every book in the Old Testament. I'm out of Eschatology (study of the end time) and Nehemiah now but should have everything ready to reprint them in 2 to 3 weeks. Simply write or call me and I'll get the booklet you request to you as soon as possible (Remember you will never be asked, or expected, to pay for any of this. It bothers me when I tell people about these helps and they say, "I'll get some when I can afford them". I tell them that they can afford them right now because they don't cost a dime. Our goal is not to make money but to share the Gospel).

**May the Lord Bless you as you serve HIM.....Preacher Mike**



**A SINCERE SALVATION**

I Pet 2:1-10

PETER HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT A "SALVATION WORTH SUFFERING FOR". NOW HE WANTS HIS READERS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE SALVATION THEY HAVE IS THE "REAL THING". HE GIVES THEM GOSPEL GUIDELINES TO USE IN EVALUATING WHAT THEY HAVE; AND IN SO DOING GIVES US A WAY TO CHECK UP ON OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

IN THE GREEK CULTURE OF PETER'S DAY MOST OF THE UTENSILS WERE MADE OF CLAY. IN HIS DAY, AS TODAY, SOME OF THE MERCHANTS WERE NOT COMPLETELY HONEST. WHENEVER THEY RECEIVED A CLAY POT THAT HAD A SMALL CRACK IN IT RATHER THAN THROW IT AWAY THEY WOULD MELT SOME WAX OVER THE CRACK, PAINT THE POT, AND SELL IT AS A WHOLE POT. EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE UNTIL HEAT OR PRESSURE CAUSED THE POT TO BURST!!

A SMART SHOPPER WHO KNEW ABOUT THIS PRACTICE WOULD BUY HIS CLAY POTS DURING THE DAYLIGHT AND HOLD THE POT UP TO THE SUN WHERE THE LIGHT WOULD EXPOSE ANY WAXED OVER CRACKS (JUST LIKE THE LIGHT OF GOD EXPOSES THE FALSEHOOD IN PEOPLE'S LIVES!). MERCHANTS FINALLY BEGAN TO TAG THEIR POTS AS "SINE CERE" (WITHOUT WAX) SO THE CUSTOMERS WOULD KNOW THEIR QUALITY. THAT WORD "SINCERE" THEN CAME TO MEAN SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DEPENDED ON WITHOUT ANY HIDDEN FAULTS; AND IT'S AN EXCELLENT WAY TO DESCRIBE THE SALVATION CHRIST PURCHASED FOR US.

PETER GIVES US 5 QUALITIES THAT SHOW WHAT A PERSON HAS; AND WHAT THEY ARE LIKE, WHEN THEY HAVE THIS SINCERE SALVATION:

I. SAVED- 1:23 BY FAITH IN CHRIST'S SACRIFICE PRODUCED IN YOUR HEART BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD (SEE ROM 10:9). NOTE THAT THE WORD IS CALLED THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED- A) It will not produce Bad Fruit. B) It will Produce Some Fruit (JN 15:1-5) IF ALLOWED TO PRODUCE ROOTS AND KEPT WEEDED (MARK 4:16-20). THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT A PHILOSOPHY YOU TRY TO LEARN BUT A LIFE YOU LIVE!!

II. SEPARATED- 2:1 (A RESTAURANT MAY HAVE GREAT FOOD BUT IF THE TABLES AND FLOORS ARE FILTHY THEN YOU DON'T CARE TO EAT THERE!). PETER LISTS 5 CATEGORIES OF SINS THAT COVER A WIDE TERRITORY BUT ARE BASICALLY SINS THAT INVOLVE RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER PEOPLE. THIS IS VERY APPROPRIATE SINCE SUFFERING NORMALLY COMES FROM ANOTHER PERSON AND IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT PETER IS DETERMINED WE SHOW OUR SALVATION WELL.

1. ALL MALICE= ILL WILL
2. ALL GUILF= DECEIT "TO CATCH BY BAIT"
3. HYPOCRISIES= INSINCERE ACTS BY AN "ACTOR"
4. ENVIES= JEALOUS THOUGHTS, GRUDGES
5. ALL EVIL SPEAKING= SLANDER

SINCERE SALVATION DOES NOT "WAX OVER" THE FAULTS IN A PERSON'S LIFE. IT REMOLDS AND REMAKES THE PERSON UNTIL THEY ARE A VESSEL SANCTIFIED AND MEET FOR THE MASTER'S USE (II TIM 2:21).

III. SUSTAINED BY THE WORD. 2:2-3 NOURISHMENT.

A) Value the Word JOB 23:12 I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. CHRISTIANS SHOULD DESIRE (CRAVE) THE PURE WORD OF GOD IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE; YET THE AVERAGE CHRISTIAN DOES NOT READ ONE CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE A DAY-- IF WE NOURISHED OUR PHYSICAL BODIES LIKE WE DO OUR SPIRITUAL BODIES WE WOULD NEVER HAVE A WEIGHT PROBLEM.

B) Vary your diet- PRAY THRU THE BIBLE, READ SOME OLD AND SOME NEW, READ THE SAME CHAPTER EVERY DAY FOR A MONTH TO LET IT "SOAK" IN...

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU COME TO A TIME OF SUFFERING, THE WORD THAT YOU HAVE "STORED AWAY" WILL BE WHAT CARRIES YOU THROUGH.

#### IV. LIVING STONES- 2:4-8

A) To Bruise the Lost- A STONE OF STUMBLING (FAITH) AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE (CROSS). ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT MEN WILL WALK ON BURNING COALS, THROW THEIR CHILDREN TO CROCODILES, GIVE MONEY TO CHURCHES, AND SACRIFICE ALMOST ANYTHING TO BE SAVED- EXCEPT THEIR PRIDE. THEY JUST AREN'T WILLING TO COME GOD'S WAY; AND THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!! AS LIVING STONES CHRISTIANS AGGRAVATE THE LOST BY "GETTING IN THEIR WAY" AS THEY MARCH ON TO HELL, AND IRRITATE THEM WITH OUR CONSTANT CONCERN (AS A PEBBLE IN A SHOE DOES).

B) To Build the Church- AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD. DON'T "STEAL GOD'S STONES" TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR THE DEVIL!!! BY USING YOUR TIME AND TALENT FOR THE SELF OR SATAN INSTEAD OF THE SAVIOUR.

#### V. SURROUNDED- 2:9-10

A) A CHOSEN GENERATION- A SELECT, ELECTED PEOPLE

B) A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD- ABLE TO APPROACH GOD AS KINGS AND PRIESTS

C) A PECULIAR PEOPLE- PECULIAR HERE MEANS "SURROUNDED" AND SHOWS HOW GOD CONTROLS OUR SITUATION AND PROTECTS US FROM ATTACK.

ARE YOU SINCERE IN YOUR SALVATION?? OR HAVE YOU COVERED OVER YOUR FAULTS AND HOPE NOONE WILL NOTICE?? YOU MAY GET BY FOR A WHILE BUT WHEN THE HEAT OF TEMPTATION OR THE PRESSURE OF TRIALS COME YOUR WAY YOU'LL "FALL TO PIECES". MAKE THAT DEFINITE STEP OF COMMITMENT TO CHRIST TODAY.

## SUBMITTING SOUL-WINNERS

I Pet 3:1-7

"LIKEWISE" REFERS PETER'S READERS BACK TO THE ADMONITION GIVEN TO SERVANTS, AND SHOWN BY THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST, IN 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. PETER GOES FROM SUBMISSION IN THE SECULAR WORLD BECAUSE OF THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST TO A REASON FOR SUBMISSION IN THE MARITAL RELATIONSHIP, THE WINNING OF THE MATE TO CHRIST.

WIVES ARE TOLD TO WILLINGLY SUBORDINATE THEMSELVES TO THEIR HUSBANDS- LISTEN TO THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE VERSION: In like manner you married women, be submissive to your own husbands--subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them. WHILE "WIFELY SUBMISSION" IS A BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE (EPH 5:22-24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord...as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing); THIS IS ABOUT A SPECIFIC CASE- A SAVED WIFE LIVING WITH AN UNSAVED HUSBAND, AND FOR A SPECIFIC REASON- TO WIN THE HUSBAND BY GODLY LIVING (CONVERSATION IN THE GREEK IS "MANNER OF LIFE") INSTEAD OF GOSPEL PRESENTATION.

"OBEY NOT THE WORD" MEANS THAT THE PERSON HAS HAD THE GOSPEL PRESENTED TO THEM AND CONTINUALLY REFUSED TO HEAR OR HEED IT. THE SITUATION HAS BECOME SUCH THAT THE WIFE IS NOW "NAGGING" HER HUSBAND AND TURNING HIM AWAY FROM THE GOSPEL INSTEAD OF TOWARD IT. PETER IS SHOWING HOW TO WIN THIS HUSBAND WITH YOUR LIFE INSTEAD OF YOUR LIPS; AND IN DOING SO SHOWS US SOME ATTRIBUTES THAT ALL SOUL WINNERS NEED. [NOTE- WIVES, THIS IS NOT ONLY A WAY TO CHANGE HIS HARD-HEART BUT ALSO A WAY TO CHANGE THOSE HABITS HE HAS THAT IRRITATE YOU SO BADLY. AND THEY'LL WORK A LOT BETTER THAN ARGUING HIM INTO SLAMMING THE FRONT DOOR OR YOU SLAMMING THE BEDROOM DOOR].

**SUBMITTING TO BE A SOUL-WINNER MEANS YOU CHANGE YOUR:**

1. **ATTITUDE**- They behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear- PURE LIVING COMBINED WITH RESPECT. WHAT ALL MEN WISH ALL WOMEN KNEW IS THAT MEN MUST HAVE RESPECT! GOD INSTILLED THAT IN THEM WHEN HE GAVE MAN THE LEADERSHIP POSITION FOLLOWING MAN'S FALL INTO SIN. SO IF A WOMAN WANTS TO WIN HER HUSBAND SHE MUST SHOW HIM THE CHANGE IN HER LIFE WITH HER PURE LIVING; AND IN HER HEART WITH HER RESPECTFUL ATTITUDE [THE SAME TWO THINGS THAT MAKES THE WORLD "GIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE" WHEN WE WITNESS TO THEM. HIGH PRESSURE SALESMANSHIP MAY MAKE A PERSON MAKE A "DECISION" BUT HONEST HUMBLE CONCERN WILL DRAW THEM TO CHRIST TO BE BORN AGAIN]. IT IS NOT RESPECT TO TELL A MAN HOW SORRY HE IS BECAUSE HE DOES NOT MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS; OR GODLY LIVING TO WANT TO LOOK LIKE OR LIVE LIKE THE WORLD. WHICH BRINGS US TO THE NEXT CHANGE.

2. **ADORNMENT**- MAN IS THE ONLY ANIMAL THAT DOES NOT PRODUCE HIS CLOTHING FROM THE INSIDE (FUR, FEATHERS, FINS). HE LOST THAT ABILITY WHEN HE SINNED (THE FIRST THING MAN REALIZED WHEN HE ATE THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT WAS THAT HE WAS NAKED; AND THE FIRST THING HE DID WAS BEGIN A "FIG-LEAF SEWING FACTORY"- GEN 3:7). SINCE THAT TIME MAN (AND WOMAN) HAVE USED CLOTHING NOT ONLY AS A COVERING FOR THEIR BODIES BUT ALSO AS A WAY TO "HIDE THEIR FAULTS" BY DRAWING ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY ARE WEARING INSTEAD OF WHO THEY ARE. [INTERESTING SIDE NOTE HERE- GOD'S GARMENT IS LIGHT AND I'M CONVINCED THAT WE WILL NOT WEAR "CLOTHING" IN HEAVEN; JESUS LEFT HIS AT THE CROSS AND TOMB. THIS GARMENT OF LIGHT WILL COME FROM WITHIN (AS SHOWN BY JESUS ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION). THIS IS WHERE PETER TELLS US TO LET OUR BEAUTY SHINE FROM EVEN TODAY- "THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART"].

### 3. AUTHORITY-

A) The Showing of Authority- AMP BIBLE: It was thus that Sarah obeyed Abraham (followed his guidance and acknowledging his headship over her by) calling him lord-master, leader, authority. SARAH SHOWED HER SUBMISSION TO HER HUSBAND'S AUTHORITY BY HER:

1. WALK (OBEYED) AND
2. TALK (CALL HIM "MASTER").

THIS PUTS THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE MAN AS HE UNDERSTANDS THAT HE IS EXPECTED TO LEAD. AT FIRST HE WILL TEST THE WIFE TO SEE IF SHE IS REAL (JUST LIKE THE WORLD DOES MOST CHRISTIANS BEFORE THEY BELIEVE THEIR TESTIMONY!). THEN HE WILL GRADUALLY REALIZE HOW GREAT A RESPONSIBILITY HE HAS, AND HIS NEED OF HELP IN HANDLING THAT RESPONSIBILITY, AND BRING HIS WIFE MORE AND MORE INTO THE RESPONSIBILITY "CHAIN". THUS THE WIFE GAINS BY YIELDING WHAT SHE COULD NEVER GET BY FUSSING AND FIGHTING. [IN THE SAME WAY, YOU CANNOT DRIVE PEOPLE TO AN ALTER TO BE SAVED BUT YOU CAN DRAW THEM TO CHRIST WITH YOUR LOVING HUMBLE ATTITUDE].

B) The Security of Authority-THIS WILL RESULT IN PEACE AS YOU FOLLOW GOD'S COMMAND =AMP BIBLE- let nothing terrify you- not giving way to hysterical fears or letting anxieties unnerve you. WHERE A MAN NEEDS RESPECT A WOMAN NEEDS SECURITY. IT'S DIFFICULT FOR HER TO YIELD TO THE AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP OF THE MAN IF HE IS NOT LEADING IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE HER THIS SECURITY. PETER IS HERE TELLING HER TO TRUST IN THE LORD AS SHE CALLS HER HUSBAND "LORD". [THIS IS THE POINT THE SINNER MUST BE BROUGHT TO ALSO; THEY WANT TO BE SAVED BUT THEY ARE AFRAID THEY CAN'T MEET GOD AND MAN'S EXPECTATIONS AFTER THEY ARE SAVED AND THEY DON'T WANT TO FAIL. THEY MUST BE SHOWN THAT CHRIST PAID THE PRICE FOR SINS AND THEY REST IN HIS FINISHED WORK].

4. ANOTHER VIEW- THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY- (PETER HAS JUMPED FROM A NON-CHRISTIAN TO A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND IN ORDER TO SHOW THIS SUBMISSIVE WIFE WHAT CAN AND SHOULD HAPPEN). HUSBAND ARE ORDERED TO:

A) Dwell with their wives according to knowledge TO GAIN THIS KNOWLEDGE A HUSBAND MUST TAKE THE TIME AND EFFORT TO LEARN WHAT HIS WIFE WANTS AND NEEDS. HE MUST LEARN NOT TO TALK AT HIS WIFE BUT WITH HER. COMMUNICATION AND COMPANIONSHIP MAKE A HAPPY COUPLE!

B) Giving honor unto the wife as the weaker vessel YET REALIZING YOU ARE HEIRS TOGETHER OF THE GRACE OF LIFE (EQUAL IN GOD'S SIGHT! There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. GAL 3:28). THE HUSBAND MUST REMEMBER THAT THE WIFE IS WEAKER PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY (MORE EASILY DECEIVED (I TIM 2:12-14) BECAUSE SHE HAS A "SOFT HEART" (WHICH ALSO IS HER GREATEST ASSET AS A MOTHER)). THIS MEANS HE CAN'T TREAT HER LIKE "ONE OF THE BOYS" OR ANOTHER MAN. HE MUST PRIZE AND PROTECT HER.

C) Keep attitude problems from hindering your mutual Prayer life (AS ONE PREACHER PUT IT, "PROBLEMS AT HOME MAKE PROBLEMS IN THE PULPIT!"). IT'S HARD TO PRAY TOGETHER WHEN YOU AREN'T SPEAKING! A CHRISTIAN COUPLE CAN WORK THRU THEIR PROBLEMS BECAUSE THEY HAVE AN UNBIASED "MEDIATOR" (THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD) TO GIVE THEM GUIDANCE.

PETER HAS SHOWN US HOW A WIFE CAN TRY TO CONVERT HER UNSAVED HUSBAND AND THEN SHOWN THE WONDERFUL RESULTS THAT WILL COME FROM THAT HUSBAND BEING SAVED. AT THE SAME TIME HE HAS SHOWN CHRISTIANS THAT THEY CAN'T FORCE SOMEONE TO BE SAVED BUT GENUINE LOVE AND CONCERN WILL DO WHAT FORCE CAN'T. ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE UP YOUR CROSS IN ORDER TO LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST??

# GRACE And GLORY



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

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

MIRCHEAL JONES, PASTOR  
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VOL. IV NUM 21 11-10-88 LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560

I am writing this on a Wednesday Afternoon with the clock ticking away!! Paula and I returned from Florida and Mississippi last Monday night and have been working hard to catch up with everything (When I'm gone my work just keeps piling up). I hope to finish this newsletter and get it ready to mail tonight during and after Prayer Meeting (I "Volunteer" my members to help put it together many times).

The reason I'm in such a hurry is that Paula and I leave after Prayer Meeting tonight to return to Mississippi to participate in the Funeral Service of Mr. France Hill. Mr. France was a good friend and we will miss him but realize that finally his pain and suffering are at an end. The Funeral service is Tomorrow and we plan to return home Friday.

Our recent trip to Florida and Mississippi was very good except for the fact that we arrived in Florida at a time when there were 4 deaths connected with Church families and we did not get to see as many of our friends as we wanted to. But we rejoice to see God's continued Blessings on the Church and thank God for such Good Friends. The Work in Mississippi is also

going well (They've added 2 wings of Sunday School Rooms since we were last there) and we rejoiced in the Love and Friendship that is still so evident among our Friends there.

"Meanwhile back at the ranch" Brother Marion Coker led in a tremendous service here at Grace while I was gone. His devotion and the testimonies by Hope Frye and Damon Runion are wonderful. You need to get one of the tapes of this service; it'll put a shout in your soul! (No one remembered to record Brother Johnny Evan's Morning Message but I do have a copy of the Sunday Night Sing and have already listened to it numerous times).

The Family Fun Night last Wednesday was fantastic. We had around 60 or 70 people present and had a wonderful time. Brother David Wall gave an excellent devotion, Brother Damon gave a great performance (Does anyone know what's on the log at the bottom of the sea??), and Susan Spring and Connie Mathis had done an excellent job in preparing the activities.

I have lots of people to thank for help next issue. Have to close now. Praise God for His meeting needs.

Preacher Mike

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**HOW DOES GOD SPEAK**

II Peter 1:17-18

We are constantly assaulted today with opinion polls and "experts" telling us what we believe and why we believe it. And the sad thing is that we are beginning to accept what they say!!

Part of the problem is that People now put more confidence in TV News Anchormen than they do in preachers of the Gospel (Resulting of course from National Preacher scandals [Baker, Swaggart] and local preacher failures and contradictions [church splits and fights. One pastor says wearing pants is a sin, the next ignores this issue; etc.]) How do we know what is right?? How can we tell if it is God's voice speaking to us?? Peter tells us in this Scripture that he heard the voice of God testify that Jesus was His Beloved Son. It is unusual for God to speak in an audible voice (He did in John 12:28 and stunned the people who said it was thunder or an angel. He did to Paul on the road to Damascus [Acts 9:3-7] but those with him heard only a sound without understanding what was said [Cp Acts 9:7 with 22:9] and, of course, He spoke extensively with Moses on the Mount as He gave him the Law for the People [book of Exodus. See Ex 19:9].

Most of us, however, never hear God speak in an audible voice and we need to understand how God speaks to us by examining how He has spoken to men in times past.

1. **CHURCH**- Lev 1:1 AND THE LORD CALLED UNTO MOSES, AND SPAKE UNTO HIM OUT OF THE TABERNACLE OF THE CONGREGATION, SAYING, Today God uses the Spirit and the Word in the Church.

2. **SCRIPTURE**- I Samuel 3:21 AND THE LORD APPEARED AGAIN IN SHILOH: FOR THE LORD REVEALED HIMSELF TO SAMUEL IN SHILOH BY THE WORD OF THE LORD. Many things in Scripture are open to some interpretation but most things are plain as God can make them!

3. **CIRCUMSTANCES**- Rom 8:28 See Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon

4. **ANIMALS**- Ass to Balaam; Whale for Jonah; Dove for Noah

5. **PLANTS**- Vine to Jonah (Jon 4:-)

6. **PREACHERS**- Rom 10:14 HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW SHALL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?

7. **STARS**- Led Wise Men to Jesus, used in navigation, Misused in Astrology (Even convicts Sinners! Ps 8:3-4 WHEN I CONSIDER THY HEAVENS, THE WORK OF THY FINGERS, THE MOON AND THE STARS, WHICH THOU HAST ORDAINED; WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU ART MINDFUL OF HIM? AND THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU VISITEST HIM?)

8. **ANGELS**- Told Shepherds where to find Jesus; Told Zacharias about the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-13); and Mary about the Birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-33). Told Joseph to marry Mary (Matt 1:19-21); when to leave Bethlehem (Matt 2:13) and then Egypt (Matt 2:19-20).

9. **DREAMS**- Used to warn the Wise Men to depart another way (Matt 2:12); to warn Joseph not to settle in Judea (Matt 2:22); and to tell Nebuchadnezzar about the Future (Dan 2:28)

There are other Means and Methods that God uses to communicate to His People. The main thing is that we have to have "ears to hear". Many times God speaks and we simply aren't listening!! Don't let it happen to you!!

## CONSCIENTIOUS SUFFERING

I Peter 3:13-22

Having told us how to Love Life and see Good days, Peter now is led to look at the "Other side of the coin" and show us our attitude and actions if we are called upon to suffer as Christians. This is the heart of the book, and the heart of Peter's message. Peter knew that Persecution and Problems were going to be a part of the Christian Experience and he wanted them to make Christians BETTER instead of BITTER so he gave 5 Guidelines If you suffer for Righteousness' sake:

1. Remain Confident of God's Care- WHO IS HE THAT WILL HARM YOU, IF YE BE FOLLOWERS OF THAT WHICH IS GOOD? We know God hears our Prayers and strengthens us in life's difficulties so we live in Faith instead of Fear. The Storm is a time of Observation instead of Consternation when you're living in the Rock!

2. Remain Calm in your own soul- He then tells us that if we do suffer for righteousness' sake we are to be HAPPY, UNAFRAID, and UNDISTURBED (Amp. Bible: Do not dread or be afraid of their threats, or be disturbed by their opposition). "You don't stop your car for a barking dog!"; and when you realize the source of the storm (Satan) you rejoice knowing you're disturbing him and helping God!

3. Reserve the Center of your heart for Christ- Who fears the howling of the wolves when you're safe at home with the Master? Use this time of being "shut in" to rebuild and rekindle your relationship with Christ. Troubles will drive you to, or separate you from, God; That choice is yours!

4. Use the Trouble as a time of Testimony- AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU WITH MEETNESS AND FEAR. Your Answer and your Attitude will determine if God gets the Glory during this trouble. I believe the testimony and attitude of Stephen at his death was one of the key moments in early church history-- because it burned in Paul's soul so that the light on the Damascus Road could finally open his eyes.

5. Live so your Accusers will be Ashamed instead of you- Remember you're suffering for Righteousness' sake, not riotous living!! When you do wrong and suffer that's PUNISHMENT; When you do right and Suffer that makes you PARTAKERS with Christ.

Peter then goes on to show that, not only was there Glory that followed Christ's death, but there also was a Goal that was accomplished during His death- preaching to the spirits in prison [Just as in your case God is conforming you into the image of Christ while at the same time showing your Christlike attitude and actions to an unbelieving world-- see 4:1-5].

I don't know that I can sum this up any better than Peter did in 4:12- 19 BELOVED, THINK IT NOT STRANGE CONCERNING THE FIERY TRIAL WHICH IS TO TRY YOU, AS THOUGH SOME STRANGE THING HAPPENED UNTO YOU; BUT REJOICE, INASMUCH AS YE ARE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS; THAT, WHEN HIS GLORY SHALL BE REVEALED, YE MAY BE GLAD ALSO WITH EXCEEDING JOY. IF YE BE REPROACHED FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST, HAPPY ARE YE; FOR THE SPIRIT OF GLORY AND OF GOD RESTETH UPON YOU; ON THEIR PART HE IS EVIL SPOKEN OF, BUT ON YOUR PART HE IS GLORIFIED. BUT LET NONE OF YOU SUFFER AS A MURDERER, OR AS A THIEF, OR AS AN EVILDOER, OR AS A BUSYBODY IN OTHER MEN'S MATTERS. YET IF ANY MAN SUFFER AS A CHRISTIAN, LET HIM NOT BE ASHAMED; BUT LET HIM GLORIFY GOD ON THIS BEHALF. FOR THE TIME IS COME THAT JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD; AND IF IT FIRST BEGIN AT US, WHAT SHALL THE END BE OF THEM THAT OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL OF GOD? AND IF THE RIGHTEOUS SCARCELY BE SAVED, WHERE SHALL THE UNDOOLY AND THE SINNER APPEAR? WHEREFORE LET THEM THAT SUFFER ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD COMMIT THE KEEPING OF THEIR SOULS TO HIM IN WELL DOING, AS UNTO A FAITHFUL CREATOR.



**PETER'S POSTSCRIPT**

1PE 5:12-14 BY SILVANUS, A FAITHFUL BROTHER UNTO YOU, AS I SUPPOSE, I HAVE WRITTEN BRIEFLY, EXHORTING AND TESTIFYING THAT THIS IS THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD WHEREIN YE STAND. THE CHURCH THAT IS AT BABYLON, ELECTED TOGETHER WITH YOU, SALUTETH YOU; AND SO DOETH MARCUS MY SON. GREET YE ONE ANOTHER WITH A KISS OF CHARITY. PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL THAT ARE IN CHRIST JESUS. AMEN.

Peter closes his letter by showing 3 final foundation needed in the life of every Christian, but especially in the life of someone who is undergoing suffering for the cause of Christ.

**1. A Friend-**

A) Faithful- You Can Depend on him. He will do you good and not evil all the days of his life.

B) "Brother"- There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

C) Helper- Someone to help you. Two are better than one for they have a good reward for their labor.

**2. A Faith-**

A) To Tell- Exhorting= to counsel, to urge and stimulate. Talk about it. We are Witnesses to the wonder of Salvation

B) To Testify- Example= See what it has done in and for me. New Creature in Christ.

C) True- Dependable and steadfast. Other's can't convince you to change because you know what you have.

**3. The Fellowship of the Church-**

A) It's Place- elected together with you- All Part of God's Plan

B) It's People- A unit made up of individuals such as Mark (The Backslidden, reclaimed one; like Peter!! So they had something in common).

C) It's Passion- Show Affection- Greet one another with a kiss of Charity.

Shun Anger- Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus.

Do you have a Christian Brother that shares your burdens and Blessings?? Do you lean on the "Friend that sticks closer than a Brother??

Is your Faith in your "Faith" or in the Faithful One?? Do you regularly testify about God's saving Grace??

Are you looking for a place to serve you; or a place where you can serve in a Fellowship of Believers??

**CHRISTIAN CROSSES**

I Peter 5:5-11

We have been looking at Peter's Encouragement and Exhortation to some people who were "Suffering for the Saviour". Now in these final thoughts from Peter I want us to see how this translates into the actual living; far too many people today know what to do, they just don't do it!!

There are 3 major Enemies that every Christian (and indeed, every person) must face (1) Pride, (2) Prosperity, and (3) Passions. It was Pride that caused the downfall of Satan (Is 14:12-15), It is Prosperity that robs the Christian's Fruit (Mark 4:19), and It is Passions that defeated David (II Sam 11:-) and divides people (James 4:1-2). Today we're going to see that these same enemies must be faced and overcome; AND THEY ARE THE SOURCES OF MUCH OF THE SUFFERING in Christian Living today. Most Christians think suffering is an "angry mob with stones" and fail to realize that the Cross is every day denial of self and submitting to God's will-- Matt 16:24-25 THEN SAID JESUS UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, IF ANY MAN 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; AND WHOSOEVER WILL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE SHALL FIND IT.

What are these DAILY CROSSES CHRISTIANS MUST BEAR??

1. Serving Others- IPE 5:5-6 LIKEWISE, YE YOUNGER, SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO THE ELDER. YEA, ALL OF YOU BE SUBJECT ONE TO ANOTHER, AND BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY; FOR GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, AND GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. HUMBLE YOURSELVES THEREFORE UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD, THAT HE MAY EXALT YOU IN DUE TIME: "You must take a low place before God before you can take a high place before men."

How it grates on the Pride of man to be used (and sometimes abused) by others. Yet this is the place, and glorious privilege, of a Christian (See Luke 6:27-38). And it's a cross that must be taken up every day as the world cries out to us, "Look out for #1" while we seek to manifest "The One" and only hope, Jesus.

You can't snatch people from the fire without getting burned every now and then; you can't assist the needy without being taken advantage of by the crafty every so often; you can't Help without sometimes getting Hurt; and you can't exalt Self and Saviour at the same time.

Are you looking for a Cross of Exaltation, or Service?? God stands against the Proud but honors the humble.

2. Sickness and Scarcity- IPE 5:7 CASTING ALL YOUR CARE UPON HIM; FOR HE CARETH FOR YOU. Listen to this verse in the Amp. Bible- Casting the whole of your care--all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all- on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.

Sometimes the Christian's Cross is a "thorn in the Flesh" that pricks us every day but produces Glory for God (II Cor 12:7-10); Sometimes it's the lost of "rights and rewards" in order to maintain Testimony or service (II Cor 11:8-12). And the "Pain and the Payments" are constant companions that Satan continually asks us to run away from by lying, laziness (don't do anything and use your pain as an excuse), or worry (doubt God's Love or ability and try to do it all on your own).

Are you looking for a Cross of Health and Wealth, or do you seek to follow the example of Christ, II Cor 8:9 FOR YE KNOW THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT, THOUGH HE WAS RICH, YET FOR YOUR SAKES HE BECAME POOR, THAT YE THROUGH HIS POVERTY MIGHT BE RICH.

3. Satan- 1PE 5:8-9 BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR: WHOM RESIST STEADFAST IN THE FAITH, KNOWING THAT THE SAME AFFLICTIONS ARE ACCOMPLISHED IN YOUR BRETHREN THAT ARE IN THE WORLD.

Not only must we deal with our Pride and our Circumstances but we also must contend with the enemy of God and Good, Satan. He looks for an opportunity to attack us and we must constantly be on guard and be clothed with the armor of righteousness (Eph 6:10-17). Many times we grow tired of the fight and long for the land of Peace and Rest but we must maintain vigilance until the final Victory. Peter says that involves two things:

A) Sober Watchfulness- Continual alert. Can't "goof off" on guard duty or pretend it's only play.

B) Steadfast Resistance- Stand, and having done all stand.

But there's more than an Cross in these Verses there's The Crown after the Cross- 1PE 5:10-11 BUT THE GOD OF ALL GRACE, WHO HATH CALLED US UNTO HIS ETERNAL GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS, AFTER THAT YE HAVE SUFFERED A WHILE, MAKE YOU PERFECT, STABLISH, STRENGTHEN, SETTLE YOU. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

There are 5 "Points" to this Crown:

A) Salvation- Called to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus. Our Salvation makes any suffering worth while. Especially when we realize that this suffering makes us:

B) Serviceable- the word "Perfect" here does not mean "Mature" as it normally does in the Greek; it means to "Fit or join together" so as to be of use, as a hole in a net is joined together to make it useful. It is the Holy Spirit's work of "gifting" us for our part in the Body of Christ and then enabling us to occupy that place.

C) Stability- Circumstances change, God doesn't

D) Strength- He never gives us a cross without the strength to carry it.

E) Steadfastness- Dig deeper and get to the Rock- See Luke 6:46-49 where two men built "the same house on the same place" but one dug to the Rock and the other didn't. We have the ability to stand life's storms.

The Reason for all this- That God may receive Glory and reign with His people forever. And that's our Goal!!

Are you a CASUAL Christian or a COMMITTED Christian??

Do you Wear a Cross or Have you Taken your Cross???

# GRACE And GLORY



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"To Know and To Show Christ"

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When I go three weeks without publishing a Newsletter there are so many things that happen until it's hard to catch up with everything. Let's start back at the 11th of November when Paula and I went to Mississippi. We traveled 1310 miles from Wednesday night following Prayer Meeting until Friday Night when we returned home. But the Lord protected us and we appreciated the privilege of sharing God's Comfort with Mrs. Erin Hill and her family. I appreciate everyone's Prayers for us during this time of travel.

VIDEOS: Beginning Sunday, Nov 12th we began Videotaping our Sunday Morning Services here at Grace. Don Lewis videotaped two weeks for us and my brother, Tracy, videotaped last week's service while Don was out of town. We're in the learning stage right now but we hope to be able to have some of our services available for distribution on Video beginning the first of the year. Soon people will be able to see as well as hear our services and we pray the Lord will use this avenue to reach even more people with the wonderful Gospel of Christ. [I just wonder what "Door" God will open next!!]

**SPECIAL SERVICES:** Sunday, Nov. 20th, Rev Norwood Gibson spoke for me here at Grace while I had the privilege of joining the rest of my family in a surprise Pastor Appreciation Day for my Brother Ronnie. He pastors Black River F.W.B Church and they surprised him on this special day with wonderful testimonies of love from his members, a new Desk Jet Printer for him!! and a new dress for his wife. Thank God for these fine folks.

Then on Wednesday before Thanksgiving we celebrated our annual Praise Service and it was GREAT!! We began at 7:30 and it was almost 10:00 before I finally got home. Our "rules"



for a Praise Service are very simpler EVERYONE who attends must give Praise to the

Lord. They can share Scriptures, Poems, Testimonies, Songs, or play a musical instrument. Many of those who attended did several of these and we had a tremendous time of rejoicing in the Lord. I have cut the tape off the service down to 90 minutes and it's available right now. If you want a Blessing then I'd recommend you get one of these tapes. [Continued on back]

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning this Sunday, Dec 4, the Adult, Young Adult, and Teen classes will have very special classes featuring videos from Rev James Dobson's Focus on the



Family series. These classes will not have assembly since the videos are around 50 minutes long and we will need all our time in class. I strongly

encourage every parent and grandparent to make a special effort to attend each of these Classes.

Dec 4- The Strong Willed Child  
Dec 11- Shaping the Will without breaking the Spirit  
Dec 18- Christian Fathering  
Dec 25- No Class  
Jan 1- Review  
Jan 8- Preparing for Adolescence  
Jan 13- " " " (II)  
Jan 22- What Wives wish their husbands knew about Women

### IMPORTANT DATES:

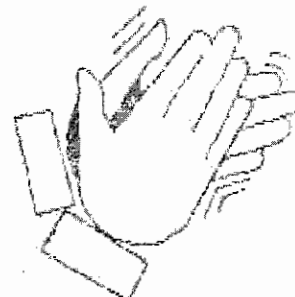
Dec 7- Adult and Young Adult Christmas party at the "Compass" Restaurant beginning at 7:30pm.  
Dec 18- Annual White Christmas Offering (Our Annual Gift to Jesus. All of the money received on this date goes to accomplish some special project).  
Adult Christmas Musical, "Call Him Jesus" beginning at 6:00pm. (You will be stirred by this Musical presentation of the Christmas Story)  
Dec 21- Youth Christmas Program, "King Jesus" beginning at 7:30pm. It will be followed by a Church wide Fellowship Supper. This will be special. Don't miss it.  
Dec 25- Christmas Service from 10:00am - 11:00am.  
Jan 8- Richard Lee Family in a special song service - 6:00pm

## THANKS !!!

This has been a tremendous month of ministry and it would not have been possible without the support of the many friends of this outreach Ministry. Hundreds of tapes were distributed, a hundred or more booklets were given away, a new VCR was purchased to allow us to copy tapes for distribution soon. A new word processing program was purchased, a Modem was obtained to allow me to transfer information over the phone, and several needy families were assisted. That doesn't count the normal postage, paper, ink, etc. that is necessary to make all of this work.

Thanks to these fine people for their confidence and contribution that allows this ministry to continue:

Mr and Mrs Bobby Stenbridge, Mr and Mrs T J McCarter, Mr and Mrs Tommy McCarter, Mr and Mrs Virgil West (all of Mississippi); Rev and Mrs Johnny Evans, Mr and Mrs Olee Elmore, Mr and Mrs James Poston, Mr and Mrs Marion Tunstall, Chuck Zagorac, Billie Ard, Bill and Elise McBride, Marion Coker, Tom and Anne McKnight, Damon and Janice Runion, Mr and Mrs W M Mixon, and Mrs Gail Jones. (It still astonishes me to see the Lord bring in extra exactly when it's needed as He does!).



What a Great time it is to be serving the Lord. Remember, the darker the times the brighter our light shines. May God give you Peace and Joy this Christmas Season. Preacher Mike

**II PETER: Knowing the Truth**

II Peter was written to warn people who were tempted to forsake the Authority of the Word of God for Human Reasoning. It show how to discern the right and warns about the dangers of following the wrong. It was written around 66AD and centers around 2 key thoughts (1) KNOWLEDGE- Knowledge of the Word of God is needed if false Doctrine is to be exposed and refuted; (2) REMEMBER- It is in remembering certain things about important truths that serve as a guard against failure in the Christian Life (1:9, 12, 13 3:1, 8).

Jesus said, You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. Peter wants his readers to grow in this freedom. In his first Epistle Peter warned of the danger of failure due to the outward Pains of Suffering. In this Epistle he tries to expose the inner "Termites" of Doubt and False Doctrine. He knew that just as Faith comes by hearing the Word of God so Doubt and Defeat come as you listen to False Teachings and Teachers [Several boys would not accept Christ as Saviour because a preacher said at their dad's funeral that their dad (Who lived "like the devil") was saved because he had made a profession of faith when he was 8 years old. Now they too thought that joining the church at an early age made them "immune to Hell"1. A brief OUTLINE of the book shows that False Doctrine is defeated by:

**I. PROPER KNOWLEDGE OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH Chapter 1**

- A) Growth in Christian Graces 1-11 (How to never fall!)
- B) Grounded in the Authority of the Word of God 12-21

**II. PROPER KNOWLEDGE OF FALSE TEACHERS Chapter 2**

- A) Their Sure Destruction
- B) Their Characteristics:
  - 1. Christ Denying
  - 2. Covetous
  - 3. Walk after the Flesh
  - 4. Despise Authority.
  - 5. Cannot cease from Sin
  - 6. Forsake the Right Way.

**III. PROPER KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD'S RETURN Chapter 3**

- A) Denial by Scoffers because it lingers
- B) Destruction will be Sudden and requires readiness

What is God's Plan for every soul? To be conformed to the image of Christ. We are to walk in His steps and have His Mind (Phil 2:).

Why was Peter so interested in Christian Growth? His early Christian experience had been one of repeated failure and fruitlessness.

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**PETER'S INTRODUCTION: 1:1-2**

Who wrote the Letter? If he is going to expose the wrong then you need to know that he is right!! Do you trust those who teach you??

Simon Peter:            A servant- his Human side  
                                  An Apostle- his Divine Call

Who was the letter written to? TO THEM THAT HAVE OBTAINED LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH WITH US THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AND OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

- A) A Common Faith- To Bond us together
- B) A Common Salvation- To equal us (It's all of God)

What did Peter want for them? GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED UNTO YOU THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND OF JESUS OUR LORD.

- A) To Acquire Abundantly God's Grace (unmerited favor) and Peace
- B) To Gain this- By acquiring knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST, WHOM THOU HAST SENT. John 17:3

Do you base your Salvation on what People say or on what God says??  
 Are you more concerned with your child's health than their holiness?

## LIVING LIKE GOD WANTS

II Peter 1:3-4

Peter begins this Second Epistle by telling his readers what they can expect as they follow Christ. If you are going to expose the wrong you need a "Pattern" to compare the wrong against. This Pattern shows us how we can live like God Wants.

### I. DIVINE POWER

A) The Scope of the Power- IT HAS GIVEN US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS-- Everything we need to live Socially and Spiritually. There is no problem or circumstance that God can't handle.

B) The Source of the Power- THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM THAT HATH CALLED US TO GLORY AND "NATURE" (Compare Ep 5:18 and Col 3:16 where being filled with the Holy Spirit and letting the Word of God dwell in us cause the same result. People are powerless today because they don't KNOW CHRIST except as a historical figure). Jeremiah says the word is like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces and Paul's Prayer was that he might KNOW Him and the Power of His Resurrection. Are you looking for some "Mystical" Empowerment or do you study to show yourself approved unto God. Other than the fact that He died for them, most people know very little about the Lord; yet knowing Him is the basis of Joy and Ability.

II. DIVINE PROMISES (Acts 2:39 FOR THE PROMISE IS UNTO YOU, AND TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND TO ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF, EVEN AS MANY AS THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL CALL. Christ promised forgiveness to the sinful, rest to the weary, comfort to the sad, hope to the dying, and life to the dead.

A) Exceeding Great- Jer 33:3 CALL UNTO ME, AND I WILL ANSWER THEE, AND SHew THEE GREAT AND WONDROUS THINGS, WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT. We make such little claims on such Great Promises!!

B) Precious- Because God cannot lie and it's like "money in the bank".

### III. DIVINE NATURE-

A) What we receive- partakers of the divine nature

B) What we renounce- Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. We leave the "dirt of desire" as we seek to serve instead of being served, to give instead of get.

Are you filled with the Spirit so you have the Power of God in your Life??

Do you lean on the Promises of God?

Are you developing as a new creature by receiving God's Nature and Renouncing selfish desires??



## How to Never Fall

II Peter 1:5-11

Peter was concerned that his "flock" not be misled by false teachers and false Doctrines. He wants to start on a positive note, however, and show that this need not be a concern if certain things are done. By doing so he shows us something every Christian needs to know, "How to Never Fall"!

This is tremendous information!! It means that a person who wants to be saved but fears his ability to live the Christian life can now take up his cross and follow Christ. It means that in the constant fight that every Christian must engage in he can do so with complete confidence in God's Power and Promises.

And that's exactly where Peter begins-- He has shown us the divine Power and Divine Promises that enable us to be partakers of the Divine Nature and now he wants us to understand what our part is in this. That's why he begins with "Besides this". It should be translated "For this very cause"; therefore, because of the Divine Power and Promises that are ours as a result of accepting Christ we should add some things from the human side-- Conversion should change Character! as well as destination.

**I. THE EFFORT NEEDED:** "Diligence" means to "to do one's best, to exert one's self". "The divine nature is not an automatic self-propelling machine that will turn out a Christian life for the believer irrespective of what that believer does or the attitude he takes to the salvation God has provided" (Wuest). There must be a Willful determined effort on the part of the Christian to become the grown up son of God that God has determined for him to be. That determination will involve Prayer, Study of the Scriptures, Church attendance, etc. as the person seeks every means possible to develop as a Christian.

MANY PEOPLE ARE LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS BECAUSE THEY'RE SATISFIED BEING LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS!!!! There is Effort and Energy needed if you are to develop properly as a Christian.

**II. THE HARMONY REQUIRED:** "Add" is derived from the Greek word "Chorus". It does not mean that the following virtues should be added one on top of another but rather **BLENDED** together so as to produce Harmony in the Holiness of the believer. In the normal variations of life one or another of these virtues will constantly be thrust into the prominent place in your life but in the blend of your life they will produce a harmony of character that will allow you to "weep with them that weep, laugh with them that laugh, etc" instead of turning into a harsh judgmental Pharisee or a "Mushy, anything goes" liberal. It makes us "well rounded" and followers of the example of Christ who INCREASED IN WISDOM AND STATURE, AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN Luke 2:52.

Peter says this Harmony is a blend of 8 Virtues:

1. Faith: Saving Faith and Sustaining Faith
2. Virtue: Energy to translate faith into practice
3. Knowledge: Acquaintance with God's Purpose and Plans.
4. Temperance: self control of desires (These are not desires that are forbidden but desires that control you if you do not learn to control them!! Sex is good in the marriage relationship but Satan tries to get people obsessed with their selfish fulfillment of sexual desires so that it changes from making Love into fulfilling Lust. Food is necessary for the body but in excessive amounts it harms the very body it is meant to help! The tongue is a marvelous help in communicating Good and a destructive fire in spreading bad). Fasting is a tremendous help in developing and practicing this character trait. Temperance is also a Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:23).
5. Patience: "To remain under testings and trials in a way that honors God." Not just Enduring but Exhibiting Faith and Confidence in God so that the trials or testing turn into Triumph.
6. Godliness: Rightly Reverent in your living and in your relationship with God. The world is able to recognize your dependence on and deep affection for God by the demonstration of your life.
7. Brotherly Kindness: to have affection for a brother that allows you to overlook his faults while helping him develop [Notice how sometimes Christ was gentle with Peter and sometimes harsh but always developing him into the "Rock" He knew he could be].
8. Love: "That divine love which God is as to His nature, which is produced in the heart of the yielded believer by the Holy Spirit, and which impels him to deny himself for the benefit of the one loved."

ARE YOU A ONE DIMENSION OR A DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN??

### III. THE FRUIT INSPECTED:

A) The Norm: "In you and abound" means a natural possession that spills over instead of being forced out. You don't hear fruit trees groaning to produce fruit. They do so naturally. The Christian life should be an Overflow; not a constant "bucket brigade"!

B) The Negatives: How can you tell if a person is not growing??

1. Barren- idle, nothing going on (still waters stagnate)
2. Unfruitful- Fruit of the Spirit is not produced and the Father has to prune (John 15:). There is no increasing awareness or appreciation for the Lord Jesus; Paul counted all things but lost for the excellence of the Knowledge of Christ.
3. Blind- (Nearsighted- as a person who is in the dark and walks into a bright light and the light blinds him). Unable to understand spiritual things so he tries less and less. Another good way to describe this is that the person only sees the "near" which is self! And self becomes their world.

4. Forgetful of what God has done so doubt begins to infect. An unthankful heart is a heart on the road to backsliding (Rom 1:21).

ARE YOU A FRUITLESS FIG TREE WAITING TO BE CURSED BY GOD??

God has provided everything we need to live the successful developing Christian life. Are you Diligently Developing or Basically Backsliding?? All the materials you need to build a good life here and look forward to eternity in Heaven are available; You can use them or allow them to sit idly by and decay. You must make the choice.

## THE BASIS OF THE BIBLE

II Peter 1:19-21

Having told his readers how to Never Fall by leaning on God's Power and Promises and growing in Christian Virtues; Peter now finishes the "Positive Portion" of his letter with a definite declaration concerning the Word of God. He is about to expose false teachers and false doctrine and he needs to reconfirm to his readers the authority and accuracy of the Bible.

This, surprisingly, is still a major problem today. Many people acknowledge the Bible as the Word of God with their lips but fail to read or heed it in their lives. This is why people can be raised in Church and taught the basic Bible truths and still be wooed and won by cults and false doctrines. They rely on what "seems" right instead of what God says is right.

Peter lists for us three Basic things about the Scriptures that are extremely important: (1) It's Impact, What does it do? (2) It's Interpretation, Who can explain it? (3) It's Inspiration, Where did it come from.

**I. ITS IMPACT-** 2PE 1:19 WE HAVE ALSO A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY; WHEREUNTO YE DO WELL THAT YE TAKE HEED, AS UNTO A LIGHT THAT SHINETH IN A DARK PLACE, UNTIL THE DAY DAWN, AND THE DAY STAR ARISE IN YOUR HEARTS;

A) The Bible is Better than Experience- Peter says that the "Prophecy" (the Bible) is even more reliable than his experience in hearing God's voice on the Mount of Transfiguration!!! The reason he did so is because the Mount of Transfiguration is a one time event in the lives of 3 disciples while the scriptures have proven themselves true countless time to countless people. In this day of Charismatic Confusion where experience is valued above doctrine men need desperately to hear this truth.

B) The Bible is Beaming it's light into the world's darkness- The very fact that the Bible exposes sin and men shows it's trustworthiness. If it was of men it would excuse or hide men's faults and failures.

Because it is a light in a dark place we must avoid the obstacles it exposes and avail ourselves of the opportunities it shows (which is basically what the Psalmist was saying in Psalm 119:105 THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.)

**II. ITS INTERPRETATION-** 2PE 1:20 KNOWING THIS FIRST, THAT NO PROPHECY OF THE SCRIPTURE IS OF ANY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION.

A) It's Primacy- You must understand how to "Unravel" the mysteries of the Scriptures when you begin or you will end up worst than you began- See 3:15-16 AND ACCOUNT THAT THE LONGSUFFERING OF OUR LORD IS SALVATION; EVEN AS OUR BELOVED BROTHER PAUL ALSO ACCORDING TO THE WISDOM GIVEN UNTO HIM HATH WRITTEN UNTO YOU; AS ALSO IN ALL HIS EPISTLES, SPEAKING IN THEM OF THESE THINGS; IN WHICH ARE SOME THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD, WHICH THEY THAT ARE UNLEARNED AND UNSTABLE WREST, AS THEY DO ALSO THE OTHER SCRIPTURES, UNTO THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION. Far Far too many people start out with a theory and then try to find a Scripture than they can make say that instead of first finding out what God is trying to say and then building their theories accordingly.

B) It's Privacy- The "Private Interpretation" here refers to the PROPHETS Interpretation and not the Readers!! Reading this verse with the next verse shows us that the Prophet did not prophesy according to his own unique situation but according to the Holy Spirit's Direction. The Prophet was able to use the prophesy in his day for his situation but God is able to use it any time and any place (Many of the prophesies about Christ were not understood until Christ fulfilled them-- Example: Most scholars of Jesus' day would have said that the promised Messiah would be a Nazarene in Character while Jesus was a Nazarene in Citizenship!! (Matt 2:23))

This does not give every man the right to make up his own interpretation of the Bible and do as he pleases but it does allow God to use Scriptures in Personal situations-- Many times I have read a portion of Scripture and saw a wonderful truth but when faced with another set of circumstances I would see another truth just as wonderful from the same Scripture; That's why the Bible is the "living" Word of God!

III. ITS INSPIRATION- 2PE 1:21 FOR THE PROPHECY CAME NOT IN OLD TIME BY THE WILL OF MAN: BUT HOLY MEN OF GOD SPoke AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST.

A) Not by Men's Desire- God did not give Prophecy because men wanted to know what to do; He gave the Prophecy because He wanted to show man what HE WANTED DONE!! It is not a matter of man's learning what God wants and then considering if he will obey it; it is man hearing God's orders and obeying them!

B) By God's Direction- Wuest says that there are 3 steps in the transmission of truth from the heart of God to the heart of man:

(1) Revelation: The act of God the Holy Spirit imparting to the Bible writers, truth incapable of being discovered by man's unaided reason (I Cor 2:10-12)

(2) Inspiration: The act of God the Holy spirit enabling the Bible writers to write down in God-chosen words, infallible, the truth revealed (I Cor 2:13)

(3) Illumination: The act of God the Holy Spirit enabling believers to understand the truth given by revelation and written down by inspiration. (I Cor 2:14-16) Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament Vol IV Page 38

The Bible can only impact on men's lives as they acknowledge it's relevancy to their situation and accept it's authority over their decisions.

Do You read the Bible for Your information or because it's God's Inspiration??

# 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 23 12-15-88 LAWRENCE STREET • PO BOX 1003 • LAKE CITY, S.C. • 29560

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: We've had such a good Spirit in our Services during this Christmas Season until I can hardly wait for the next few weeks of Activities. I remember years when I kept thinking about how good it would be for all the



activities of Christmas to be over because everyone seemed so tense and tired but not this year!! We cordially invite you to attend Any and All of these Celebration Services:

Sunday, December 18:

White Christmas Offering: ALL of the Offering Received this Sunday go to our annual "Offering for the Lord". We do not exchange gifts as a Church.

Instead, EVERYONE in the Church is encouraged to give a special Love Offering to the Lord [Parents are encouraged to make sure each member of their family is able to participate].

CALL HIM JESUS: The Adult Christmas Musical will be presented at 6:30pm. This is the first times our Adult Choir has attempted a Musical Program and I believe the results will excite and inspire you.

KING JESUS: The Youth Christmas Program will begin at 7:30pm on Wednesday, Dec. 21. Our "kids" are really doing well and I look forward to seeing this program. It will be followed by our annual finger food fellowship and, although it's not Hot Dogs!, I still look forward to trying all the Christmas goodies.

(Hope Frye and Anne Thigpen selected and directed both these programs and I TREMENDOUSLY APPRECIATE their work).



### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES:

Special Worship and Celebration Services are planned from

10:00-11:00am. We hope to have the largest attendance so far this year as we put the worship of Christ back into Christmas. [SPECIAL NOTE to our Radio Congregation, We will be on live on Christmas day [over WJOT 1260 on the AM dial] from 10-11 instead of 11-noon; so be sure to tune in early.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
P O Box 1003 348 Lawrence St  
Lake City, S C 29560

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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Lake City, S C 29560

Our SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes using the Dobson Video Series has been well attended and received. We will continue this Sunday with (could you think of a more appropriate title the Sunday before Christmas!) "Christian Fathering". Then we will skip two weeks- no Sunday School on Christmas day and a Sunday of Review on Jan 1; before continuing the series.

Since we aren't having assembly during these classes and will have no lesson for responsive reading once they conclude I have assigned several "Volunteers" to give OBJECT LESSONS the remainder of the quarter:

Dec 4- Beginner Class  
 Dec 11- Primary Class  
 Dec 18- Junior Class  
 Jan 1- Pastor  
 Jan 8- Connie Mathis/Billie Ard  
 Jan 15- Todd Newell  
 Jan 22- Sully Sullivan  
 Jan 29- Damon Runion  
 Feb 5- Wyman Lowder  
 Feb 12- Marion Coker  
 Feb 19- Beginner Class  
 Feb 26- Connie Mathis/Billie Ard

I am also seeking some "Volunteers" to direct the Valentine Banquet (Tuesday, Feb 14 or Wed. Feb 15), the Good Friday Program (Friday March 24), and we will be selecting a Vacation Bible School Planning Committee in the next few weeks. If the Lord does not return, I look for 1987 to be the most productive year of service for the Lord our Church has ever had so you'd better get your "Working Shoes" on!!

Speaking of the Lord's Return, the last chapter of II Peter deals with the Lord's return so we will conclude our study of II Peter during January and use that as a "launching pad" to begin a study of ESCHATOLOGY during the first few months of 1987. [Eschatology is the study of "End Time" things].

We also plan to enjoy more **GOOD MUSIC** next year. In addition to the continued improvement and participation by our Adult Choir [I've set a goal for them to "cut a tape" in 1987 that will have choir specials on one side and instrumental and individual specials on the other] we have already set up **SPECIAL SONG SERVICES--**

Jan 8- Richard Lee Family 6:00pm  
 Jan 22- Tommy Graham 6:00pm

This will probably be the last newsletter of 1986. I am trying to get all the booklets I have written ready to publish and get the Outreach Tape Ministry

in a more useable order (I have over 300 master tapes that have to be

stored and listed so I can quickly obtain copies when people request them; and that doesn't include the nearly 100 Master tapes of Bethel Bible Institute Studies that have to be copied and put into a systematic order).

I am also working on the year end financial statement for the Outreach Ministry (I hope to include it in this edition, if not, then it will appear in the first edition of 1987) but I already know it has been a marvelous year of Ministry and Miracles and I Appreciate each person who has helped make it possible.

I Pray God will give you the very best Christmas season ever as you realize the Babe of Bethlehem is the Christ of Calvary so you can Love Him with all your heart and Serve Him with all your Life.

Preacher Mike



# GRACE & GLORY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## INCOME:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| January.....   | 316.02   |
| February.....  | 353.00   |
| March.....     | 183.89   |
| April.....     | 201.12   |
| May.....       | 511.29   |
| June.....      | 511.58   |
| July.....      | 337.08   |
| August.....    | 562.51   |
| September..... | 754.63** |
| October.....   | 497.51   |
| November.....  | 1128.94  |
| December.....  | 52.00    |
| TOTAL-----     | 5409.57  |

## EXPENSE:

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| January.....   | 498.85    |
| February.....  | 112.27    |
| March.....     | 225.32    |
| April.....     | 568.11    |
| May.....       | 92.82     |
| June.....      | 518.50    |
| July.....      | 482.40    |
| August.....    | 123.65    |
| September..... | 1269.61** |
| October.....   | 520.42    |
| November.....  | 880.27    |
| December.....  | 200.21    |
| TOTAL-----     | 5492.43## |

Balance 12/23/87.....\$ 400.23

Income for 1988.....\$ 5407.57

TOTAL to Account for...\$ 5807.80

Expense for 1988.....\$ 5492.43

Balance 12/15/88.....\$ 317.37 (I have \$233.50 worth of blank tapes that have been received but the bill has not yet been received. After paying for them the total becomes \$83.87)

\*\*\*Both these totals are "inflated". I bought a VCR but it was not what I wanted so I returned it, I wrote a check for it and then returned the money to the fund when I returned it but it shows up on the books and has to be reported. I then bought the VCR we are presently using; so it appears we bought 2 VCRs in September when we only bought one.

## ##--EXPENSES:

Postage-----\$1199.67

Paper/Supplies---\$1014.99

Help Needy-----\$ 522.31

Tapes-----\$ 417.00 (Plus \$233.50 received but not paid for)

Video Ministry---\$ 933.68 (includes returned VCR)

Booklets-----\$ 385.12

Computer-----\$ 968.60 (Programs, Mouse, Monitor)

Various-----\$ 51.06

Total Expense---\$5492.43

**THANKS** to EVERYONE who prayed and contributed during 1988. Hundreds of Tapes and Booklets and Thousands of Newsletters allowed us to reach multitudes of people last year. There is still so very much to do; I hope we can at least double the number of people we reach in 1989. Continue to Pray for God's Wisdom and direction in everything we do.

Preacher Mike



## THE SHEPHERD'S SERMON

Luke 2:8-14

I imagine these shepherds were like most of us; a little upset at having to work the "graveyard" shift in the fields while the rest of the town celebrated the excitement surrounding the Census Crowd. Sitting by the fire that night, watching the glow of distant Bethlehem, they probably mourned their lot in life and never dreamed that thousands and countless thousands of men and boys would pretend to be them in years to come!

Suddenly the serenity of that fireside was disturbed by a blinding light that brought terror to the hearts of these men. But immediately following the terror came a message; one of the greatest messages the world had ever heard, the message that the Messiah was come!

As we sit calmly in our pews today thinking of the pressure of Christmas schedules and Christmas bills, I want us to look at this message and see The SERMON, the SIGN, and the SAYING contained in it so that we too can see the Saviour.

I. THE SERMON- LUK 2:10-11 AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM, FEAR NOT: FOR, BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

A) To Calm their fear- "Fear Not". Unexpected and unexplained things bring fear and worry. Yet sometimes the very thing that brings the fear is the messenger of Good News! (as the Angels were here)

B) To Proclaim the Good News- "Good tidings of great joy"

1. To all People

2. A Saviour is born, Christ the Lord.

That's the greatness of our message even today. Death, hell, and the grave have been defeated and fear should no longer hold you in bondage. Like the Shepherds, we too many times face sudden crisis- major disease, death of a loved one, unexpected debt, acute loneliness, etc.. God's message to us is that Christ has been born bringing good tidings of great joy about life and all it's problems:

1. Disease- You can live with it [in which case God will give sufficient Grace- II Cor 12:9] or die from it [in which case you can go to be with Christ!!].

2. Death- O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING. O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY!

3. Debt- HIM THAT IS ABLE TO DO EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, Eph 3:20

4. Loneliness- He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

II. THE SIGN- LUK 2:12 AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU; YE SHALL FIND THE BABE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, LYING IN A MANGER.

A) The Baby- God sent a Baby to conquer the world- A Baby for God is more POWERFUL than any force in the world.

B) The Bundling- Swaddling clothes- PROSPERITY is not how much you own for this was the King of Kings in rags.

C) The Bassinet- a manger- It's not your PLACE in society.

To the Wise men God sent a STAR, to the Shepherds He sent a STABLE. He always points the way to Christ in a way YOU can recognize.

III. THE SAYING- LUK 2:13-14 AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST PRAISING GOD, AND SAYING, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

A) Praises for God- For only in loving and adoring Him do we find what our heart craves.

B) Peace for Men- Because the Baby came to Bethlehem, Christ would die on the Cross and men could find Peace and Salvation.

The Sermon for the Shepherds contained a message, an example, and a conclusion (Good rules for every preacher to follow as he builds his sermons!). But a sermon demands a response. How should you respond to the Shepherd's Sermon? LUK 2:15 AND IT CAME TO PASS, AS THE ANGELS WERE GOING AWAY FROM THEM INTO HEAVEN, THE SHEPHERDS SAID ONE TO ANOTHER, LET US NOW GO EVEN UNTO BETHLEHEM, AND SEE THIS THING WHICH IS COME TO PASS, WHICH THE LORD HATH MADE KNOWN UNTO US. Come to Christ.

## Servants of Corruption

II Peter 2:1-22

One of the Biblical "truths" that we often overlook is that for every good thing God provides Satan has an "evil Opposite". This is especially true regarding those that proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Satan has his messengers and his message; and multitudes of people are unwittingly following his "pied pipers" down the road to destruction (and, amazingly, most are singing as they go!!). Today I want us to look at Peter's exposure of these "Servants of Corruption".

There are 3 reasons we need to do this: (1) **Satan's Traps**- Satan is not only a "roaring Lion", he is also an "Angel of light" and we need to recognize the difference; (2) **Satan's Teachers**-Many today relate to a Man instead of his message. They put his word above God's word and his ways above Biblical ways; and (3) **Satan's Teachings**- The preaching of the Cross is foolishness to men and Satan's teachings make so much "Sense". Worship services have become so "Cut and dried" until we really don't enjoy worshipping God; we go home with a new thought in our head and the same cold feeling in our heart! So when Satan comes along with a message of emotional fulfillment, release from financial worries, and painless living many eagerly jump on his bandwagon. Peter exposes these teachers for what they are and shows how and why God's judgement will fall upon them and all who follow their teachings!!!

### THE FALSE TEACHERS TO COME--

#### 1. THEIR DESCRIPTION. 2:1-3

A) The Certainty of their coming- "There SHALL BE false Teachers among you" (See Acts 20:28-30)

B) The Corruption of their Doctrine- "A Little Leaven..."

1. "Privily shall bring in damnable heresies"; These false teachers cleverly included a little false teaching among much true teaching, and this corrupted everything they did - as finding a hair in your bowl of soup dims the taste!!

2. "Damnable": speaks of the loss of everything that makes human existence worthwhile. It literally means "Ruin, destruction". This is not something as simple as trying to determine Cain's Wife! This teaching led to destruction for the Teacher and his Followers.

3. "Heresies" is the "Choice of an opinion that is not the normal"; therefore, to draw a wrong conclusion from the evidence provided- to "twist" scripture to say what you want it to say instead of what God intended it to say. In this case the "Heresy" is denying the Lord that bought them; denying the redemptive work of Christ as complete in itself.

C) The Consequences of their actions:

a) Regarding their Success: MANY shall follow their Pernicious path ["Pernicious" is unbridled lust, wantonness, shamelessness and refers to the immoral lives and thoughts of these false teachers]. They will have great success because they will appeal to the Flesh instead of Faith; and this very success will cause many more to follow!!

b) Regarding Themselves: Bring upon themselves swift destruction

c) Regarding Christians: The way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

d) Regarding their "Converts": Make Merchandise of them

They destroy themselves, bring reproach on the work of God, and waste the Time, tithes, and talents of those who follow them; and yet as they do this they are able to build a large earthly empire!!!

II. THEIR DESTRUCTION 2:4-9 There are 3 examples given to show God's Displeasure with the False: God didn't Spare:

A) The Angels: vs 4 He cast them out of Heaven into "Tartarus" [a part of Hell reserved for fallen angels]. 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. Jude 6

B) The World: vs 5 He destroyed the world by water in Noah's day

C) The Cities: vs 6 of Sodom and Gomorrah due to their sin

III. THEIR DEFILEMENT 2:10-19

Their Character

A) Arrogant 10-11 The only power they recognize is "Self" and they're quick to condemn or criticize anyone doesn't see things their way.

B) Ignorant 12 Like "Brute Beast" who live only for today; unaware that the slaughter House door is just ahead.

C) Wanton 13-16 Want to "party" all the time while maintaining a religious facade. Their eyes are full of lust, their mind is captivated by sin, their heart works at coveting, and they are willing to even curse God's children if there is a profit involved.

Their Claims: 17-19

A) Relieve Thirst but like wells without water and wind blown clouds they are promises without fulfillment.

B) Give Liberty but they are in Bondage to Sin. They talk about Freedom from their "cells of sin" and only add more cellmates!! Matt 23:15 WOE UNTO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YE COMPASS SEA AND LAND TO MAKE ONE PROSELYTE, AND WHEN HE IS MADE, YE MAKE HIM TWOFOLD MORE THE CHILD OF HELL THAN YOURSELVES.

IV. THEIR DESPERATE STRAIT 20-22

A) After having escaped the pollution of the world, they are again entangled to the point of being overcome. On the border of the Promised land they turn back and die in the desert. They had the pure water of life and deliberately mixed it with mud!!

B) Their latter end is worse than the beginning due to their

1. Knowledge- They know what real liberty and freedom is and now have settled for a fake and a fraud.

2. Carnality- Vomit and mire are their habitation. How the Mighty have fallen!!

There are multitudes of False Prophets today. And God's Judgment is hanging over their head. You can follow them down the path to destruction or you can allow the Truth to really set you free. Prime candidates for these False Teachers are lukewarm uncommitted Christians. When your zeal for God begins to wane Satan will always have something to replace it with-- but look what happen you end up in.

## Diamonds in the Mud

II Peter 2:5-9

In the early days of Diamond mining in South Africa Diamonds were literally "laying on the ground" for you to pick up but it soon became necessary to begin mining to obtain them. At first even this was not much of a task as the ground was soft and the rewards were great. Soon however they mined past the soft ground to a layer of "marble Clay" that was almost like a concrete barrier. Many stopped mining and went elsewhere but some felt that if they could get past this hardened mud they would again find Diamonds. They went to great work and effort to cut this mud into blocks and haul it into the plain beside the mine in the hopes they would soon get past it; it became apparent, however, that the mud was deeper than they thought and it seemed their efforts had been futile. One day, however, a worker noticed that the mud blocks they had hauled to the surface had begun to dry and crack in the African Sun and as they fell apart they found that many of them contained diamonds!!

This is a little like what I want us to look at today. In the midst of a sin-sick world mined in the mud of corruption and sin God "plucks" out a couple of Diamonds for us to examine and learn from.

### I. NOAH: The Preacher of Righteousness.

A) The MUD: GOD SAW THAT THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY. THE EARTH ALSO WAS CORRUPT BEFORE GOD, AND THE EARTH WAS FILLED WITH VIOLENCE. AND GOD LOOKED UPON THE EARTH, AND, BEHOLD, IT WAS CORRUPT; FOR ALL FLESH HAD CORRUPTED HIS WAY UPON THE EARTH. Gen 6:5, 11-12

Gen 6:11-12 in the Amplified Bible gives an even more graphic description of how bad Noah's times were- "The earth was depraved and putrid in God's sight, and the land was filled with violence (desecration, infringement, outrage, assault, and lust for power). And God looked upon the world and saw how degenerate, debased and vicious it was; for all humanity had corrupted their way upon the earth and lost their true direction." What an awful picture of a world in which Crime, Corruption, and Chaos were the order of the day. Men had gone from believing IN GOD to BEING their own GOD so that whatever pleased them had to be right (Does that sound like our world today??).

God had tried to warn this Wayward World away from the "Quicksand" it was bogged in-- Enoch had warned these people (Jude 14,15 AND ENOCH ALSO, THE SEVENTH FROM ADAM, PROPHESED OF THESE, SAYING, BEHOLD, THE LORD COMETH WITH TEN THOUSANDS OF HIS SAINTS, TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT UPON ALL, AND TO CONVINCE ALL THAT ARE UNGODLY AMONG THEM OF ALL THEIR UNGODLY DEEDS WHICH THEY HAVE UNGODLY COMMITTED, AND OF ALL THEIR HARD SPEECHES WHICH UNGODLY SINNERS HAVE SPOKEN AGAINST HIM.); Noah preached righteousness to them; and God's Spirit had been striving with them (Gen 6:3); yet they rejected God and were without excuse. Just as today men have every opportunity to hear and heed the call of God and, yet, most of them live their lives seeking only to please self and ignoring the warning of the wrath of God that will soon be unleashed upon them.

B) The DIAMOND- One of the greatest verses in the Bible to me is BUT NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD Gen 6:8. To me it's a message of Hope as the sun swiftly sets on this sinsick world; an assurance that God still honors Faith and Faithfulness. HEB 11:7 says that this Grace saved Noah, His family, and the creatures of the earth- BY FAITH NOAH, BEING WARNED OF GOD OF THINGS NOT SEEN AS YET, MOVED WITH FEAR, PREPARED AN ARK TO THE SAVING OF HIS HOUSE; BY WHICH HE CONDEMNED THE WORLD, AND BECAME HEIR OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS BY FAITH.

You have a choice today, you can be a Preacher of Righteousness or a Partaker with the riotous; You can be destroyed with the mud or shine as a "Diamond" forever.

II. LOT: The "Vexed". Lot might be called a Diamond with a slight flaw! Where Noah Preached to and separated from the "Mud" of the multitude, Lot dwelt among and continually saw and heard the filth of the world.

A) The MUD: "Vexed" means to tire down with toil, to exhaust. In this case it can be translated "To Wear out"! Lot was completely worn down by the manner of life of the lawless inhabitants of Sodom. And he never got the opportunity to be refreshed and renewed because he had settled down permanently among them and was constantly worn down by seeing and hearing their ungodliness every day. This is what takes the "Victory" out of many Christians today-- They work in the world, rest in front of a television spewing wickedness, and must daily deal with a society that has lost all morals and manners.

Too bad Lot didn't have a Church he could have gone to for Inspiration and Edification-- Too bad that many that have such a church available do not attend and allow the world to constantly wear them out!

Too bad Lot didn't have Family Devotions to renew his family's spiritual health and teach them right from wrong-- Too bad that families today never pray and study the Bible together and allow the world to mold their children into it's image. Just like Lot, now their children will not listen when they tell them God's wrath is coming and most will die in the destruction.

B) The DIAMOND: I'll admit to you that I probably would have "Written Lot off" if I would have been God but, Thank God, God still loved and cared for Lot. I would have called Lot a lot of things but never what God called him, Just. I'm so glad God saw he had a "righteous soul" and didn't use man's judgment. What a tremendous Help and Hope this is for those of us who are not Giants in the work and Generals in God's Army but, instead, simply imperfect "foot soldiers". Aren't you glad the Father is still on the porch waiting for the son to come home from the Pigpen!!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Noah built an ark to the saving of his household. Lot lost his family, his fortune, and his "fame" by living among, instead of separating from, the world. God was willing to forgive Sin but there are consequences of sinfulness that must be dealt with-- People will repent of sin and come to God expecting this to mend their marriage; forgetting that while they have come to a relationship with God they must also mend their relationship with their mate. People fail to raise their children right and then when one of them gets into trouble they think that one trip to the altar can make up for years of neglect. A man will abuse his body and society's trust with his drink or drug habit and then think a single prayer will restore the money he's thrown away and renew people's confidence in him.

God calls us today to be "Diamonds" in the midst of the Mud. It begins with the change from "Dirt to Diamonds" by being born again. Then He asks us to live a life of Separation so that we can shine as lights to others that need to see the way.

Are you Warning the World or living like the World??

Are you Dirt or a Diamond??