

GRACE And GLORY



GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wed. Prayer Service 7:30pm
Pastor Mike Jones--394-3725

Vol IX Num 1 January 10, 1991

It's hard to believe that we're beginning our Ninth year of publishing "Grace and Glory". What a joy it has been to operate this Faith Ministry over the years and see God's continual provision. Some day I'd like to write a book about it all and share with others how good God has been to me.



Some of you have been on the mailing list from the beginning while some are recent additions. Whenever you joined our "Family" we're glad to be able to share our news and sermons with you twice each month.

For the benefit of those who have recently begun receiving our newsletter let me list some of the basic things about this ministry.

MINISTRY'S OPERATION- I operate under the oversight of the Church but the Church does not contribute financially or physically (Except for some "Volunteer" help from time to time) to the Ministry. I'm the editor, secretary, treasurer, printer, and general worker for the entire ministry.

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

The Financial needs of the work are supplied by people as they feel led of God to help. When we have a need I ask God and He always supplies. Our materials are always Free and contributions are never solicited.

THE MINISTRY'S PURPOSE- When I arrived at Grace Church we ran between 20 and 40 in Sunday School. Now we run between 50 and 80. I felt then (and feel now) that the talents and message of the Church deserved a much larger audience.



After trying many plans that failed to get people to come to the Church I finally decided to carry the Church to the people.

The many branches of our Outreach resulted.

Work and sickness were some people's excuse for not attending Church. We broadcast our 11am service over the local AM Station now so these people won't have to miss anything (Our Prayer is for an FM and TV Station).

If they can't listen to the radio they can get audio or video tapes of the services.

Those who can't (or won't) listen to the radio or tapes of the services receive the sermons when they receive this Newsletter. Many of the sermons are also put into Bible Study Booklets and distributed to individuals, churches, waiting rooms, and anywhere else we can think of. We presently have 12 such booklets available.

(OVER)

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Available is a relative term here! Last year was a tremendous year for distribution and we only have 4 booklets still in print. My goal is to reprint all of them within the next 2 months.



I also contribute articles to 4 weekly newspapers in the area. This allows us to reach over 25,000 people per week with a Gospel message (That's over ONE MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR!!). Many of these are the same people over and over, however, and our goal this year is to reach a Million Different People with the Gospel.

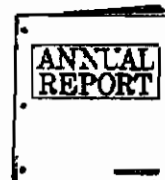
This ministry is also being multiplied. A book of last year's newspaper articles has been prepared and as soon as I can get enough paper to print it (It will take over 25,000 sheets!!) I will begin distributing them (By doing all the work myself I can print 1000 copies for less than \$200. A Printer would want over \$1000 to do it. I would love one day to be able to have several thousand printed by a professional printer so they look nice for distributing in waiting rooms and hospitals).

If people think this year's book is a help to them then we can publish a volume each year. Three articles a week (2 Papers use the same article) equals over 150 articles a year. That's a Good size book. (Our goal this year is to increase from 4 Newspapers a week to at least 10 per week).

By the way, We certainly haven't given up on getting more people into church. Last year we changed to a "Nine to Noon" format (Moved our 6:00 service to 9am on Sunday Morning). That helped boost our attendance. Other plans are in the works and our goal is to consistently have over 100 in Sunday School each week in 1991.

It's important to remember that the sermons and tapes we distribute are from the Church services. They are the "stone" thrown into the pond; the other things are simply ripples.

THE MINISTRIES FINANCES- From the beginning I determined that we would never accumulate money for money's sake. As the money comes in it is spend on needs and then more is prayed for. No salaries are paid to anyone and ALL of the money is used to publish material, distribute material, or purchase the equipment necessary for the work.



Last year, by Faith, this work received \$9,473.76! This came from 47 different people. It enabled us to do more last year than in all previous years combined!

Our Expenses were:

Postage	\$1,137.15
Tapes	\$1,139.17
Paper	\$1,046.28
Supplies	\$1,027.19
Books	\$297.86
Equipment	\$3,663.55
Help Needy	\$997.00
TOTAL	\$9,308.20

Total INCOME	\$9,473.76
Total EXPENSE	\$9,308.20
BALANCE	\$165.56

Balance: 1-1-90	\$109.91
1990 surplus	\$165.56
Balance: 1-1-91	\$275.47

(We actually have \$275.46 on the books. I have searched for that extra penny for hours and can't find it!! but I will !!).

THANKS to each of you who contributed to, and prayed for, this work last year. Much of the equipment we need is now in place and, hopefully, almost all of the money received now can be put directly into publishing and distributing. What an exciting year is ahead of us!!

December was a great month at the Church. All of our Programs were very good (Hope you can get a tape of them) and I appreciate everyone's work.

Our White Christmas Offering was over \$3700 (Glory!!). Great People go to Grace Church Preacher Mike

WHAT ARE GODLY GOALS??

Successful People are Goal Setters. They have a Desire to accomplish something plus the Discipline needed to turn that "Dream" into a reality. As we begin a new year we all need to re-evaluate our goals and determine to do the best we can to accomplish them.

FIRST DANGER- "Only General Goals".

A) No Specific Action- He who aims at nothing normally hits it! You must know where you're going and what you hope to accomplish. A General Goal that simply says, "I want to do better" will never motivate you to specific action.

B) No Stable Action- It's important that we have DEFINABLE GOALS because *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways* (James 1:8). General goals change with your feelings and your circumstances.

List 3 to 5 Goals you want to accomplish this year in your Spiritual Life; Your Family Life; Your Personal Life; In the Church.

SECOND DANGER- "Wrong Goals". It would be a disaster to spend your life attempting to accomplish a specific goal and then find it was the wrong thing to do.

Many Goals are based on Popular opinion rather than Godly determination. Societies values may look good in the short term but they reap the wrong reward in eternity.

How do you determine a right goal:

1. It agrees with the Teaching of God's word.
2. It is not just to ease our fears or pad our ego- *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts* (James 4:3). {A good thing to do is to share your goals with a good friend or family member to determine if you have a "blind spot" about it}.
3. The Goal is something that can be accomplished-- I'm fat and bald; I can lose weight but I can't grow hair! Some people's goals are to change their mates or children into something they can't be. Once my goal was to be a great Preacher; but I don't have that "special something" that attracts people. Now my Goal is to make other Preachers (and People) great.

THIRD DANGER- "Finishing the Goal"

A) No Follow up. Like New Year's Diets, it only last a few days.

B) The Goal becomes the Goal; you lose sight of WHY you are doing what you're doing. Church building programs are bad about this. Instead of growth when the building is completed, everyone seems to think that the whole purpose was simply to build the building. They relax, become lukewarm, and soon don't need the building!

C) No Flexibility- The Goal is not allowed to grow along with you (Paul wanted to preach the Gospel to the Jews. When they would not hear the Gospel he (under God's direction) went to the Gentiles). Goals are simply Guidelines to motivate us to greater service. If God opens a bigger door, get a bigger goal!!

WHAT DO YOU AIM TO ACCOMPLISH FOR GOD THIS YEAR??- *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps* (Prov. 16:9).

THE EFFECTIVE WITNESS

Philemon 1-7

One of only 5 books in the Bible with one Chapter (Obadiah, II John, III John, Jude, and Philemon). This is a personal letter from Paul the Apostle who was in jail to Philemon of Colosse concerning the runaway slave Onesimus.

Paul begins this letter by complimenting Philemon on some of the fine qualities in his life. One of these was his ability as an Effective Witness. This is a goal that every Christian desires. Let's see what these qualities were and then translate them into our life.

PHILEMON WAS AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS Because:

A) He Communicated what God had done for him vs 6 *That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus* (Phile 1:6). There are numerous ways to communicate God's Blessings in our life:

1. People see our Faith at work in our lives.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world (Rom 1:8).

For by it (Faith) the elders obtained a good report (Heb 11:2).

For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing (1 Th 1:8).

2. People see our testimony in our changed personality- *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven* (Mat 5:16).

3. People hear our words of Thankfulness about God's Blessings. You effectively communicate when you acknowledge the good things which are in you as a result of your relationship to Christ. This is what being a Witness is all about.

Do people know you as a complainer or a Witness??

B> His household had a Testimony vs 2

1. Wife was beloved and Son was a Minister (Col 4:17)

2. His House was used for a Church.

His Christianity was not a "show" at work, it was translated into actions at home. That's the acid test of your testimony- Preacher and Deacons were not to be accepted if they didn't have a Testimony with their family (I Tim 3).

C> He was a Joy to other Christians vs 7 *For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother* (Phile 1:7). Philemon showed his love to fellow Christians in such a way that it brought joy and comfort to fellow saints and "Picked up" everyone's spirit-- *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another* (John 13:35)>

An Effective Witness is one that has something good to say about what God has done for him, lives his Christianity at home, and "meshes" with other Christians. It is not a "Canned" presentation we give from duty but a Christlike life we live all the time. Are you that kind of Witness??

TAPPING THE POWER

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (John 7:37-39)

We have already discussed three vital issues:

- (1) The Holy Spirit's Power is AVAILABLE to, and NECESSARY in, the Christian's life.
- (2) The Holy Spirit's Power on a person's life is not evidenced by a performance (such as speaking in tongues) but is shown in the ability given to the person to perform his duties as a Christian.
- (3) The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a COMMANDED action and a CONTINUOUS action- *be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; (Eph 5:18) {"Be filled" here means to "Be being filled" with the Holy Spirit. Not a one time experience but a continuing process of being controlled by the Spirit as a man can be controlled by liquor}.*

One of the things many young people are learning after Christmas is that toys have to have batteries to run and those batteries don't last very long. This same thing is found in the Christian life. We must obtain a "Battery" to begin with by being Born Again; and that new found energy and enthusiasm begins to fade in the rat race of life. We want to do right but don't know how to find the time and energy to accomplish what's expected of us.

How do we get the "rivers of living water" that Jesus spoke about flowing in our life?

I. REALIZE THE POWER'S AVAILABILITY- In Eph 1:15-20, Paul prays for the Ephesians to become aware of the fact that God has given them the same power He used to resurrect Christ from the dead!! We live in the dark because we don't know the power that's available to us by simply flipping the switch by faith. The Power of God's Spirit is not an "extra" for some special people; it's the normal for anyone requesting it--*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Luke 11:13)*

II. REST IN THE LORD- *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 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 (Isa 40:29-31).* Stay close to the Source.

III. RESPOND BY FAITH- The main thing missing in many people's Christian life is "JDI" (Just Do It). The Available Power must become Active Power. We don't wait for a sign to believe we have some mystical power; we accept God's word by Faith and act on it- *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself (John 7:17).*

Don't live in the Dark, Turn on the Power!

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

I have learned through the years to turn bad situations into good situations. This keeps down frustration and aggravation while allowing you to be "more than conquerors". To be "more than conquerors" means you not only defeat your enemy but you turn him into someone that benefits you.

An example of this was when a misfortune happened to my wife. This forced me to stay around home for several months. I couldn't get to my flock like I wanted so I began to look for a way to turn a bad circumstance into something that would benefit the Lord and the Church.

From that period of "captivity" has come a newspaper, newsletter, magazine, book ministry that allows me to reach thousands more people each week than I reached before.

Another example would be our Wednesday Night services. Many times we have a large number of children that attend our Bible Study Time. After a few minutes they become restless and increasingly active. I can become frustrated and deprive several adults of their Bible Study time by making them carry the kids to the nursery; or I can turn a negative into a positive. I do that by incorporating as many of the kids as possible into the lesson. This keeps their attention, increases their learning, and shows them that we really want them in our services.

You have a choice today. You can gripe and complain about the rock in your road. Or you can turn it into a stepping stone to bigger and better things. Why don't you learn to be More than Conquerors!

THE GUIDE POST

Sometimes being lazy can get you into trouble. While walking back from Church one night I decided to take a short cut across Mr. Buster's Pasture. There was enough moonlight that I could see the basics and everything was fine until I realized that I would have to cross the hog pen also. I realized this when I stumbled over the electric wire around the hog pen and was shocked into instant awareness! The problem compounded itself when I realized I had stumbled into the hog pen and had to get past that same wire to get out.

I decided to make the best of a bad situation by continuing across the hog pen and getting out on the side that was closest to the house. While I was walking I was praying and asking the Lord how I was going to get out without getting all tangled up in that electric wire again. I remembered a verse that said, *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye* (Ps 32:8); and so I began to look for a way for God to guide me. I lifted my eyes from the ground, where I had been intently looking for the electric wire, and almost immediately saw the answer to my problem. The wire was attached to posts and all I had to do was go to a post and step over there.

There have been many times in life since then that I have found myself in difficult circumstances but I have always tried to find God's "Guide Posts" and they has shown me the way out. It's wonderful to know that *God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death* (Ps 48:14). I'm glad I don't have to find my way through this world on my own. Thank God, He's my Friend and Guide.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 2 January 31, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

What a Glorious Day we had in the Lord Sunday. The attendance was very good, we were honored

Rejoice!

with special music by Mrs Brandy Jackson, two of our Teen Girl were gloriously saved, and the Church decided to give the Pastor a \$40 a week raise! (Although, I told them I would have voted against it. They don't know how much money I plan to spend in the next few months here at the Church! We have some more parking to pave, a new PA system to purchase, a new heating/cooling system is needed for the parsonage, and I'm hoping to begin our new \$200,000 Church this year. And it's only January!)

I'm also happy to report that the work has finally begun on cleaning the ditch on the North side of the Church. As soon as that is completed we hope to get the tile installed on the East end of the Church (Where the new building will go) and then pave the additional Parking we added a while back. Then I hope we will be able to add more parking on the West end of the Church so that we will be able to handle the increasing congregation.

This Sunday (February 3) at 9am we will have a Special GIDEON speaker and receive an offering for the Gideon's work of Bible distribution. This is an annual event that enables us to help a very worthwhile organization.

This coming Sunday NIGHT I will begin a FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES Study course at the Gilead FWB Church. It will run for 3 Sunday Nights:

Feb 3- Money PRINCIPLES

Feb 10- Money's POWER

Feb 17- Money PLANS

We will learn that Money doesn't talk, it screams! and we will learn that God gives you power to get wealth (Deut 8:18). We'll also learn how to get money without letting money get you. Hope you can join us.

DOLLARS AND CENTS

I APPRECIATE Memorial Gifts to this work recently in Memory of W. L. Lewis by Jessie Wilkes, David Tisdale, and Janice Runion; and in Memory of Kate Stone by Don Lewis and Janice Runion. A Number of people have also contributed during January and that has really helped as we start a new year.

Hope to see you in Grace Church
THIS SUNDAY . . . Preacher Mike

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DEFEATING SATAN

Ephesians 6:10-18

As we prepare for war in the Mid East it should remind us that we exist in a state of war with Satan. He is out to destroy our lives, families, and testimony; as well as drive us away from God to be eternally lost. How can we as Christians win this war against Satan and the World?

THE SCOUTING REPORT: When going into battle there are 4 basic things you need to find out about the enemy:

1. Distinguish the Enemy. Who are you fighting??? 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 (Eph 6:12). This is a Spiritual Battle; don't spend your time fighting People! Sometimes the Devil is a Roaring Lion and sometimes he's an angel of light. We must learn to resist him no matter what disguise he wears.

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).

Are you out to do Battle or get a Blessing?? Most Christians just want to enjoy life. They don't mind Satan winning every now and then as long as it doesn't inconvenience them.

Are you looking for Pleasure or Progress??

3. Evaluate the Forces. What are:

A) YOUR Weaknesses- Sinful Nature in Self. Keep your weak Places well protected.

B) YOUR Strengths- *Be strong IN THE LORD and in the power of his might* (Ep 6:10). You wouldn't fight an armed enemy with a broom and you shouldn't fight Satan in your own strength.

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 is real! Human nature is weak. Satan is an accomplished liar and very Smart! Don't underestimate him.

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. When you find a Satanic Stronghold in your life; deal with it and destroy it.

THE BATTLE PLAN: The Christian fights in 3 main areas:

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.*

We know the outcome of the Battle. Don't become one of the Casualties of the Conflict.

STRONGER Than YOU

For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. (Jer 31:11)

Jesus said that when a man goes to war he should "count the cost" to determine if he can win the war. If he can't then he better figure a way out of the situation. We all see the Physical example of this in the developments in the mid-east.

I think we fail to understand them in our personal lives, however. We live as if we will never be accountable to anyone but ourselves and we have a cocky self confidence in our ability to handle any trouble we get ourselves into (We figure we can either fight, beg, or lie our way out of any difficulty).

The reality of life, however, is that many things are stronger than we are. I want us today to identify these things that can control our lives and doom our soul and then see a way we can get the ultimate victory.

Some things that are stronger than we are:

1. Drink- Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things (Prov 23:29-33). Alcohol has destroyed many a family, fortune, and reputation. It makes you act like a fool, smell like a pig pen, and talk like an idiot! If that's what you think it takes to have a good time then you don't have all your oars in the water!

The Sad thing is that "At the last it bites like a snake"- deceitful and deadly. You think you control it until one day you realize it's stronger than you.

2. Drugs- I believe Drugs can be a Type of Demon Possession. They Weaken your mind and your morals-- Got to be crazy to use them!! People hooked on drugs will rob, steal, kill, prostitute themselves, etc to feed their habit.

You think it will be fun; and you know you can handle it if the other kids can. It soon becomes apparent, however, that instead of controlling it, it controls you. Unwilling to face life, you escape into artificial "Highs" until one day you wake up in a very real Hell!

3. Lust- For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (1 John 2:16)

A> Lust of the Flesh: 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? (Prov 6:23-27) "Pleasure" becomes a Prison. Even the Strongest man in the world, Samson, could not break these chains

B> Lust of the Eyes: Greed, Covetousness, etc begin to control your life. Your life is spend in a never ending cycle of "Lusting and desiring to have and not being able to obtain".

4. Hypocrisy- For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul? (Job 27:8) You "play a part" so long until even you begin to believe it. Even if you wanted to repent and be saved you're afraid to because people think you already have!

Some even started right but fell away and now refuse to admit their failure. What a dreadful condition to be in- For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. (2 Pet 2:21-22).

5. Death- There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. (Ecc 8:8) No discharge in this war!! You don't know when but you know it's coming!

Look at our Text verse again- For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he (Jer 31:11).

"Redeemed" and "Ransomed" here mean to buy back. In a very real way Christ came to buy us off of the slave market of sin. We were created for God's Glory but fell short of that glory thru the influence and power of sin. As a result, we came under the domination of Satan and our Sinful Nature.

This allowed sin to Destroy our life and determine our ultimate fate (Hell). We needed someone strong enough to rescue us from Sin and Satan. That Someone is Jesus.

He gives us Victory over Self- Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

He Gives us Victory over the World- For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:4-5)

He gives us Victory over Death- The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (1 Cor 15:26)

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Heb 2:14-15)

Have you counted the cost of Being on Satan's side in this war?? I urge you today to get on the Winning side by Repenting of sin and Trusting Christ as your Savior.

THINGS THAT KEEP US FROM ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

It seems today that the mark of Christianity is Restlessness, Rebellion, and wickedness. We hear tell of men in days gone by who had a zeal for God and reaped the Blessings of God but they seem to be little in evidence today.

What has caused Christians to "hang their harps on the willows" (Ps 137:2) and mourn sore like doves? What causes Christians to jump from one Church to another seeking that elusive "something" they never seem to find? What keeps us from enjoying the blessings of God??

There are numerous answers to these questions but I think some illumination can be gained by looking at Israel. They had escaped the captivity of Egypt and were on their way to the Promised Land to enjoy God's Blessings. However, 4 things blocked their Blessings.

I. THE FEAR OF GIANTS- 10 of the spies brought back a glowing report of the Blessings and Bounty of Canaan Land. The "fly in the ointment" however was the fact that they also reported Giants in the land. Israel allowed their Fear to overcome their Faith and turned away from God's Blessings.

They missed God's plan for their lives and died in the desert because they thought God's Blessings were dependent on man's strength.

It's a sad story, but I wonder how many Church members today are living lives of "Quite Desperation" waiting to die in the desert because they refused to say with Paul, *I can do all things through Christ who Strengthens me* (Phil 4:13).

II. THE FURY OF JORDAN- When finally the Children of Israel agreed to enter the Promised Land the first thing they had to face was the Jordan River in all it's fury. God did not bring them to the river at it's lowest point; He brought them to it at Flood stage (Josh 3:15)!

Is this where you fail? Did you think that as soon as you Claimed God's provision for Strength that all the obstacles would be removed and Life's Road would be easy? Instead, you found Jordan at it's worst!

We know that God turned it into a Benefit for Israel as He opened a way for them to cross but many Christians still allows unexpected problems and difficulties to become road blocks for them. Like James (1:24) we must learn to *count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations; knowing that the trying of our faith works patience. But let patience have her complete work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing.* If we'll just press on by Faith the waters will part and Victory will be ours.

III. THE FORTRESS OF JERICHO- Now you're into the Promised Land and you find that Blessings include Battles. You've traveled this far by Faith but now it makes more "sense" to devise a scheme of your own. Especially since God's plan of simply marching around and around the problem doesn't seem to work and makes you look foolish.

You want to build weapons, dig tunnels, and train to fight. Instead, God asks you to simply trust Him; until the walls come down and the victory is won.

Then you realize afresh that God gets the Glory because the Battle is not yours but the Lord's. This is especially true when we recognize that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood but against Principalities and Powers and Rulers of the darkness of this world.

IV. THE FAILURE AT AI- This final killer of Blessings is so subtle and yet so deadly. Giants and Jordan and Jericho have all fallen before your constant Faith and now you look forward to enjoying the Victorious Life; when suddenly you're brought to crushing Defeat. Your prayers and soul searching bring the knowledge of secret hidden sin. It seemed so small and insignificant at first that you overlooked it but now the Blessed Fellowship of God is broken and you hear Him say, *neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you* (Josh 7:12). The overwhelming truth that Sin separates has come home to you. You realize that only as you remove the Sin can the Blessing of Victory be yours again.

I wonder how many Christians and Churches today have Defeat and Despondence instead of Blessing and Bounty because they have not dealt with Sin in their midst??

The Eyes of the Lord run to and fro through out the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him (II Chron 16:9). The Lord WANTS to Bless His people if they will just be "Blessable". What Hinders YOU from enjoying the Blessings of God??



GRACE And GLORY

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First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 3 February 14, 1991 + 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

Sometimes God is so good to us until we don't really know how to praise Him. That's the way it's been lately at Church. God has Blessed our services and motivated our people and it's marvelous.

SALVATION: Bob and Roxanne Young are rejoicing in the fact that all 3 of their daughters were saved within the last 3 weeks; and God is working in many other families in the Church.

SIGN: Enough Individuals or families have volunteered to change the Church Sign each month until it's taken care of for the entire year. That really helps me.

SUPERVISION: I asked Sylvia Gowdy and Althea Coker to plan our Valentine Banquet this year and

they have done a tremendous job. I "volunteered" them a n d t h e y volunteered all the help they needed for us to

have a great time of fellowship together.

I also volunteered Kathy Lewis and Hope Frye to organize our VBS this year and they are already hard at work. I'm looking for the best VBS we've ever had.

And Patricia McKnight and Anne Thigpen have begun a Visitation Program on their own!! I appreciate their zeal.

SURPRISINGLY QUICK: At the beginning of the year I challenged our people to join me in trying to reach a MILLION Different people with the Gospel this year (We already reach over a million people but many of them are reached over and over). Last week I received a request from a national publication to use some of our newsletter material in their publication from time to time.

The thing that "rang a bell" with me was the fact that they say they have over a MILLION readers each month!! God has already answered a prayer that many members thought was all but impossible. Now I'm wondering if we shouldn't set our sights on reaching at least 10 Million different people this year!!!

I APPRECIATE Memorial Gifts to this work recently in Memory of W. L. Lewis by David Tisdale, Dot Sullivan, and Regina Yarborough. These, and the other contributors this month, have allowed us to finish printing the book of newspaper articles. We hope to have it folded and stapled soon.

God can do it. Let's let Him do it through us . . . Preacher Mike



To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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Bless the Buzzards!

While driving down the road recently I came across 2 Buzzards eating the remains of a possum that had been run over in the road. It was disgusting at first but then I realized that Buzzards have a "ministry" also.

FIRST- Buzzards act as A PROPHECIC POINTER- *For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together* (Mat 24:28). Right now there are a lot of "Buzzards" gathered around Israel. Better take warning!

SECOND- Buzzards are a Necessary "evil" as they dispose of waste. It is this part of the Buzzard "ministry" that I want us to look at and find applications for today.

The word "Buzzard" is not found in the Bible. The closest you can come to our Buzzard is called an Eagle in the Bible.

That brings us to an interesting difficulty. The word "Eagle" describes a majestic bird of prey (and is used to represent God's Care) numerous times but other times it is used to describe an unclean bird that scavenges the remains of the dead for food.

The interesting thing for us in this is that it shows us the need of perception about things in our lives.

1> Some things that are good for us can be bad for us if used wrong- food (Necessary but can damage health if used wrong), Love without guidelines (No discipline for children, sex outside marriage, etc), study (Necessary to learn but *much study is a weariness of the flesh* (Ecc 12:12)).

2> Some things that are good become bad under prolonged exposure- A land of only sunshine become desert. If garbage is not removed it contaminates the good.

It is this last principle that relates to our look at the "Blessings of Buzzards". None of us like thinking about the work of Buzzards in disposing of dead bodies; and none of us like thinking about the need of waste disposal in our own life, But there are several things we need to know about waste:

1. Waste poisons our life- That's why people who have lost the use of their kidneys have to have their blood purified. That's why the Dead Sea is dead; it has no outlet to get rid of it's impurities.

In our spiritual life this means we must have outlets for our inputs- The Christian life is not just something you learn about; it's something you live. You must practice what is preached or you will become deadweight instead of a disciple.

2. Waste is a sign of growth- *Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox* (Prov 14:4). The clean barn is nice but it means no crops are coming in. A church that's growing is going to have to deal with "growth problems". Some people only want a Christianity that calls us to a party instead of a cross. They don't want anything in their Christian life that involves work or stress; yet, these are necessary parts of growth.

Bless the Buzzards. We don't like their work but it's necessary. In the same way, it's necessary to deal with the waste of sin in our life. The only cure for that is the applied blood of Christ. It's not nice to think about but it's even more horrible to think about what will happen if it's not applied.

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK

Psalm 29:3-9

Many people WANT to do right; they just aren't sure what is right. Most people would be willing to obey God if they could be sure it WAS GOD speaking to them. How can we distinguish God's voice speaking to us in the middle of all the conflicting sounds we hear each day?? How does God communicate to people?

THE MEANS HE USES-

1. **THE VOICE OF GOD-** Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:17-18 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 but He did so on several occasions:

A) Testified of Jesus-- at His Baptism (Matt 3:17), on the mount of Transfiguration (2 Peter 1:17-18), and when he talked about his coming death to some Greeks- Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again (John 12:28).

B) Convicted 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]

C) Spoke extensively with Moses on the Mount as He gave him the Law for the People- And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD (Exo 19:9).

Most of us, however, never hear God speak in an audible voice like this. Generally He speaks to us in a "Still small voice"; and then only when we get to a place where we will finally listen to Him (See Elijah in I Kings 19).

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 since they must be looked at in their context, but most things are plain as God can make them! Our job is to READ it and APPLY it.

3. **THE SPIRIT-** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26). Talks about Jesus. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come (John 16:13). Tells about Truths for today and Events of the Future.

4. PREACHERS-

A) The Need of- 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? (Rom 10:14)

B) The Message of- If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet 4:11)

5. 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?*)).

6. 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).

How do we hear Angels talk to us today-

A) Listen to Compassion- Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares (Heb 13:2).

B) Listen to Protection- The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them (Psa 34:7). For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone (Psa 91:11-12).

THE METHODS HE EMPLOYS

1. CIRCUMSTANCES- Rom 8:28 See Joseph in Egypt- But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive (Gen 50:20); the Captive girl who told Naaman about Elisha ability to cure Leprosy (II Kings 5:2-3); and Daniel in Babylon. Each of these was a case of captivity that separated someone from home and family in order for God to use them in a special way. Whatever the circumstances we must immediately ask ourselves, "What is God trying to get me to accomplish?" We can feel sorry for our situation; or look for opportunities to glorify God.

2. ANIMALS- Ass to Balaam (Warned Him); Whale for Jonah (Saved him from death); Dove for Noah (Told him when to leave the ark). Notice the differences here- It is a Supernatural thing for an ass to talk; it is a natural thing for a whale to eat something in the water but it was a supernatural thing for him to preserve Jonah alive in his body for 3 days and then vomit him up on the shore {God had Prepared Him- Jonah 1:17}; and it was a completely natural thing for a dove to return to the ark until the ground was dry enough for man to live on.

The Crowing Rooster convicted Peter (Matt 26:75); the "lockjaw" lions testified of Daniel's righteousness (Dan 6:25-27); and the powerless snake allowed Paul to preach a Revival while still a prisoner (Acts 28:3-10).

God wants to use men to carry His message. Don't make him replace you with a donkey because you won't carry His message!

3. PLANTS- He used a Vine to convict Jonah (Jon 4:-); A Fig tree to preach to Israel (Matt 21:19-21; 24:32-33); and a Burning bush to call Moses (Exodus 3:2-6). Today Weeds remind us of sin's penalty (Gen 3:18) and the lilies of the field remind us of God's Care (Matt 6:28-30).

4. 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 (Dan 2:28) and Pharaoh (Gen 41) about the Future.

Today we're too exhausted or too drugged to have anything but nightmares! How sad to not have a "dream" to motivate and move our lives.

The fact that it's a MESSAGE FROM GOD means we have numerous responsibilities:

1> We must HEAR what God is saying- We must be aware that we never become so busy until we ignore God's Message to Us; regardless of how it comes- Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house (Ezek) 12:2. Jesus talked over and over to His disciples about the fact that the people of His day had "ears to hear" and would not hear; and suffered pain and destruction as a result.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING???

2> We must OBEY when God Speaks- And Samuel said, 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 (1 Sam 15:22). We aren't supposed to find out what God is saying simply to know what He is saying! We are to obey His instructions; whatever they are.

ARE YOU DOING WHAT GOD IS SAYING???

3> We must RESPOND to God's Call- Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me (Isa 6:8). Several times in scripture God said He called and we would not answer. What a sad, tragic thing to hear the call of God and then pretend we don't hear.

ARE YOU GOING WHERE GOD IS SENDING???

4> We must CHANGE at God's Command- Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you (Jer 26:13). When God points out an area in our lives we must take the necessary steps to correct that situation. When God says to "clean our room" we're not supposed to ask "WHY?"; we're supposed to say, "Yes, Sir."

ARE YOUR EARS AFFECTING YOUR WALK???

I'm convinced that if you want to know God's Will you simply have to listen. God has a way to communicate with you. The problem is in our ears that are hard to hear or our hearts that are harden in sin.

Today you need to say, "Speak, Lord for thy servant hears."

CROSS ROAD DECISIONS

Joshua 5:1-15

The Children of Israel were at a Cross Road time. They had entered the Promised land by Faith and now they were about to begin the battles necessary to claim their possessions. First, however, God needed to point out some things to them and bring them to a place of Decision.

Next Sunday begins the 7th year of this pastoral term (13th total year) here at Grace. The Ministry and Mission of our Church under my leadership has been defined- Using as many means as possible to reach as many people as possible with the Gospel.

Now the Church stands at a Cross Roads. The Outreach Ministry occupies much of my time and effort and, as it continues to grow, it will continue to require a tremendous amount of my time. In order for the Church to grow along with the Ministry it will REQUIRE members that are willing to actively participate in, and take responsibility for, Church work.

This must be a group effort. It can't be one Participant and many Spectators. Everyone must find a job and do that job to the best of their ability under God's direction. The road will not always be easy but we know where we're going and we know that God will meet our needs so we can launch out in confidence.

Our potential is only limited by our willingness to claim the Blessings God has prepared for us. The Promised land lies before us; God walks beside us, let us now claim our possessions!

Now that we've made the decision to go forward it's time to prepare ourselves for the Battles to come. We don't want to start with a bang and end up six months later with a bust! This road we now walk will require dedication, devotion, and determination. Let's see how God directed Joshua at his Cross Roads Time.

1. Re-establish the Foundation - Circumcision, as a sign of God's covenant, was begun again (Look truthfully at the Private Person).

As a Church we must get back to the basics of Christianity- People being Born into the Body and then Cared for by the body until they can become active in the Body.

2. Remember the Lord's Provision- Passover (The Rehearsal of pass blessings). Testimonies of God's Pass and Present Blessings are necessary. They help the person testifying and the people hearing the testimony.

3. Responsibility becomes Real- Manna ceased and corn harvest began. Faith must begin to produce works. Our Christianity must go from the passive to the active stage. Members must find a need and meet it.

4. Renew your dedication to your Leader- Bow to the will of the Captain. You're not following a Pastor or a Church. You owe allegiance to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Obey Him!!

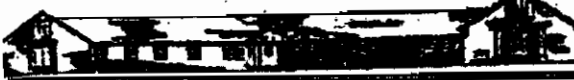
Will you come to the Cross; and then sit the rest of your life trying to make a decision?? Or will you join with me as we claim the land for God? There's blessings beyond belief out there. Let's go claim them.

GRACE And GLORY

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Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 5

March 7, 1991 + 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

I hope you received your copy of "Miracle Messages"; and I hope you will be blessed by the articles. I already have more than enough articles for another book and, if Volume I is well received, we will probably publish it later this Spring.



Additional copies of Volume I are available for anyone desiring them. Simply let me know how many copies you need. (Our Florence Area Friends can pick up additional copies at the State Promotional Office; also available are several of our Bible Study Booklets. I appreciate Brother Norwood's help).

The new speaker system has been installed in the Church and the Pastor is now "wired for sound" with a remote mike. It is great to finally be able to walk away from the pulpit but it's also dangerous. First I have to be sure I'm turned off during the singing to avoid a major catastrophe and then I have to be sure it's turned off when I'm talking with someone in the fellowship Building or everyone in the church can hear everything we say (as I learned Sunday!).



THIS SUNDAY (March 10) is **PROMOTIONAL OFFICE DAY**. Our State Promotional Director, Rev Norwood Gibson, will be our guest Speaker and all of the day's offering will go to the Promotional Office Land Fund.



Remember the Change in Schedule:
10:00am Sunday School Assembly
10:10am Sunday School (Adult Class will meet in the Church this week). Beginner and Primary Church will meet during this time.
11:00am Morning Worship Service with Brother Norwood (WJOT).
Noon: Church Dinner in the Fellowship Building (Church will provide the Fried Chicken, ice, bread, and utensils).

I hope you'll come, enjoy, and give generously.

LOOKING AHEAD--

Thursday, March 28 Special Easter Communion Service
Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunrise Service, Breakfast, Sunday School, and Easter Service (7am - 11am).
ROLL CALL Sunday-We'd like to have at least 100 in Sunday School
Sunday, April 7- Time Change

THANKS to everyone who has given in March so this Work could continue. God is greatly multiplying our Ministry. Remember to keep Praying-----Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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WHEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. (Dan 6:14)

The King made a mistake and it could have cost Daniel his life. What about the Mistakes we make?? What is their Cause and Cure?

I. THE CAUSE OF MISTAKES--

A) Carelessness- And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone (1 Ki 20:40). Not paying attention to situations.

B) Anger- He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls (Prov 25:28). Unable to control yourself you seek to control others.

C) Ignorance- I once hurt some people's feelings in a Revival by preaching about a man committing suicide because I didn't know a man in the Church has recently committed suicide.

D) Public Pressure- And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her (Mat 14:9). It cost John the Baptist his head & Daniel a night in the lion's den. Don't let your mouth overrule your mind!

E) Imagination- Wicked Thoughts: And 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 (Gen 6:5). Part of our Sinful Nature; it causes us to long for the bad instead of the good. Wrong Thoughts: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (2 Cor 10:5) (Caused by Failure to Listen "I thought you said..."; Look "Mistaken identity"; or Love- If you don't love someone; EVERYTHING they do is wrong!!).

II. MINIMIZING MISTAKES-

A) Look before you leap!

B) Listen to the Holy Spirit's warnings.

C) Consider the Consequences of your actions.

III. CORRECTING MISTAKES Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing 2 Cor 7:9

A) Determine the extent of the Mistake:

1. Will it do more harm than good to try to correct (I meant to say you were fat instead of ugly). Sometimes the cure is worst than the disease. You must live with the consequences.

2. Was it a public or Private mistake (Correction should correspond)

B) Accept the Blame if it belongs to you- For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin (Psa 38:18).

don't transfer Blame to:

Mate- Adam "The Woman thou gavest me"

People- Saul, Aaron "Trying to please the People"

Circumstances- We all live in the same wicked world.

C) Correct as soon as possible- Don't let it "fester" and infect the body. Don't make a Mountain out of a Mistake!

God intervened and the King was able to correct the mistake about Daniel. He'll help transform your life also. Give Him a Chance today.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

There are many things that a person needs to be sure of- That his light bill is paid (or he'll find himself in the dark), that his house doesn't leak (or he'll find himself all wet), that he remembers his anniversary (or he'll be sleeping on the couch); but the most important thing a person can ever be absolutely sure of is that he is a saved child of God (Because Hell doesn't allow second chances).

THE BASIS OF ASSURANCE-

A) Faith in the Word of God- These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13). We believe the Word of God about our Sinfulness (all have sinned and the wages of sin is death). We believe God's Word about our Salvation- "There is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby you must be saved" but the name of Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus died in our place on the cross and offers salvation to anyone who will trust in this provision for the payment of our sin debt. We believe that what God said in the past HAS happened and what He said about the Future WILL happen.

B) Submission to the Will of God- Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Cor 13:5).

This doesn't mean we're perfect or sinless. It doesn't mean we always "feel" saved. It means that we know enough about ourselves to know whether or not we are consciously trusting in Christ for Salvation and consistently living for Him.

Think of it this way- First must comes the FACTS of the Word of God. These are facts regardless of what you do or don't do about them. Facts are like the engine of a train; they have the power to travel down the track even if no other cars are attached.

Next comes FAITH. Faith must be in the Facts. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Faith doesn't just come into existence. It must have something to "hook" to. It would be like the passenger car hooked to the Engine of Facts.

Finally comes FEELINGS. Feelings are like the caboose on a train; nice but not necessary. Feelings come into being after your Faith in the Facts. (Sadly, many people want to put the caboose ahead of the engine and find the train won't go!).

First comes FACTS, then comes FAITH, then comes FEELING.

Many people want to know how you can KNOW you have the right Facts and Faith. The Bible answers by gives us FOUR EVIDENCES OF SALVATION that we can compare to our own life and experience:

EVIDENCE #1: The Holy Spirit Bears Witness of the Believer's Salvation- The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Rom 8:16).

A> The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us so that Christianity becomes a relationship instead of a religion- But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26).

B> The Holy Spirit Guides us in the new life by bringing Comfort to our Heart in trouble and help to our heart in prayer (Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered Rom 8:26).

EVIDENCE #2: A Changed Heart and life give evidence of Salvation- Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Cor 5:17). We develop

A> New Attitudes (Fruits of the Spirit)

B> New Actions (Glorify God).

We use words like Converted, Saved, and Born Again; all mean that we have changed from one direction in our life and now have a different Authority over our life and a different Plan for our life.

EVIDENCE #3: Love for fellow Christians gives evidence of Salvation- By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:35).

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes (1 John 2:9-11).

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother (1 John 3:10).

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death (1 John 3:14).

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him (1 John 3:15).

A> We Want to be with other Christians- Church, Fellowship,

B> We Want to Protect other Christians Reputation (From slander) and their Conscience (Give them no reason to stumbling- Rom 14:21)

EVIDENCE #4: Chastisement for sin gives evidence of Salvation- If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons (Heb 12:7-8).

The sin that comes into our life as we develop as a Christian will bring rebuke to our heart, lose of fellowship with the Spirit and fellow Christians, and punishment from God. While we agonize in the pain, we rejoice in the fact that it shows God loves and cares for us.

He that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Heb 11:6). God is able to save you and He WANTS to save you; You must trust in, rely on, and cling to, His Word.

Are you SURE today that your anchor holds and grips the solid rock.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

In the hectic pace we live at today it's very difficult to get your priorities in order. The important must be shoved aside while we do the necessary and increasing stress is now accepted as a way of life.

We need to find out What our Priorities are and then instigate a workable plan for these Priorities.

Some of the important Priorities in our life should be:

1. PUT GOD'S KINGDOM AHEAD OF YOUR OWN-

A> In Actions- But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Mat 6:33). Are we really seeking to build the Kingdom of God or are we seeking to get as much for ourselves as we can?? How will our actions change if we seek to build God's Kingdom while trusting Him to supply our needs?

B> In Attitudes- And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all (Mark 9:35). Putting God's Kingdom first in our attitude means going directly against the grain of the world. We'll have to learn to discard everything the world says and does and find that being first means being last.

2. CORRECT WHO YOU ARE ON THE INSIDE INSTEAD OF TRYING TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WITH A FALSE FRONT-

A> Don't be a "pretty graveyard" full of dead men's bones. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also (Mat 23:26). It's not enough to just quit drinking and running around; you must develop the fruits of the Spirit- Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

B> Don't be a Hypocrite. Be Willing to be judged by the same judgment you judge others by. Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. (Mat 7:5)
So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her (John 8:7). Forgive as you have been forgiven. Expect change in yourself as you do in others.

3. GET YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT AT HOME-

A> Compassion- But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God (1 Tim 5:4).

B> Respect- Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; (Eph 6:2)

C> Witnessing- He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. (John 1:41)

4. PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR GIVING:

A> GIVE YOURSELF AND THEN YOUR GIFT- And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. (2 Cor 8:5)

B> GIVE GOD THE BEST YOU HAVE- The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God (Exo 23:19)

C> GIVE CONSISTENTLY- Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. (1 Cor 16:2)

D> RECONCILE YOUR BROTHER BEFORE YOU OFFER YOUR GIFT TO GOD- Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift (Mat 5:24). You can't buy your way to God. If you say you love God and hate your brother; you're a liar, and your loot won't change that.

5. PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR WEEK- And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight (Acts 20:7). If your week is too busy to include time for God then you need to rethink your life plan. The things you're spending all your time on now won't matter 1000 years from now but your relationship with God will matter for eternity.

6. PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE- Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment (Mat 22:37-38).

If your love is right your life will be right. God is a jealous God and he will not take second choice in your life. If satisfying yourself is more important than serving God then you have your priorities all out of order.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecc 12:13-14)

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 6 March 21, 1991 + 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

Proverbs 24:27 says that we are to *Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.* We haven't even come close to expanding our ministry as far as we plan to but I have decided to begin strengthening our stakes while we continue to lengthen our cords (Is 54:2). I believe this will be greatly beneficial to the Church as well as the Outreach Ministry.

Keynote to this will be the beginning of an exhaustive study in the book of REVELATION beginning the first Sunday in April and continuing for (at least) most of the rest of this year. We will go verse by verse, chapter by chapter through Revelation; stopping at every opportunity to examine in depth the background necessary to understand what we're studying.

I am not doing this for "entertainment" value to excite all the Prophecy followers who run from place to place to hear some new exciting thing. I sincerely believe that God will use this study to accomplish some things in our Church that will benefit the Church and the cause of Christ.

I want our Church to have convictions that cause them to live pure- I John 3:3 says that (Continued on BACK)

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT by Damon Runion



When my wife goes shopping, she will invariably go up and down every aisle, looking at every item in the store. Then she will pick and choose between the things she has seen, taking one and leaving others.

Well, it seems like a lot of folks try to do the same thing with the BIBLE. They take one verse from one place, another verse from another place, and yet another verse from another place and try to mold them into a doctrine the Lord will Bless (because surely He couldn't have meant for us to actually present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God like He says in Romans 12:1; or to Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house like it says in Mal 3:10. Surely He didn't intend for us to take these things literally, did He??). Then they wonder why they don't have a meaningful relationship with THE LORD.

DAMON RUNION, your Teacher this week invites you to join us this Sunday when our Sunday School lesson deals with some of the dangers involved when people go "Scripture Shopping". See the disaster it brings to the "Seven Sons of Sceva" during the Adult Sunday School Class in the Fellowship Building of Grace FWB Church this Sunday at 10:00am.

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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(CONTINUED) a proper view of the future will have that effect.

I want our church to worship Christ correctly. There is no greater exhalation of Christ than in the prophecies of Revelation (After all, It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ!!).

We want to see souls saved in every service we have at Grace. As I look back over my records, more people are saved when I teach on Revelation than with any other book.

And finally, the Church and the Outreach Ministry both seem to function more smoothly and effectively when we are in an indepth study of a book of the Bible (For some reason we tend to "drift" when we have just general subjects).

I believe we are entering into a period of growth and development that will astonish even me (and that's hard to do!). I can hardly wait.

The last two Sundays have been very exciting here at Grace. The second Sunday in March we had Brother Norwood Gibson as guest speaker and received over \$1000 for the Promotional Office Land Fund. Then last Sunday one of the Children became very sick during Church causing us to lose about a third of our people at one time (one of them, in their haste, fell on

the concrete and damaged her face (in the last month the preacher's wife and a deacon's wife have fallen at church and hurt their face. I know people must think we have some rough services!)).

I appreciate Mrs Althea Coker "Volunteering" to present an object lesson twice per month during our 9am service. Her first one was last Sunday and she did a magnificent job.

I also appreciate the GREAT SPIRIT in our Wednesday Night services recently. If you want a good old fashion "join in" worship service then you need to come to our Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting. It will stir your soul.

COMING EVENTS:

Friday, March 22 (7:30pm) Woman's Auxiliary Pre-Easter Prayer service with Mrs Carolyn Riddick as guest speaker.



Thursday, March 28 Special Easter Lord's Supper Service 7:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY:

7am Sunrise Service
8am Grits and Egg breakfast for the Church (Men cook)
9am Bible Study Hour
10am Easter Worship Service (Those of you that listen over radio should note the time Change on this Sunday).

OUTREACH MINISTRY:

I don't remember a day going by recently that I have not heard either by personal contact, phone call, or mail from someone telling about how some part of the Outreach Ministry has been a help and encouragement to them. It's great to see how God is working.

The thing I need for people to realize, however, is that newspapers have one bottom line- MONEY. They aren't out to advance the cause of Christ; they're out to pay their salary. That's why my columns get omitted some weeks; if they must decide between my free column and a paying customer then pay wins over preaching every time.



YOU can help by a short note or phone call telling the papers you enjoy the articles (as I hope you do). In the back of the publisher's mind that translates to more subscriptions (Which equals more money).

I'm excited about the favorable response to "Miracle Messages" Volume 1. I continue to receive letters and phone calls requesting additional copies (which I'm glad to supply) and I look forward to Volume 2 by early Summer.



Thanks to those who continue to Pray and to contribute. Only Heaven can tell how much I appreciate what you do.

. . . Preacher Mike

THE TROUBLED CHRISTIAN

Lamentations 3:1-36

It's great to talk about all the good things the Lord can do for us but what are we to think in the midst of war and worry? What about Christians who have bad children, broken marriages, serious illness, or job problems?? How do you come Triumphantly thru a time of Trouble?

THE TROUBLE (1-21) What a horrible list of troubles, trials, and tribulations {It didn't work out like I thought it would, I'm in bondage to bitterness, a rut has become a grave, I feel alone, misused, discouraged, and mocked. I can't forget the past and have no hope for the future}. A list that almost all of us can relate to.

THE TRIUMPH (22-36). This is what the Christian learns FROM and IN his Troubles.

vs 22 **NOT AS BAD AS IT COULD BE** (Because of God's Compassion)- It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

vs 23 **HOPE THAT THINGS WILL GET BETTER** (God is Faithful)- They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

vs 24 **AFTER ALL, GOD IS ALL I NEED** (I will rest in that)- The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

vs 25 **I LEARNED TO PATIENTLY WAIT ON GOD'S TIME BECAUSE I HAVE A HUNGER FOR GOD**- The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

vs 26 **PERSEVERANCE BRINGS PRAISE** (Faith is the Result- James 5:10-11)- It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

vs 27 **PAST PROBLEMS DEVELOP PRESENT PERSEVERANCE**- It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

vs 28-36 **THE CHARACTER OF PERSEVERANCE:**

1. **CALMNESS:** He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him.

2. **HUMBLENESS:** He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.

3. **CHARACTER:** He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.

4. **PATIENCE:** For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

5. **CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S LOVE:** But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

6. **CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S JUDGMENT:** To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth, To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High, To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.

The Christian comes to realize that his Circumstances will not be better than those of other people; many times they will be worst because of persecution. We simply learn that the trying of our faith works patience; which in turn produces Christlike character.

What a difference it will make in our outlook and attitude when we realize we're not in this thing FOR ourselves or BY ourselves.

HOW TO GET GOD TO PET YOU

One of my favorite "verses" is Jones 16:14 (Devised Version)
"Everybody needs a little petting every now and then". It's not in the Bible but it sure is true!

We all agree we like to be petted; but since everyone likes to be petted noone likes to be the "Petter". The Good News is that God can and does "pet" His people. Let's find out how to get Him to pet us.

1. **HAVE A NEED-** Problems, troubles, trials, etc offer opportunities for God to Pet you. Your burdens actually turn into Blessings as you experience the faithfulness and fellowship of God- *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (1 Pet 5:7).*

2. **LOVE HIM-** My nephew Andrew asked me if we were still "Buddys and Friends" and then asked me for a present! The love that we have for God enables Him to sometimes "pet" us with special favors- *as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him (1 Cor 2:9).*

3. **TALK ABOUT HIM-** When we brag on God and His Goodness toward us it pleases God and causes Him to want to "pet" us- *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him (Mal 3:16-17).*

4. **GIVE TO HIM-** When we do things for God it causes Him to want to do things for us- *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7).* We don't want to pet someone who grumbles and complains about what they do for us. In the same way, God is much more inclined to "Pet" us when we serve Him out of love and devotion.

5. **LIVE RIGHT-** God can't pet us when He has to punish us. Don't let sin keep you from being God's Pet- *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright (Psa 11:7).*

God has petted me for so long now until I'm pretty well spoiled; and I wouldn't have it any other way!! Why don't you let Him start petting you today.

FISH OR CUT BAIT

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (Jos 24:15).

There are many times in life that people make decisions that affect them, their families, and their future. Because of the long range implications of decisions some people try not to make them; they just "roll with the tide", not doing anything until circumstances force them to take action. These people's lives are always a crisis.

I use a phrase often, "It's time to fish or cut bait". Simply put it means it's time to get involved or get out of the way! I want us to look at both sides of this saying today and make some definite decisions about our duty and dedication to the Lord.

I. CUT BAIT- The implication from my statement is that those who "cut bait" are wrong. The way the statement is used makes that correct but there are sometimes that sitting on the sideline is exactly what's needed because it deals with our

DEDICATION- I once went fishing with a man who put me in the back of the boat so I could paddle while he fished! That's the way it is sometimes; Some will fish and get the glory while others will cut bait and do the work. The great thing is that there is a Bible Principle here- ...but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike (1 Sam 30:24).

The Ministry of this Church is to SERVE others for Christ's sake. Several factors cause this to be so: (1) The Personality of the Preacher. He thinks the greatest of all shall be servant of all and he wants to be the greatest.

(2) The Physical Condition of the People- Sickness causes many not to be able to function correctly. Circumstances send our members to other places (where they act as "Missionaries").

But we still reach Multitudes of people with the Gospel of Christ thru the many ministries of this Church. People are saved, encouraged, enlightened, and enlisted in the work as a result.

God's promise is sure, our reward is coming- He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him (Psa 126:6).

If you are called to be on the sideline, make sure you at least "Cut Bait". Don't sulk or quit; the fishermen need all the "Bait" they can get.

II. FISH There are times in life, however, that require definite decisions- Teen Sex, Marriage, dedication to Christ.

A) The Salvation Decision- Paul had to make a definite decision on the road to Damascus; The Philippians Jailor had to make a decision; and YOU must make a decision because He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy (Prov 29:1).

B) The Disciple Decision- Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God (John 6:60-69).

When things got rough Job had to decide to trust God in spite of everything. As you face the trials of life you will come to a place where you will decide to "fish or cut bait" about serving God.

C) The Priority Decision- He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad (Mat 12:30). You must decide if you'll fish for God or for the Devil. You can't just be AGAINST SIN you must be FOR GOD- I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 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. (Rev 3:15-20).

WHAT DO I EXPECT OF PEOPLE WHO ATTEND GRACE FWB CHURCH??

First of all- Repent of Sins and Accept Christ as Savior. Then-

1. Faithfulness to every service
2. Participation according to ability
3. Consistent Living
4. Consistent Giving

Vance Havner tells of a soldier during the Civil war that was asked how many enemy he had killed. "None", he replied, "But I got just as many of them as they got of me!". God calls us to either Fish or Cut Bait; He doesn't call us to play in the water.

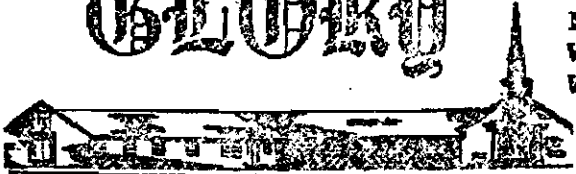
"Bait Knives" and "Fishing Poles" are available on the altar. Get yours today.

GRACE And GLORY

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Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 7 April 4, 1991 + 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

GREAT, GREAT, SIMPLY GREAT. That's the only way to describe the Easter Services we had. The Thursday Night Lord's Supper Celebration was one of the best we've had in a long time. The ladies had done a marvelous job decorating the Church and the Spirit seemed especially sweet as we worshipped together.



Sunrise Service was one of those special services you remember for years to come. Howard Frye, Mary Knight, and Darin Matthews all gave

EXTRAORDINARY messages about the events at the tomb and Anne Thigpen sang beautifully. It was such a great Blessing to see these lay people use their talent in this worship service.

Breakfast, of course, was delicious (You can believe the people of Grace Church know how to have an "eating" service!). Many of the men helped prepare the meal but special THANKS to Russel Lowder, Arnold Lowder, and Marion Coker for getting everything together.

I personally like the new Spirit of enthusiasm and involvement here at Grace. I expect the Lord's continued Blessings.



Remember that the TIME will CHANGE this Sunday. We're going to have some great services so make the extra effort required to get here on time.

This is the Sunday we begin our prolonged study in the book of Revelation. We will not only study the prophecy of the book but also look at many of the other subjects included in the book that you must understand in order to grasp what God is trying to get us to comprehend- God's Governing of the Earth, the work of Angels, the parts of the future effected by our actions in the present, etc. I know you'll want to be here for every service.

Outreach

The response to our first mailing of "Miracle Messages" has been very gratifying. The comments I received have been very favorable; I have mailed a number of copies to people requesting them to give to their pastor or family; and we have even added several people to our growing newsletter family from contacts made by this book. Out of the
(Continued on Back- Col 2)

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SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

by Damon Runion

When I first began reading the Bible (on my own), I loved to read the four Gospels, but I really did not like to read on into the "Acts of the Apostles". The reason was that Jesus never made any mistakes and He always had just the right answer (no matter what the question).

Well, that was a long time ago and I have come to the discovery that a Christian spends a lot more time in "Acts", than he does in "Matthew, Mark, Luke (I like Luke), and John". You see, Jesus never had to tell someone "Hey man, I'm sorry for the way I acted" or "I'm sorry for the things I said" or "that subject we were talking about the other day when I told you what the Bible said, well I've done some more reading since then and I was wrong about that!"

Now don't get me wrong, I realize that Jesus lived the perfect life to be the perfect sacrifice and I thank God for that fact, but in Acts we find everyday people dealing with everyday problems and as you might have guessed by now -this week, our Sunday School Lesson is in Acts. (Acts 20 to be exact).

Most people recognize this chapter as the one where the man (Eutychus), falls asleep while Paul is preaching (this is not a problem at our Church) and falls to his death from the third floor window and then Paul comes and embraces him and his life is restored.



"The heavens
are telling the
glory of God:
and the
firmament
proclaims his
handiwork."
Psalm 19:1

This is a profound miracle, but the thing that captures my amazement even more is Paul's journey toward Jerusalem. Here is a man "of like passions with you" who knows he is walking into "bonds

and afflictions", and yet, he is determined to do the Spirits' bidding and finish the course set before him.

It was Easter when Christ finished the course set before Him and perhaps it would be a good time to examine the course that has been set for each one of us. As a Christian you need to make sure that you are "still on course". If you would like to know more about the course that The Lord has set for each and every Christian, join us this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in The Fellowship Building for the "Adult Bible Study Hour" being taught this week by Pastor Mike Jones.



For those of you who don't know, Brother Damon Runion is assistant Adult Sunday School Teacher, Wednesday Night Prayer

Meeting Leader (He has done a great job of making some positive changes to our Wednesday Night services), and general volunteer if anyone needs to get wet (You'll have to come to our Fourth of July Activity time to understand that).

His testimony is a marvelous example of how God uses circumstances and we appreciate the Lord sending him (and his wonderful family- remember I said that the next time you cook a cake, Mrs Janice!!) our way.

He makes the Sunday School announcement on Sunday Morning during the 11am service but we thought we'd try reaching a wider audience by putting it in the Newsletter several times.

[continued from front]

over 1100 original copies we have less than 200 left. As soon as these are gone we'll make a decision about reprinting this edition or publishing Volume II.

Most of our regular monthly contributors know that I don't send them a Thank You each month (That saves me time and money) but I do appreciate each of you that consistently give to this work. I try to use the money as wisely and as effectively for the Lord as possible and the Lord meets every need we have.

I get a lot of the credit but the Lord knows it's the prayers and support of many of you that provide the "life blood" to enable us to reach as many people as we do for the Lord (We believe that this year over 1 Million different people will read one of our articles in a book, magazine, newspaper, or newsletter or hear a sermon by video, audio, radio, or in person).

Satan is capturing our children, destroying our families, and corrupting our churches. If we don't reach them now it'll be too late Preacher Mike

HOW TO BE PERFECT

Are you Perfect? Do you want to be Perfect? The problem is that most people think that being perfect means being sinless. Being perfect in the Bible means being Spiritually Mature (Completeness of Growth).

I. THE NEED OF BEING PERFECT- God commands it:

Gen. 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God: walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Deut. 18:13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God

Matt. 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in Heaven is perfect.

II. THE MEANS OF BEING PERFECT

A) Commitment to Christ above all Matt. 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me (He was a good moral man but he could not become Spiritually Mature until he realized the true value of "things" in this life). He had to learn that The Law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by which we drew nigh unto God (Heb 7:19).

B) Growth in the things of God Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.

1. We grow with the help of Spiritual Leaders - Ep 4:11-13 And he gave some Apostles, ... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ til we all come unto... a perfect man.

2. We grow thru the guidance of the Word - II Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

C) Suffering- Heb. 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto Glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect though sufferings. Heb. 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. James 1:3-4 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (There is no growth without "growing pains")

D) The Binding together of Christian Virtues with Love- Col. 3:12-14 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on Charity which is the bond of perfectness (It's Legalism without Love!).

III. THE RESULTS OF BEING PERFECT

A) We become like Christ Luke 6:40 The disciple is not above his master: but everyone that is perfect shall be as his master.

Col 1:27-28 Christ in you...whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. (A Spiritually Mature person becomes like Christ!)

B) We control the Tongue Jam. 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body.

Being perfect is a Goal - Not a moments decision, but a life! After many years in the Faith Paul said, Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Phil 3:12

PAY DAY FOR SIN

Romans 6:23

I. The way of Sin- **HARD**: Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard (Prov 13:15).

A. Hard because Satan is the Master- 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? (Rom 6:16)

B. Hard because of no lasting joy- Pleasures of sin are for a "season".

C. Hard because of no peace- With God or man

D. Hard because of no hope- here or hereafter. That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: (Eph 2:12)

II. The work of Sin- **DECEITFUL**: Romans 1:29-31

A. Satan begins with small seed- Ye reap what you sow; with interest!

B. He paints a beautiful picture- Lot saw only the "Well watered valleys" not the corruption of Sodom.

C. Satan does not show the end- Prodigal son didn't leave home expecting to end up in the Hog pens.

III. The wages of Sin- **DEATH**: Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die (Ezek 18:4).

A. Sin leaves a mark of Suffering - Here and Hereafter.

B. Sin leaves its mark of Sorrow - For Self and Family

C. Sin leaves its mark of Separation - From Good and God

IV. The way out of Sin- **FAITH IN CHRIST**: For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 6:23).

A. Repenting- Turn FROM Sin. Sorrow about your wickedness.

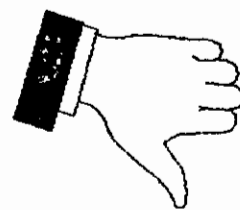
B. Believing- Turn TO Christ, trust in, rely on, cling to Him.

C. Accepting- Christ with your Mind, emotions, will

D. Confessing- Your Heart believes and your Mouth confesses.



When you stand before God and get your final "Pay Check" what will be your wages- Heaven or Hell??



HOW TO WORSHIP GOD

I. ADMIRINGLY- Ps 29:2 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

- A) Reverent Worship as we Glorify God- the purpose of our creation.
- B) Repentance Worship as we realize the need of Holiness

II. ADORINGLY- PSA 95:1-7 O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. We should Worship in Songs and Testimonies about God and His Works. Use every opportunity to tell people about God's love and care for you.

We should have a song of adoration to God in our heart- Eph 5:18-19

III. ABSOLUTELY- Matt 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Don't worship the People or the Preacher; get your heart in tune with God. EVERY man will worship Something; his work, his family, money, etc. Remember that the "thing" you use in your life to make a final determination about what you will and won't do is your god.

IV. ACCEPTABLY- Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the Flesh. Paul lists 3 acceptable ways of worship:

A) Worship God in the Spirit- See John 4:23-24- But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. From your Heart; not just your head. Real love doesn't always make "sense"; just as real Worship is not always structured.

B) Rejoice in Christ Jesus-

1. What He DID for us: Salvation
2. What He's DOING for us: Interceding for us RIGHT NOW.
3. What He's GOING TO DO for us: "Marry" us

C) Have no confidence in the Flesh- Eph 2:7-10 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Our works are the pitiful scrawling of a 2 year old to a master artist; but God's love turns them into master pieces. Just remember that Pride is always a block to worship.

The Greatest thing you can do is Worship God. Do you ponder how to worship Him?? Do you practice your worship of Him?? Are you more interested in Heaven than in the God of Heaven??

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Is 6:1-8

1. Worship is the highest, most essential act or calling of an individual or Church. It is the one thing we will continue to do even in Heaven- Rev 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

2. Worship is not programs or activities; it is not measured in terms of achievement (We measure in terms of doing, making, enlarging; God measures in terms of RELATIONSHIP)

3. We like to focus on ourselves- Is 2:8 Their land is full of idols: they worship the works of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made- But real Worship is focusing on God. It takes time to "Clear the world out of our eyes" but once we really see God it's worth all the wait and work.

Isaiah 6 shows us two of the most important parts of Worship:

1. The Atmosphere of Worship- Is 6:1-8 I Chron 16:23-29

a. Outward atmosphere- King Uzziah died.

1) **DEPENDENCE-** Isaiah had depended on Uzziah but now he was looking to God. A major hindrance to Worship is our dependence on others instead of developing a Personal relationship with God. (How many people depend on the Preacher to do all the study and praying and then wonder why he's more excited than they are).

2) **DESPERATION-** Many times it takes this DESPERATION to bring us to God (The woman with the issue of Blood had given up on the doctors and had become desperate. Jarius didn't come to God until his daughter died. The Problem with the Laodicean Church was that they were comfortable in their sin and didn't realize that they were making God sick!!).

b. Inward atmosphere- I saw the Lord. He got his eyes off the world and put them on the Lord. Pride and Popularity fell before the desire to be with the Lord.

2. The Acts of Worship

a. Exultation of God's Attributes (Who He is, What He does)

b. Confession of Sin (Name your need- Note that Isaiah said he was a man of unclean lips and that's what God dealt with)- real worship brings us to realize how unworthy we are.

c. Accepting God's Forgiveness-

3. The Effects of Worship

a. Heard voice of God- Jesus said over and over that men have ears to hear and hear not. Do we hear God's voice?? Are we listening??

b. Worked for God- You cannot come into the presence of God and remain unchanged

DO YOU WORSHIP GOD; OR DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH??? DO YOU WORSHIP GOD; OR DO YOU SKIM A CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE SOMETIME??

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
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Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 8 April 18, 1991 + 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC



I feel sure you'll notice some major changes in the Outreach Ministry in the next few months. That's because more people than ever are praying for it. I passed out a

"Volunteer" list last Sunday to allow people to list some of the things in the Church they would like to do and 16 of them volunteered to pray 5 minutes each day for the Outreach Ministry!!

Now if I can get 14 of you who are not in our Church but yet receive our Newsletter to obligate to the same type prayer Ministry; that would mean 30 people each day would pray consistently for this ministry. And that would mean I'll probably have to buy a toupee so I can be on Television! (During Men's Fellowship Monday night we tried to show some more of the men how to use the Camera. The main topic, however, was how to keep from being blinded by the glare off the Preacher's Head!!)

Seriously, Prayer is the power behind this Faith Ministry. It must be God's work in God's way with God's provision or it won't accomplish any lasting good. I hope you'll be one of these Prayer Partners.

There are a couple of interesting additions in today's newsletter. Since my newspaper articles are all published in this area many of you don't get to read them. I decided to include some from time to time in this newsletter. They're part of what's ahead in "Miracle Messages" Vol II

The second thing is Brother Damon's Page. He began by asking for a small block to announce the up coming Sunday School Lessons. Then he wanted a whole column. Now it's an entire page!!

Brother Damon sang professionally before he was saved and joined our Church so we hope his expertise will help turn our good choir into a Great Choir.



From the Pastor
Letters, Phone calls, and comments continually confirm the fact that God is using our Outreach to speak to Hearts and Lives. Thanks for your support.

The Lord is also blessing in our Study of Revelation each Sunday. I hope you can join us in a Service very soon. You'll get a Blessing; if the light doesn't blind you!

..... Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

ADULT BIBLE STUDY HOUR APRIL 21, 1991 .

Damon Runion

How would you feel if a mob came and dragged you out of Church on Sunday morning and then proceeded to give you a beating, (and had all intentions of killing you) so that had the Police not arrived when they did, you would be dead?

What would be your attitude toward these people?

Our lesson this Sunday deals with this very example and it is amazing to see how Paul, thru the power of THE HOLY SPIRIT, turns a time of personal tragedy into a time of personal testimony for Jesus Christ.



Come join us this Sunday, in the Fellowship Building at 10:am, here at GRACE FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH as Pastor Mike Jones teaches this remarkable lesson .



CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT:

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHOIR

FIRST AND FOREMOST -THIS IS A MINISTRY;

OUR PURPOSE AND GOAL IS TO REACH PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST THRU THE SINGING OF RELIGIOUS HYMNS AND MUSIC;

IF GOD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH A GOOD SINGING VOICE AND YOU USE THAT GIFT TO BRING HONOR AND GLORY TO YOUR CREATOR, THERE IS A BLESSING AWAITING YOU;

IF ON THE OTHER HAND THE LORD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH A GOOD SINGING VOICE AND YOU (FOR WHAT-EVER REASON) FAIL TO USE THAT GIFT, THEN YOU WOULD BE LIKENED TO THE MAN IN THE PARABLE OF MATTHEW 25:24-30 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed: Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

SIDE-NOTE-- NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE IS THERE A BALL TEAM MENTIONED IN HEAVEN , BUT SINGING IS MENTIONED 294 TIMES.

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO COME JOIN US AND BE A PART OF THIS
" AMAZING MUSIC MINISTRY FOR THE ALMIGHTY " .

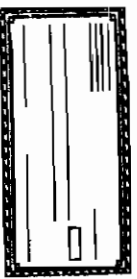
THANK YOU

AND I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT CHOIR PRACTICE [Sunday 6pm]

(TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK)

DAMON RUNION ; CHOIR DIRECTOR

BOUNCING CHECKS



It happened very early in my first pastorate. Just before I was to enter the pulpit for the Sunday Morning Service the chairman of my Deacon board pulled me to the side and said, "By the way, Preacher, your tithe check to the church last week bounced." That really puts you in a good frame of mind for a worship service!

After the service I checked into the situation and found the problem. For several weeks I had been putting my pay check into the pocket of my car intending to deposit them when I had an opportunity. The bank, however, failed to honor checks deposited in the pocket of my car! It was an embarrassing and instructive situation for me. I fear it will also be the same type of situation many will face when they finally face God.

Jesus described it in Matthew 7:21-23, Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Their intentions were correct but they had deposited their "checks" in the bank of public opinion instead of the bank of heaven. It's going to be a horrible thing to face God and find your "Check" has bounced.

CHOOSING A CHURCH

There are over 100 churches within a fifteen mile radius of Lake City. Almost every denomination, class, and race of people are represented. How is a person supposed to choose which of these churches they should attend?

Number One- What is their stand on the Bible? Do they believe it is the compete, authoritative Word of God.

Number Two- What is the basis of Salvation? Do they add anything to, or take anything from, the fact that Salvation is by Grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ; not of works lest any man should boast.

Number Three- What is the goal of the church? Do they seek political reform, social acceptance, or the glorification of a person; or do they seek to win the lost, develop the saved, and glorify the Lord?

Number Four- Do you feel that this church is where you can use your abilities for God? Do you feel comfortable with the People and the Program of the Church?



These are four basic guidelines for choosing a Church. The main thing, however, is to choose a Church! Don't build your life on the shifting sands of the world; attend and participate in a church so you can have a solid, eternal foundation.

**Bible
STUDY**

THE MINISTRY MISSION

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand (Rev 1:1-3).

John's introduction gives 4 requirements for an effective Ministry of Revealing Jesus; A ministry we have (Remember our Motto "To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST"). Let's identify these areas and increase our opportunities of outreach.

AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IS:

I. GOD GIVEN- which God gave unto him. A God Given Ministry provides:

A> Motivation: Plants without roots will wither in the hot sun of trials, troubles, and temptations. Unless you KNOW you're in God's will doing God's work then you will quit when the going gets rough.

B> Mission: To Reveal Christ. As we Reveal Christ this will Leads to (1) Salvation, (2) Adoration, and (3) Dedication

C> Message: To be effective this message Needs:

(1) Anointing- And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God (1 Cor 2:4-5).

(2) Authority- If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen (1 Pet 4:11).

You must speak God's Message with God's Power if you are to accomplish God's work. That's why there is so much activity and so little accomplishment today.

II. FUTURE TELLING- to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass. Christians are Pilgrims and Strangers in this world. They must never settle down or stop looking up. Our mission involves getting people to stop looking at this life as if it's the only thing that matters. A thousand years from now it will seem very unimportant.

III. RECORD BEARING: We are to Bear Witness of:

A> The Word of God- What God Said

B> The Testimony of Jesus Christ- What Jesus did

C> All things that he saw.- What we see (I don't have to understand everything about cars to tell about seeing an accident. I don't have to understand everything about God to tell People how He saved me).

IV. BLESSING BRINGING: Blessings are Promised to:

A> To Him that reads this Prophecy- Eyes

B> To Him that hears the words of this Prophecy- Ears

C> To Him that keeps the things of this Prophecy- Actions
God has promised the Blessings. It's up to us to provide the information.

Our Mission is clear. Our God is Powerful. Forward then, brethren, forward.

GOD DESCRIBES GOD

Rev 1:8

The first word in the book of Revelation is the Greek word "Apokalupsis" from which we get our word Apocalypse. It means "Uncovering, Unveiling, Disclosing" or, as we have entitled the book, "Revelation".

Because of the confusion surrounding many of the events in the book we think of it as a difficult book whose primary function is to allow Preachers to terrorize people with mysterious symbols. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that we understand that God intended the book to be an "Unveiling" of His Son in a way that we had not known Him before. We must not allow ourselves to become entrapped with the Puzzles of the book instead of the Person of the Book.

In the opening Message in our Study of Revelation we are going to spend time learning what God reveals about Himself and His Son. If that's not clear then the rest of the book will simply be confusing symbols instead of confirming descriptions about God's Person and Plan.

That's the reason we're going to begin our Study of Revelation in verse Eight of Chapter One instead of in verse one. This will allow us to see what God says about Himself and get a good foundation to begin our Study (as well as being something to build our lives on).

God uses a phrase to describe Himself in Revelation that is not used in any other place in the Bible- "I am Alpha and Omega" (the first and last letter of the Greek Alphabet); or as we would say it today, "I am A to Z"- the Beginning and Ending of everything. Four times in Revelation He uses this phrase and each time it declares a vital truth we need to know about God.

I> HIS DEITY- *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty (Rev 1:8).* G Campbell Morgan says "There is no verse in the Bible more explicit than that as a description of absolute and positive Deity". His Deity means He is our:

A> SOURCE: *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending.*

Of Life- *For in him we live, and move, and have our being; (Acts 17:28).* If you seek for "life" anywhere else you will find discouragement and disappointment; see Solomon, in the book of Ecclesiastes, where wealth, wine, and women all ended up "Vanity of Vanities" (I've had more people talk to me about getting out of the rat race in the last 2 weeks than in the previous 2 years!! Here's a quick little mini-sermon for you about how to get out of the Rat Race of life- <1> Don't let Money be your Master. <2> Less is More. <3> Time saving devices don't save Time; they only add more responsibility. <4> Your Kids need your Time more than Toys).

From Death- *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 6:23).* The source of our HOPE is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His Deity extends even through the "valley of the shadow of death".

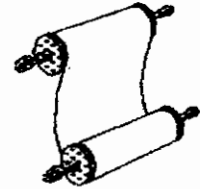
B> STABILITY- *Which is, which was, and which is to come. He is above history or time. Everything finds its commencement, course, and consummation in Him. No new discoveries, no new inventions, no chaos in life change the fact that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever (Heb 13:8).*

C> SUFFICIENCY- The Almighty is the Hebrew word "El Shaddai" meaning "The sufficient One". It was first used in Genesis 17:1-2 when God confirmed the promise He had already made to Abraham to make him a great nation and to make his seed as the stars of heaven. Regardless of the age of Abraham and his wife Sarah, God assured him that He (El Shaddai) was sufficient to accomplish the promise.

When things look their worst; God looks His best. When there is nothing left but God; that's enough.

Disaster, disease, death...He gives victory over or strength for.

II> HIS REVELATION- Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira; and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea (Rev 1:11). God reveals Himself as The WORD- the means of communicating with man. His message is written and sent to those who need it (Just like our Outreach Ministry!).



If you want to know God look in the Word; The Bible is not a "pill" to swallow but a Person to learn.

III> HIS SALVATION- And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely (Rev 21:6). God's part of Salvation is complete. Now all He's looking for are "Thirsty" people. Is God dealing with your heart right now. Are you ready to change your life and your destination???



IV> HIS JUDGEMENT- I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city (Rev 22:13-14). In the end, God judges you, not by what you say about Faith, but what you Do about Faith. The right to the tree of life is not for those who say they believe His Commandments but for those whose Faith motivates them to obey His commandments.

This Judgement part of God is tremendously important. The world denies it or ignores it but one day they will face it. No man who reads Revelation expects the world to be converted by Gospel Preaching without Judgment. The world may scoff at the idea of Hell but the Love of God demands the judgement of God.

God is God, who communicates to man, offers man salvation, and is the Judge Man must face. What does that do to your heart? Bring a chill or a shout???

GRACE And GLORY

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Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 9 May 2, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

Oh the Power of Prayer!! That first week of people praying for the Outreach Ministry every day gave the Outreach work the



greatest IMPACT and INCOME we've had in a long time. People who have never mentioned the newspaper articles before

stopped me on the street and told how much they enjoyed them; Several people listening to the Radio Broadcast called in to comment on how God had used the services to speak to their hearts; Churches called wanting to use our booklet material in their Prayer service; all of this with the same material I've been grinding out for months. The only difference- PEOPLE PRAYING!

I hope all of our prayer partners will continue to realize the importance they have in the work of this ministry and will continue to consistently pray for God to use every thing we do for His Glory. We haven't even begun to see what God can do for and with us. (I want to especially thank Martha Tucker. When she received the last



newsletter she didn't wait to write and tell me she would be one of our Prayer Partners; she called right then and signed up. What a Blessing!).

YOUTH REVIVAL:

Several of the area Free Will Baptist Churches are cooperating in a Youth Revival at the



Gilead FWB Church; Friday and Saturday Night (May 3-4). It's open to everyone so I hope you'll pray for it's impact and attend the services:

Friday- 6pm Spaghetti Supper
7pm Preaching
8pm Questions/Answers
9pm Fun Time
Saturday 6pm Hot Dog Supper
7pm Preaching
8pm Fun Time

Our guest speakers are Matt Petit and Christian Powell from South Eastern Bible College. (One of these young men will be speaking for us here at Grace during the 11am service this coming Sunday).

This coming Sunday will be an exciting Sunday not only because we have a guest speaker but also because it will be PRINTED PRAYER DAY. (Continued on Back)

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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All of the people who are called on to pray this week will have written their prayer out and will simply read it at that time. The reasons are two fold: (1) Some people are uncomfortable praying spontaneously in public and this will give them a chance to "pray about their prayer"! (2) Many of our public prayers become a "form" after a time. This will make us Think about what we're praying.

I have no plans to use Printed Prayers other than this one Sunday but I pray God will use them this week in a very special way (I know, it feels "funny" to me also. But that means it's already got us thinking more about our prayers!).

9am Service:

Opening Prayer- Robert Young.

Offering Prayer- Ken Knight.

Dismissal/Blessing on

Refreshment- Ralph McAllister.

11am Service:

Opening Prayer- Howard Frye.

Pastoral Prayer- Pastor.

Offering Prayer- Marion Coker

Dismissal Prayer- Sully Sullivan

MUSIC MINISTRY

CHOIR SPECIAL: Also this week, the Choir will present a new and improved version of "I Love to Tell the Story".

Beginning with the solo voice of Harold Miles it builds to a crescendo of harmony that will thrill your ears and bless your soul.

Almost all of the Choir seats are now filled. If you want to be a part of this marvelous ministry then you need to see Brother Damon today- once all the seats are filled you'll have to wait on someone to retire; or for the new Church to be built with it's 70 member Choir loft!

OPPORTUNITY FOR
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

MOTHER'S DAY:

Mothers are going to be "King" on Mother's Day here at Grace.

9am Service- Sylvia Gowdy, Donna McGee, Patricia McKnight, and Kathy Lewis will tell us "What

Mothers want from Husbands and Children!"

10am- Special Hardee Biscuit Breakfast for everyone

11am- The service will include Testimonies about Mothers from children and Husbands.

(Some of the men have already complained about how hard their wives will be to live with after a day of compliments but it's a price we'll have to pay this year!)



HOSPITALIZED

My wife's mother went from very sick to extremely critical the first part of this week and we've been "living" in waiting rooms all week. The prognosis looks very bleak but our hope is in God to take care of her here or take her home with Him where she can be free from her pain and suffering.

I try to come home every day to check the answering machine and do a little work so you may have to leave a message to catch me for a while; but if you'll leave your message I'll get in contact with you as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding; and for your prayers.

More and more Churches are catching the vision of using every means possible to reach out with the Gospel of Christ as we do here at Grace. Your faithful prayers and support thru the years have enabled us to share information and encouragement with them.

THANKS Preacher Mike

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Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 10 May 16, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

I'm tempted to print all the Prayers our men used on PRINTED PRAYER day. They were great.

And you should have heard the Ladies talk on "What to expect from Husbands and Children" on MOTHER'S DAY. They did a great job in showing us that most women simply want their family to acknowledge them, communicate with them, and love them.

I know you think I'm just talking some times but the people of Grace Church never cease to amaze me. They accept being "Volunteered" whenever I need help and then do whatever task I assign them with energy and enthusiasm.

I believe that God continues to have a Major Ministry for this Church. My prayer is that the Pastor would have the Wisdom and energy needed to lead this great people to accomplish all that God wants us to do. They're willing to follow almost anywhere I lead them. That really makes me pray as I chose the future paths for the Church. May we never be satisfied reaching Hundreds when we have the potential to reach Millions.



"Contact" magazine recently ran an article about our "Nine to Noon" services and I have received several phone calls from Churches in other states wanting more information so they could try it.

In continues to work VERY WELL for us and I have yet to receive a negative comment from the people about it.

Brother Damon's work with the Choir continues to bear Fruit-Beautiful Music each Sunday and increased attendance on Wednesday Night. I appreciate everyone's extra effort in making this very needed ministry function properly.

I appreciate everyone's prayers for my Mother-in-law. The family was called in again Sunday Morning but she has improved since then and is now back at home.

I also appreciate your continued prayers for my wife. She continues to be very sick and the doctors don't seem to be able to pinpoint her trouble yet.

The good thing in all this is that God still sits on the Throne and WE KNOW that ALL things work together for the Good to them that Love the Lord and are called according to His purpose. •

I wouldn't trade that assurance for anything in the world.

. Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Tit 2:11-14

The Christian Life is like looking at a door. There are 2 sides to examine and each is vital to the other. Titus shows us both of these sides in today's Scripture.

I. GOD'S SIDE vs 11

A> Grace- Unmerited Favor- Brought Salvation. Man could not come to God until God came to man!! But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8) You can't get good enough or smart enough or rich enough to be saved.

B> Appeared to all men-

- rich, poor, bad "good", etc-- Nicodemus, woman at well, man lame at pool, Zachaius,
- Man with a tempter- Peter, John and James
- Old man- Nathaniel
- Religious person- Paul

II. MAN'S SIDE When we accept God's Grace it teaches us to:

A> Leave some things (Repentance in Action)

1. Ungodliness- anything against God's plans for us. Sin is rebellion against God and His will.
2. Worldly Lusts- The Desires of and for the world (You can't help the bird flying over your head but you can prevent him making a nest). You change control of the direction of your life by yielding to the Holy Spirit's control. We call it denying Self and taking up your cross.

B> Living in this present world

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Soberly- on the level, in control | Self |
| 2. Righteously- Doing Right | Others |
| 3. Godly- Example of Christ | God |

Life is not a script you follow but choices you make!

C) Looking for Christ

1. The Blessed Hope- Wonderful expectation
 2. Glorious Appearing-
 3. Purified living- And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. -- 1 John 3:3
- Christ died to redeem and purify us. He's coming back for a Peculiar, Holy People. Therefore we are "bubbling" with good works (Not to be saved but because we are saved) so that when he comes we won't be found napping or slack on the job (Mark 13:32-37).

Are you willing today to trust in the Grace of God and show it by Leaving the World's way, Living God's Way, and Looking for His soon coming?? The Root is being Saved by Grace, The Fruit is being Taught by Grace, and the Harvest is for those Marked by Grace.

Is your Christianity a Life Transforming Faith or a Life Insurance Decision?

29 YEARS AND COUNTING

I was born again on March 19, 1962. That was 29 years ago. Shortly after I was saved I took as my "life verse" Psalm 16:11 *Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.* It tells about the 3 major things everyone needs to Know; What to do, How to obtain Joy, and What your ultimate destination will be.

I. THE PATH- *Thou wilt show me the path of life.*

A) Path is Singular- Only ONE Path is the right path (Narrow way)

B) It is a Path of LIFE- Broad way leads to destruction and DEATH

C) It is a Path chosen by God. This Path is:

1. Not seen by Human wisdom- *There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: (Job 28:7) There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Prov 14:12).* You must walk by Faith, not by sight.

2. Plain to those who want to learn- *Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies (Psa 27:11).* It's only difficult when we doubt or fail to try.

3. Obeys God- *Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight (Psa 119:35).*

4. Guided by the Word- *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psa 119:105).* The Bible gives us examples of past travelers as well as encouragement for present difficulties.

5. A Consider path- *Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways (Psa 139:3).* The way of the just is uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just (Isa 26:7). God Considered ME before He chose this path for me. He knows my weaknesses as well as my abilities and He determined my path with all the facts in mind; therefore, I CAN walk my Path- When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path (Psa 142:3).

6. A Protected Path- *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 (Isa 43:2).* He walks with me in danger as well as discouragement; that's all I need.

7. A growing Path- *But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day (Prov 4:18).* The longer I walk God's Path for me the greater my understanding of what He's trying to accomplish in my life; and the greater my testimony to those who watch me.

8. A Thoughtful Path- *Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established (Prov 4:26).* You must consider where you've been, where you are, and where you're going. Marvel at God's leadership, Trust in God's Directions, and Look for journey's end.

Peace about your Path will encourage your heart, establish your work, and motivate your "ministry".

II. THE PRESENCE in thy presence is fulness of joy. (Happiness is a shadow, it disappears in the shade! Joy is what we need).

A) How do we Come into His Presence-

1. Be Clean- Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water (Heb 10:22).

2. Be Willing- Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded (James 4:8).

B) What does it mean to be IN HIS PRESENCE?

1. A PLACE OF REST- And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. (Exo 33:14-15)

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old (Isa 63:9). We find Rest in His presence because we KNOW He understands and cares.

2. A Symbol OF REJECTION- For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon (2 Ki 24:20). The greatest tragedy in all the world is when God's Spirit ceases striving with you. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me (Psa 51:11).

3. A PLACE OF REJOICING- Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place (1 Chr 16:27).

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms (Psa 95:2).

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing (Psa 100:2). Who wouldn't be joyful in the presence of the God of the universe? Why then are so many Christians gloomy on Sunday Morning when they come into His presence to worship???

4. A PLACE OF REQUEST- If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help (2 Chr 20:9). You don't want to pray to a blank wall!! You come before His presence because Christ intercedes for you. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: (Heb 9:24)

(Even Satan comes before His presence to make request!)- And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. (Job 1:12)

5. SOME WANT TO HIDE FROM HIS PRESENCE- Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (Psa 139:7)

They fear God will ask them to do something they don't like- But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. (Jonah 1:3)

6. A PLACE OF HUMILIATION- That no flesh should glory in his presence (1 Cor 1:29). The only Glorifying there is God!

7. THE HORRORS OF HELL- Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (2 Th 1:9) Hell is not bad simply because it's Hot; it's away from the presence of the Lord forever!!

III. AT THY RIGHT HAND THERE ARE PLEASURES FOR EVERMORE

A) Right Hand- The Place of Honor. This place of Honor is ours because to God we are:

1> PRECIOUS- It would have been wonderful if God had simply saved us from the horrors of Hell; But He did much more, He has made us sons of God- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12)

2> POETRY- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Eph 2:10). The word "Workmanship" here comes from a word meaning "God's Poetry". In the ages to come men will marvel at the transformation brought about in the life of a Christian as a result of our Faith in God.

3> PECULIAR- But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: (1 Pet 2:9). "Peculiar" here means to "Wrap around" and signifies that a Christian is "surrounded" by God. This protection does not keep us from experiencing Temptation but it does provide the assurance that the Temptation or Trial will not be more that we can handle-(1 Cor 13:10).

In the ages to come it will bring honor to God as we reveal how He cared for us during our pilgrimage through this wicked world.

4> PRIZED- Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him (Mal 3:17). The amazing, astonishing, astounding, thing is that God puts Gold on His streets and jewels on His walls but puts Christians on display as His prized possession!! How the angels marvel at what Grace has wrought; and how we take it for granted!

B) Pleasures Forevermore-

1> THE PLEASURE OF HIS PRESENCE- We shall see Him face to face whom so long we have known heart to heart. What a joy it will be when we see Him in all His Glory and Majesty.

2> THE PLEASURE OF HIS PEACE- No more Pain, Sorrow, or Death to darken our days. No more Satan to attack and tempt us.

3> THE PLEASURE OF HIS PLACE- He said He had gone to prepare us a place and one day would come back for us. If God created the world in 7 days then what a marvelous place this must be after all this time.

God has a Path for you to travel. He has promised His Presence along the Way. And He has prepared some Pleasures for us that are beyond description. Come join me as I walk for the Lord. The way is so simple until even I could find it!

THE COMING OF THE LORD

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen

One of the greatest facts in the Bible is the Return of the Lord. John ends his great acclamation of what Christ has done for us (4-6) with the Thrill of His Coming. Let's See what it means.

I. THE FACT OF HIS COMING- Behold, he cometh with clouds;

A> Its Certainty- Every book of the New Testament makes reference to the Second Coming. There are over 1800 references in the Old Testament that prophesy the Advent of a victorious, reigning Messiah. Jn 14:3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

B> Its Effect:

1) Purity for the Present- And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure (1 John 3:3). If you knew the Preacher was going to your house for dinner today you'd clean up your house. If you believe Christ can return at any moment you'll stay away from even the appearance of evil.

2) Hope for the Future- If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable (1 Cor 15:19). This Hope:

- (1) comforts us concerning the death of our saved loved ones
- (2) enables us to endure trials now, knowing Judgment is on the way
- (3) Encourages us as we know that one day we shall see Him Face to Face whom so long we have known heart to heart. The Second Coming is not Spiritual or symbolic; It is the physical return of our Savior. Acts 1:11 Why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven.

II. THE MANNER OF HIS COMING-

A> PUBLICLY- with clouds; and every eye shall see him. While the Rapture will be an unseen "snatching" away of His people; the Return will be a Public display of His return as King of Kings.

B> SUDDENLY- 1 Thess 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night Matt 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

III. THE RESULTS OF HIS COMING- all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

A> World Wide acknowledgement of Him as King. The Millennial Kingdom set up to allow Him to rule with His people.

B> Wailing (Tears). These tears will be because of:

(1) Fear, as men realize that Preachers were right and Politicians were wrong; Education was not man's greatest need but Salvation; and Momentary Pleasure is not worth eternal Pain.

(2) Missed Opportunities-

- a. The Saved will weep over failing to Work for Him
- b. The Lost will weep over failing to accept His free Gift of Salvation- Philip Bliss probably said it best, "Almost persuaded, harvest is past! Almost persuaded, doom comes at last! Almost cannot avail, Almost is but to fail! Sad, sad, that bitter wail, Almost, but Lost!

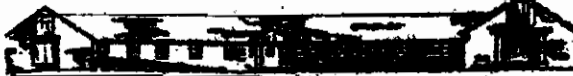
HE COMING! Are You ready to meet Him???

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 11 May 30, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

I've told you many times that the people at Grace are GREAT People but sometimes they just exceed themselves. During the recent days when my wife was in the hospital and her mother passed away they were extremely kind to my wife and I.



Then this past Saturday they prepared a banquet of a meal for my wife's entire family. They prepared enough so

that even as much as my wife and all her sisters eat (!); there was still enough for Dinner, Supper, and some to carry home.

THANKS to them- and to many of YOU for all your calls, cards, and prayers. Paula seems to be improving and we hope it won't be long until she's completely well.

I also appreciate MEMORIAL Gifts given in memory of Paula's mother by Mrs W R Calcutt, Kathy Lewis, and Debe Miles. We also received a Memorial gift in memory of Mrs Rebecca Rhodes by Wilma Gaskins.

The Lord continues to meet the many needs of this Ministry thru faithful giving and I value and appreciate EVERYONE who helps support the ministry in this manner. I have so many "irons in the fire" until it really helps

a lot not to have to worry about how the finances are going to arrive. God graciously meets every need we have and I believe He will continue to do so as long as we're in His will.

The work on Bible Study books was slowed greatly during May but I hope to have several more titles available in June. The audio and Video ministry continues to progress and I see some great potential there. The Helping Hand fund continues to stress workfare over welfare. This has enabled us to accomplish several projects around the Church recently while helping people in need.

Since people began praying regularly for the Newspaper articles, God has greatly used this part of the ministry. And this Newsletter Ministry continues to grow and develop. Thanks for your prayers and support.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Church continues to go well also. The Choir voted last Sunday to dedicate themselves to expanding their ministry; and to purchase choir robes. You ought to come hear them sometime. They're good.

May God's Blessings be upon you.

... . Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
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Lake City, SC 29560

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THE WAY INTO THE CHURCH

Ephesians 2:1-10

Having told the Ephesians of the Wealth that belongs to the Church and Prayed for them to increase in the Knowledge and Power of Christ, Paul now tells us how we can be a Part of such a wonderful Organization. He does so by telling us What we were, How God changed us, and then telling Why God has done such a marvelous thing.

I. OUR OLD LIFE 2:1-3

A) Our State: Dead in trespasses and sins (Separated from God because of What we did [trespasses] and Who we were [sinned because we were sinners]).

B) Our "Superiors": Walked according to:

1. the course of this world (The World's Pressure)
2. the prince of the power of the air, (World's Prince)
3. the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience

C) Our Situation:

1. Manner of life lived according to the desires of the flesh
2. Our "Will" was to satisfy our Desires (Desires of the Flesh-Earth-bound Appetites; Desires of the Mind-Earth-bound Attitudes)
3. By nature the children of wrath (You don't teach a man to sin-you warn him to avoid it. He NATURALLY goes to sin because of his sinful nature.

II. OUR NEW LIFE 2:4-6 "But God..."

A) The Reason for God's Grace:

1. God is rich in Mercy (He OWNS everything but lists mercy!)
2. His great love wherewith he loved us- Only HE COULD or WOULD love people in our sinful condition.

B) The Result of God's Grace:

1. Quickened us together with Christ; by whose grace ye are saved (New Life)
2. Raised us together (with Christ) (New Living)
3. Made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus

III. GOD'S MASTERPIECE 2:7-10

A) For Display- 7-9 *That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.* Because Salvation is ALL of God- By Grace through Faith, not of works lest any man boast

B) For Works- 10

1. We are God's Workmanship- Greek word is "Masterpiece". The God of the Universe who creates worlds with His words considers redeemed man His Masterpiece!! When God "Shows Off" He doesn't show the marvels of nature or the universe- He displays Us!!

2. God saved us by the Sacrifice of Christ Jesus that we should perform the good works He planned for us. Salvation is not simply deliverance from Sin's PENALTY but it is also for God's PURPOSE!

ARE YOU DEAD?? OR DELIVERED??

ABIDING

"Hit or Miss" Christianity doesn't please the person who lives it or the world who watches him live it; yet it seems to be the rule instead of the exception among most Christians. One of our continuing goals here at Grace is to get people to not only KNOW Jesus Christ as their personal Savior but also to SHOW Him in their changed life.

The mistake that many people make is in believing they only have to ACCEPT Christ as Savior and so they don't seek to ABIDE in Christ on a continual basis. They accept Christ's ability to deal with their "sins" but they never learn the victory He gives over their sinful living. To them, Christ takes care of their past sin debt and prepares a wonderful future for them after death; but He's not very much help during this present life.

I want us to see during this message WHAT IT WILL MEAN TO US TO ABIDE WITH CHRIST. Then, during the 11am service, I want to look at SOME OF THE THINGS WE MUST PUT GOD FIRST IN IF HE IS TO ABIDE WITH US.

My hope is that you can realize how important it is to make Christ a part of your every day life and turn principles into practice. It will change next year for you and for those around you.

ABIDING WITH CHRIST IS A PLACE OF:

1. INSTRUCTION- *But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. (Luke 24:29)* Two disciples met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. When He made as if He would go on without them they "constrained" Him to stay with them so they could receive instruction. When is the last time you have begged God to teach you His word??

When Christ left he left the Comforter (Holy Spirit) to abide in us and teach us the things of Christ- *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him (1 John 2:27).* And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (John 14:16). Sin and Slackness in our lives quenches or grieves the Holy Spirit and He can't instruct us for chastening us.

If you want to know how to walk the Path of Life, walk it with the one who gives the instructions.

2. FRUITFULNESS (Versus FIRE!)- *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:4-6)*

Everyone needs Purpose and Peace in life. God had given EVERY Christian a Place to serve in the Body of Christ. As you serve there you will find fulfillment and Peace. It is when you wander into the world that you spend your time feeding the Hogs and longing for Home.



3. **ANSWERED PRAYER-** *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7)*

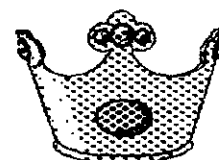
What a Joy it is to Know that He KNOWS what you need. As you abide in Him you learn to ask for the things that will honor Him and promote His work. Then your cup overflows as you see His continual provision (As I look back over my life, one of the greatest Joys I have is the thousands of answered prayers from God. Each one somehow seems to whisper, "I Love You").

4. **CONFIDENCE-** *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming (1 John 2:28).* I don't fear the Future because He is my Present! This confidence empowers me now so that I can boldly do the Work God has called me to do. It also give me a confident Hope that, regardless of the way things look now, God is still on the throne and will triumph in the end.



5. **RIGHTEOUS LIVING-** *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. (1 John 3:6)* And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us (1 John 3:24). Abiding in Him will effect the way we walk, talk, think, and act (Just as living in South Carolina affects every area of my life, so continually abiding in Him will affect every fiber of my being). He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (1 John 2:6)

Aren't you tired of just existing. Wouldn't it be great to start a new year with a "friend that sticks closer than a brother". Jesus wants to abide with you; and you need to abide with Him. Give Him the throne of your heart and let him "set up house". You'll find instructions for life, fruitfulness in Service, Answered Prayer for needs, Confidence to face the future, and a life changing power.



Remember, however, that Abiding is not a 5 minute trial but a life time commitment. It's not turning over a new leaf for a couple of days to see if you like it; it's burning your bridges behind you as you daily take up your cross and follow Christ by faith.

Abiding will change your life as well as change your destiny. And that's what you need!

RESPONDING TO JESUS

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. -- Rev 1:17-20

When John saw the Glorified Savior some definite things occurred. These same things ought to happen to us today as we see Jesus in His Word and in His Works. It must be clearly held in our mind that Christianity is not Learning new principles; it's Living a new life as a result of a Relationship with Christ. As you learn about Christ you MUST respond to Him either positively or negatively- He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad (Mat 12:30).

The three areas of response cover the 3 parts of man- The Soul worships, The Spirit has Faith, and the Body accepts Responsibility. This means this should be a TOTAL COMMITMENT to Christ; not a TOKEN Commitment to doing better.

I. WORSHIP- And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. We fall at His feet in Worship because that is a place of:

A) Respect- The Sight of Jesus should HUMBLE us to our knees as we recognize his Holiness and Power. This is the Missing ingredient in many people's worship today. They come to God as if He's a banker you must cut a deal with instead of a God you must worship!

B) Adoration- And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment (Luke 7:38). I've seen many parents, in times of adoration, kiss the feet of their infant children; yet how seldom do I hear Christians even tell God they love Him when they pray!

C) Praise- And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan (Luke 17:16). I would not get very far kissing my wife if, instead of "sweet nothings" whispered in her ear, I began telling her I wanted a shirt ironed, some pants washed, and the house cleaned! Yet, this is how Christians pray all the time. Don't be one of the "missing nine". Always give God thanks for what He has done.

D) Supplication- And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, (Mark 5:22) (See also Mark 7:25). When you begin with respect, adoration, and praise you can expect your supplication to bear fruit. Remember, however, that you come with a petition; not an order.

II. FAITH- And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. When we see God in His holiness and power the human heart is stricken with a sense of dread and fear:

A) Fear of His Holiness- Like Isaiah, when we see the Lord we want to cry, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts (Isa 6:5).

B) Fear of our Ability- I'd get saved but I couldn't Hold out. What a joy to know he has conquered death. Now we know He can help us in Life.

C) Fear of our Past- Our Sins and Our sinfulness condemn us. He who has the keys of hell and death shows us the "Door" to forgiveness.

This Fear can only be conquered by Faith in the Love and Mercy of God. Once we feel His touch and know that He had conquered every thing that can harm us our fear will vanish in the warm glow of our Faith in Him.

III. RESPONSIBILITY- Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks.

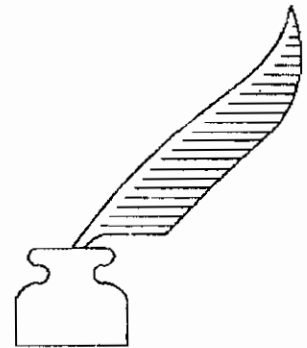
It's not enough to see Him in His holiness and believe He is able to save us. You must actually COME TO HIM and ask for salvation and then LIVE FOR HIM with a changed life.

This will make us:

A) A Witness- of our vision of God, of His change in our life, and of the Heavenly Home awaiting us.

B) A Worker- as one of the Stars or part of the light of the candlestick.

How will you response to Christ?? Remember, EVERYONE must response in some way. Remember also, that your response will determine HOW you live right now and WHERE you live in the future.



GRACE And GLORY

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Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 12 June 13, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

It's such a JOY to be able to sit down every two weeks and share all the BLESSINGS God gives to our Church and to the Outreach Ministry. I wonder sometimes (but I sure don't want to find out!!) what it must be like to go thru a week without God doing special things for you. I talk with people all the time who can't remember the last time God did some thing special for them. I can't remember the last time He didn't!

Let's start with Outreach Ministry Blessings this time.



Last week we added another weekly article. We now have a weekly devotional article Tuesday in the Lake City Shopper (12,000 readers), Wednesday

in the Lake City News and Post (4,200), Thursday in the Hemingway Observer (2,500) and Friday in the Lynches River News (3,000). Our prayer Partners are praying for at least one EVERY DAY of the Week and some in other States.

Every week some one calls or writes about Miracle Messages Volume I. My goal is to have Volume II ready by the 4th of July. The rough draft of the "12 Disciples" is completed and I anticipate publishing it next week. Contact me if you want a copy. It's a short history/sermon

about each of the 12 men Jesus called to train as Disciples.

The Lord continues to meet every need concerning our finances. I was planning to buy a second computer so people could help me get some of my work done. I was going to let the Church pay half on it since I was also going to let the Church use it for records keeping and finances. When we decided to purchase choir robes recently I decided to forget about it because I didn't want to take away from the Choir project.

That week God sent in over \$800 in extra money for the Outreach!! Honestly, If I didn't live it each day I wouldn't believe how God miraculously meets our needs.



God continues to Bless the Church also. The Choir is doing great, S.S. Attendance is good, Wednesday night services are better

than they've ever been, we have a number awaiting Baptism, and THE LADIES DECIDED TO TREAT THE MEN TO A PANCAKE, SAUSAGE BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY FOR FATHER'S DAY! I still can't figure out why EVERYONE doesn't want to attend Grace Church.

I pray God will Bless you as much as He Blesses me.

... Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

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**4TH
OF
JULY**

Since I probably won't get to publish another newsletter before the Fourth of July let me remind you of our big Water Festival, I mean Fourth Family Fling (!), scheduled for Wednesday, July 3rd. It began as a time of Patriotism and Family games but it's getting more and more difficult to survive the night without getting wet- water balloons, obstacle courses thru running water hoses, and the hidden water gun; all team up to get everyone all wet!

We begin with a devotion, the pledge of allegiance, the national anthem, and prayer for our country. Then we adjourn to the front yard of the Church for obstacle courses, sack races, watermelon seed spitting contest, 3 legged races, and, of course, water balloon tossing (This year I thinking about putting all the Adults who want to participate in an enclosed area with 2 water balloons each. Don't try to contact me in July. I'll be busy counseling).



Everything concludes with Hot Dogs or Hamburgers or whatever I can "Volunteer" someone to do. It's not as bad as it sounds (It's worst!) but come anyway.



Audios and Videos of the message included in today's Newsletter about Self Destruction because of SELF HATE are available. This is a prevalent problem in society today and I pray God will use this message to change people from the way of Destruction to the way of Life.

All of the written messages in this newsletter are available FREE upon request in Audio or Video format. Almost every sermon at the Church is Preached to the people, printed in the newsletter, distributed by Audio and Video Cassette; and, in many cases, broadcast over radio. I try to never be satisfied until every sermon has "rippled" as many times as possible in the pond of life.

If your vacation plans bring you close to Lake City on Sunday Morning or Wednesday Night then we invite you to join us in one of our services. The people are friendly, the Music is great, and the preaching is about as good as you can expect from someone who looks as bad as I look.



Wednesday night services are very casual (Some of my people have to come straight to church from work or ball practice) so don't allow vacation clothes to hinder you. And on Sunday Morning we have a room you can sit in and see the entire service if you don't think your clothes are good enough.

DIRECTIONS TO GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH:

Take Highway 52 South from Florence to Lake City (23 miles). At the FIRST traffic light (junction Ron McNair Blvd and West Main St) turn RIGHT on Main St (378 West). Go 1 block and turn RIGHT on Matthews Road (Between Carolina Tire and Shrimper). Go 1 Block and turn LEFT on Lawrence St. There are only 2 blocks on Lawrence St. and we occupy half of the second block.

From Columbia take 378 EAST toward Myrtle Beach. Approximately 80 miles to Lake City. At Intersection just west of Lake City take 378 Business into Lake City. Turn between Shrimper and Carolina Tire LEFT on Matthews Road then turn LEFT on Lawrence St.

Hope to see you this Summer.

When You HATE YOURSELF

Last week we talked about why "Life is so Hard". We found that some of our problems are "Common" to all men; Some are Punishment for sins we committed; some are God's way of Developing us, and Some are God's way of teaching us to depend on Him (Thorn in the flesh).

We failed to talk about a fairly common reason life is so hard, however. I deliberately avoided it because I was scared it would end up causing more harm than good. God has convicted (and convinced) me about it, however, and today we're going to explore the surface of a very deep and complicated subject.

Sometimes life is so hard because we DELIBERATELY MAKE IT SO!!! Subconsciously we want to punish ourselves or those around us and we accomplish that through some action or inaction on our part. [NOTE- It is VERY IMPORTANT that you realize that the symptoms I describe today are not confined to this single "disease". Many times they are caused by sin, sortiness, or circumstances. Don't jump to wrong conclusions about people's problems.].

I. THE SYMPTOMS

A. Self Destruction: Most people KNOW what alcohol, Drugs, promiscuous sex, etc. are doing to them but they continue to destroy themselves. The addiction eventually becomes chemical but it begins (and repeats itself) because the person thinks they deserve to harm themselves.

B. Severe Depression: Sometimes people overeat, fail to care for themselves, become too depressed to function, or fail to conduct the basic business of life because they hate themselves and their situation. Instead of finding a way out they continually make excuses for their "binges" or laziness (They think SOMEONE "Owes" them a living or NOBODY loves them as much as they should).

C. Character Disability: Sometimes people invite Bitterness, Worry, Pride, and Anger to "share a bedroom" in their house and no one sleeps very well from then on. These crippling attitudes poison them and everyone around them. But instead of fleeing them like a snake, they hold them like a lover.

Why would anyone hate themselves so much?? On the surface it appears that everyone I've talked about is selfishly indulgence. Why then do they continue to allow these destructive attitudes and actions to dominate their life and do them harm??

Again, the answers are complex and vary from person to person but let me give you a few common reasons for destructive behavior:

1. **PERSONAL REJECTION**- Comments during childhood: "You're just a sorry good for nothing that will never amount to anything". Or you might not be very athletic so you were always the last one chosen for the team.

2. **FAMILY REJECTION**- Abused by the father; abandoned by the mother. If you were any good your father wouldn't have done that and your mother wouldn't have allowed it to be done.

3. **SOCIAL REJECTION**- Shy or scared you never meet people very easily or learn how to maintain lasting relationships. Lots of "friends" but no real Friend.

4. **RELIGIOUS REJECTION**- Someone you love dies or suffers a horrible illness; or You get "saved" but still no one names you "most likely to succeed. Now you believe that if religion works at all it most certainly doesn't work for you.

II. THE CURES FOR SELF HATE:

A. PRACTICAL HELPS:

1. Stop looking for someone or something to blame and start doing what you can, where you are, with what you have. A thousand pounds of blame will not accomplish as much as a single ounce of effort.

2. Institute Physical changes that reflex Spiritual changes- *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth* (Eph 4:28). You used to think only of meeting your desires! Now you willing to work so you can give to others. You've changed your selfish absorption to a servant's attitude.

This is **VERY IMPORTANT**. You've already made and broke more promises than you can remember. It's not enough to SAY you'll change. Move your "hitching post" from in front of the saloon so drink won't tempt you. Learn to rest in the Lord instead of wallow in worry. Turn off the TV. Lay down the trashy novels and pick up the Bible.

3. Accept the Fact that some problems can't be removed; they must be conquered- If I cut out your tongue to keep you from spreading gossip I also keep you from spreading the Gospel. Becoming a Christian does not pay all your bills or change the fact that you had problems as a Child. It simply allows you to Trust in God's provision and Forgive those (including yourself) who have done wrong in the past.

B. SPIRITUAL HELPS:

1. Stop Comparing yourself with someone else. Other people can do some things better than you and you can do some things better than other people. *For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise* (2 Cor 10:12). [Even Christians need to be constantly reminded that "all parts of the Body are not the same". One is a finger and one is a foot but the Body needs every part. Don't "cut off the nose to spite the face"!].

2. Realize you're not able to look at yourself objectively. You'll either put yourself too high or too low- *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self* (1 Cor 4:3).

The reason you fail in self judgment is because your reference point is wrong- *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* (Jer 17:9) (How many times have you heard someone say, "I know in my heart I'm right?"; and use that to justify all kinds of sin and wickedness).

3. Hate the sin in your life that's keeping you from Abundant Life in a relationship with Christ. *I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.* (Job 42:5-6)

Don't destroy yourself and those around you. Don't allow Satan to cause you to destroy your body and condemn your soul. Turn from Sin. Trust Christ to forgive your past and give you guidance for the future. Only YOU can make the choice. Make the Right one.

HANDLING YOUR HABITS

In writing to the Churches of Ephesus and Pergamos in the book of Revelation John reveals an interesting thing about Habits. What began as a work for one Church became a way of Life for a later Church- *But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate (Rev 2:6). So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate (Rev 2:15).* (Notice that both times God said He Hated it).

This happens to us also. I know where to take the scraps out when I go to my father in law's home. Sometime in the past he found a way into the woods behind his house to carry the scraps. Through the years a well worn path has developed.

All of us have some of these "paths" in our life. Let's see which ones are right and which ones are ruts; and then let's learn to Handle our Habits.

I. THE BUILDING OF HABITS: We build Habits because Habits can be Good as well as Bad.

A. Routine is important to all of us- Go to bed and get up at certain times, do things in certain ways (Get ready, eat, etc). Breaking our routine causes us to get cranky and all out of sorts. That's why Vacations help and hurt at the same time. You need to get out of the rut but you dislike messing up your routine.

We need routine in our religion also but we must be aware of becoming Pharisees. The Pharisees had allowed Religion to become a Habit and the Habit had replaced Relationship; which caused them to kill the very Messiah they claimed to be looking for.

B. Schedules are part of routine. We need and follow Clocks. Sadly, we have become creatures of the clock and now our life is filled with stress as we try to do too much in too little time.

The "Clinched Fist" theory is VERY IMPORTANT here. We find a way to save a little time doing something. Instead of using that time wisely we cram it full of something else. Now we HAVE to save that time ALL the time and the "Fist" can only stand the strain of being clinched so long before it becomes exhausted.

II. THE BASIS OF HABITS-

A. Belief- What you believe determines what you do. That's why the advertising industry spends Billions of dollars each year to get you to believe that you must drink a certain beer or wear certain clothes in order to be popular.

B. Behavior- You come in tired so you sit in the easy chair. Watching a little TV will relax you. Soon it's Eleven O'clock. The next night you do the same thing. Soon you're eating your meals in the easy chair. Then you keep asking yourself, "Why can't I get anything done. Where does all my time go?".

C. Bondage- Habits begin as a little vine with sweet smelling flowers and end up as steel cables wrapped around your life- *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage (2 Pet 2:19).*

If you don't think you're in Bondage try going for a week without cutting on the TV or radio; or do without food or phone calls for a day; or

III. THE BREAKING OF HABITS- You might not be able to teach old dogs new tricks but you're not dogs and these aren't tricks. Habits can be broken; and many of them must be broken to avoid harm to the person or those around them.

A. Believe it's wrong! As long as you're satisfied with the Habit, or just mildly irritated with it, then you won't break it. Everyone wants to lose weight but when the Doctor says, "Lose weight or die" the pounds come rolling off! Your behavior will depend on your belief.

B. Cut off it's "Food" supply- Most Habits must be starved to death instead of "Wished" away. They didn't begin in a minute and it generally takes a lot of time to change them. Every time you provide "food" for it you delay it's death. That's why you cut off the TV or phone or...

C. Ignore it's Crying- Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Gal 5:1). Death by starvation is a Painful way to die. Your body or mind will beg and plead with you with every excuse they can think of to make you feed them. Determine to Control the habit; No matter how much you Body craves it! If it finds out crying gets you to give in then you'll hear the most pitiful crying in the world.

D. Don't leave empty closets- When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation (Mat 12:43-45). Replace Destruction Habits with Constructive Behavior; otherwise you'll end up with the same, or worst, habits later. Empty spaces in your life will be filled with something. You must determine what that "something" will be. [For instance; if you determine to get more time by cutting off TV and then spend that time on the phone gossiping you've simply exchanged bad habits. Spend that time doing the things that you know need to be done; but you put them off to watch TV. Wouldn't it be great if you could finally catch up with all your washing and ironing! or paint that store room your wife has been pestering you about for a year! or read your Sunday School lesson before the ride to the Church on Sunday Morning].

Habits are very easy to pick up and extremely hard to put down. As a Christian you have the Power available to "Handle Your Habits". But like all power, it must be used to do any good.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Cor 10:13)

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 13 June 27, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

What a great day the Lord gave us Sunday. We had several visiting families, the Choir did excellent again, one of our young men accepted Christ as Savior and we baptized 5 people at the end of the services. It's just marvelous to see how the Lord continues to Bless our Church and our work for Him. I sometimes wonder if eternity will be long enough to allow me to Thank God for all the Blessings He's given me in this life.



I wish everyone could worship with us and meet the great members we have here at Grace. Most people don't realize the work and dedication of the Faithful people who keep the Church running smoothly and effectively. I can tap almost any of them for "Grace Volunteers" and they not only do the job I give them; they do it well! Many have taken on extra responsibilities to allow the Ministry of the Church to continue in spite of all the time the Pastor spends in Outreach Work and their efforts bless my heart and magnify the Lord.

The first time you attend our Church you don't really understand what's going on. It's only after

you attend several times that you began to realize that things that need doing are being done without fanfare by people who simply love the Lord and are dedicated to serving Him. And that's what I'm looking for in Christians.

June has been a VERY expensive month for the Outreach Ministry but God continues to faithfully meet each need. In addition to our regular contributor's faithful giving we're also thankful for Memorial Giving:

In MEMORY of PAULINE EVANS by Tom and Anne McKnight, Wilma Gaskins, and a number of people from Richland Memorial Hospital.

In MEMORY of DARTHAN POSTON by Don and Kathy Lewis.

Thanks to EVERYONE who gives so that the work can continue.

Remember our "Freedom Family Fling" will be held on Wednesday, July 3 beginning at 7:00pm. Hope you can join us.



I pray God will Bless you and yours as you work for Him. Only what's done for Christ will last.
... Preacher Mike Ps 16:11

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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Lake City, SC 29560

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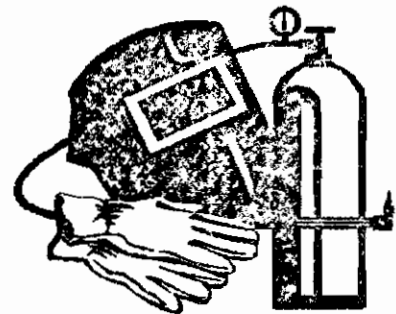
The Day I Heard God's Voice

By Calvin Grooms

It began almost nine years ago when my father became gravely ill. All of the Children were called to the hospital and Dad passed away. This was my first experience with the death of a close loved one. I broke down and cried several times.

Days and weeks passed by after the funeral and I fell into a severe depression. I felt very sorry for myself. After all, my Dad had had his father for his entire life and I had lost mine at age twenty-eight. I moped and dragged around for weeks. And then the day came that changed my life.

My job was selling welding supplies. I would go into welding shops on a weekly basis and sell them welding rods, gasses, and other supplies. It just so happened as I walked into this shop that my attention was drawn to a beautiful piece of machined metal on the floor. I guess you would have to be familiar with welding to know what I was talking about, but it was beautiful. It was made of shiny stainless steel and it was precision made. You could tell that a lot of time, effort, and expertise went into fashioning that piece.



While I was admiring it, Ben, the welder came up to me and I complimented him on it. He said, "Yes, I just made that on my new lathe. You see that dirty piece of jagged metal on the floor beside it. That's what this piece looked like before I worked on it."

Immediately, the Lord spoke to me. No, It wasn't an audible voice, but it was just as real to me. I stood there transfixed, gazing at the two pieces of metal. As the Lord ministered to me, I felt an overwhelming presence of love.



He said clearly and unmistakably, "Son, you see that dirty, ugly, jagged piece of metal. That's what you are now. This beautiful piece of machined work is what I want to make of you. But, in order to do so, I'm going to have to put you on my lathe. It's going to take cutting away the excess and grinding out the pits and burrs. It will be painful work; but when I'm finished you'll be a vessel I can honor (Jn 12:26)."

I have faced many of life's trials and problems since that day (and failed many times), but I always try to remember what I learned the day I heard God's voice. Now I realize more than ever that Romans 8:28 is indeed true- *All things DO work together for GOOD to those who love the Lord, who are the called according to His purpose.*

VICTORY OVER FEAR

Rev 2:8-11

John emphasizes to the church at Smyrna to "Fear none of those things which you shall suffer" and then lists things like imprisonment, tribulation, and death in the future of the people!! That sounds like good preaching but hard living!

We don't face the same "Lions" today that these Christians faced but we do face some very very difficult circumstances dealing with our families, our health, and our jobs--- Probably 1/4 of the families in our church have had to deal with divorce; over half of the Deacons in the Church have major health problems; most employers don't mind you being a Christian as long as it doesn't interfere with you doing your job, even if that means missing church, being a "social drinker", or "hedging" on the truth.

How can we learn to be like the church at Smyrna and "Fear none of the Things" that come our way? First we must Face our Fears so we'll know what we're dealing with and then we must claim (and live) the victory that God provides.

I. THE FEARS WE FACE

A. Fear of the Unknown- The things we fear the most are the things we know the least about! We fear "things that go bump in the night" because we don't know what they are. We're afraid to make decisions because the "monster What-if" sits in our path. We refuse to get to know people because we don't know them!

B. Fear of Violence- Locked doors, city wide curfews, being assaulted in your own home; all bring fear to our lives. TV and Movies glamorize violence and death and the nightly news tells us the horrible story each day of war, famine, and destruction.

C. Fear of Suffering- Aids, Cancer, Arthritis; Pain, Problems, Persecution; Debt, Death, Disaster; All bring Suffering to our lives. Emerson said, "Do the thing you fear, and the death of fear is certain." You defeat worry and fear by filling your mind with the certain faith that you can do it.

What are you afraid of...Teenage Poll

Nuclear War - 57%

My Parents Dying - 54%

Failing in School - 44%

- Dying - 43%

Having a Car Accident - 34%

Loneliness - 33%

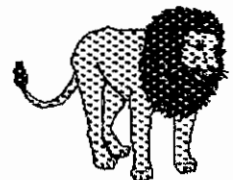
Not Having a Boyfriend/Girlfriend - 30%

Being Beaten/Injured - 29%

Disease - 28%

Rejection - 28%

Sometimes our fears seem silly- Back in the days of the Roman Empire during a circus in the Colosseum, a Christian was thrown to a hungry lion. As the spectators cheered, the wild beast pounced. But the Christian quickly whispered something in the lion's ear and the beast backed away in terror. After this happened several times, the emperor sent a centurion to find out what magic spell could make a ferocious lion cower in fear. A few minutes later the guard returned and said, "The Christian whispered in the lion's ear, 'After dinner you'll be required to say a few words.'"



II. THE VICTORY WE CLAIM

A. A Love to TRUST in- There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love (1 John 4:18). As most of you know, this verse changed my life. Once I became absolutely convinced that God loved me nothing else could sway me- troubles, trials, tribulations; they all are difficult but I KNOW God loves me and ALL THINGS will work together for my good and His glory.

B. A Faith to LIVE By- For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. (Heb 10:34-36,38). You can only take "joyfully the spoiling of your goods" when you know God is in control. Things don't work out like we want them too very often but God is always there.

C. A Refuge to REST in-

1. From the oppression of Trouble: The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. (Psa 9:9)

2. From the Loneliness of Despair: I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. (Psa 142:4)

3. From the Difficulties of Life: For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. (Isa 25:4)

4. From the Avenger of Death: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Hebrews 2:14-15).

A story is told of a child who had to walk each evening past a dark, spooky house. Some adults sought to give him courage.

One handed him a good luck charm to ward off the ghosts. Another gave him a flashlight to carry past the dreaded corner. Still another said earnestly, "It is sinful to be afraid. Trust God and be brave!" The advice was good, but he offered nothing more. Then someone said with compassion, "I know what it is to be afraid. I will walk with you past the house."

Don't walk thru life bound by your fears and failures. Walk holding to the Hand of a Victorious God.

MEEK MEN

One of my favorite disparaging remark about people's view of God today is "little Jesus meek and mild". I then ask them how that relates to His wiping the money changers in the Temple or calling the Pharisees a bunch of snakes!! I want Christians who will be MEN that take a stand, assume responsibility, and make an impact for God.

That's why it came as such a surprise to me when I began researching what the Bible said about "Meek Men". I assumed "Meekness" would be a word applied to women much more than men. Surprise, Surprise. "Meek" is used only one time in direct reference to woman; and there it's use to describe her "hidden man" of the heart!- *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Pet 3:3-4)*

Men live in a rough and tumble world today. Business it trying to beat them down, the women's movement is trying to eat the up, and young people are trying to wear them out. Can a man survive as a "Meek Man" today? In today's world aren't we looking more for a Father to be a "Macho man" than a "Meek Man"? Maybe we don't really understand what it means to be Meek?



Webster describes "Meek" as- Submissive, humble, mild. I thought sure Webster was wrong on this one but so does the Bible!! The Hebrew and Greek word "meek" all come from a root word meaning humble or mild (The Hebrew Dictionary says by implication that it also means "Saintly" but that's the writer's opinion).

Am I saying then that a man should be effeminate, a "wimp", and a doormat for everyone else? NO!! The Bible says "Effeminate" is a way to stay out of Heaven (1 Cor 6:9) and men are continually told to be bold in their dedication and Strong in their stand for God. Let's see what the Bible really means about "Meek Men".

I. MEEKNESS DESCRIBES A GREAT LEADER- Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth (Num 12:3). A Great Leader is one who Leads; not Drives! A good Father is one who is remembered for the Strength of his example; not the Strength of his arm.

II. MEEKNESS IS USED TO DESCRIBE JESUS- 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 (Mat 11:29). Strong enough to defeat Sin and Satan; yet gentle enough to offer shelter to the needy (Everyone remembers the Love of Mother's Hug but no one forgets the security Dad's arms provide when the lighten and thunder rumble).

Even as King, Jesus showed His Meekness: Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass (Mat 21:5). Blessed is the Father who can reign as King in his house while taking out the garbage!!

III. THE CHARACTER OF MEEKNESS:

A. MEEKNESS SHOWS A MAN IS AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF- The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever (Psa 22:26). You no longer have to prove yourself to everyone else. In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: (Isa 30:15).

B. MEEKNESS OBTAINS GOD'S LEADERSHIP- The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way (Psa 25:9). A good Father knows enough to know he doesn't know it all! In meekness he waits upon the Lord for the guidance he needs to lead his family.

C. MEEKNESS IS PART OF THE CHARACTER OF A CHRISTIAN- Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Gal 5:23)

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; (Eph 4:2)

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (Col 3:12)

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness (1 Tim 6:11)

IV. MEEKNESS MEANS YOU'LL BE THE ULTIMATE WINNER- But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. (Psa 37:11)

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (Mat 5:5)

The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground. (Psa 147:6)

V. BUT THE GREATEST THING ABOUT MEEKNESS IS THAT IT MAKES US RECEPTIVE TO THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL- The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; (Isa 61:1)

MEEKNESS IS THE OTHER SIDE OF REPENTANCE. WE BECOME HUMBLE ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT A REALLY "MEEK MAN" IS ONE WHO TURNS FROM SIN AND ACCEPTS THE SALVATION CHRIST OFFERS- Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

The way to be a real "Meek Man", and the Father you should be, is to seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger. (Zep 2:3)

Be a Man FOR the Lord but be MEEK BEFORE the Lord.

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WJOT) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 14 July 18, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

It's been a very very busy but fruitful week. I'd tried to complete the rest of my July work this week and it has meant early mornings and late night but things are looking good!! Hopefully, when we leave Sunday for the National Association of Free Will Baptist everything will be in order here and able to function well while I'm gone.

I've gotten all my articles ready for the rest of July, all the Church Bulletins ready to print for the rest of July, speakers lined up for each service, "to do" list made so everyone will know what to do while I'm gone, and I've even seen about changing some of the locks in the Church so the tape and radio ministry can go on as usual.

Paula and I plan to leave at NOON Sunday (Look for a little shorter service than normal) in order to get to the Sunday Night Service at Charleston, West Virginia by 7:00pm. We won't be flying but there won't be any grass growing under our feet!!

We plan to take a few days off at the conclusion of the National and do as little as a person can do and not sin! I plan to sleep until I'm tired of sleeping and then turn over and take a nap!

During my absence the church will be blessed with some good preaching (for a change!).

CALVIN GROOMS, a deacon from Tabernacle FWB Church will speak on Wed., July 24. You read an article by Calvin last newsletter.

REV RONNIE JONES will speak during both services on Sunday, July 28. Several of our families will be on vacation so I hope the rest of you will make an extra effort to be here for some GOOD Preaching.

DAMON RUNION will speak on Wednesday, July 31 (He said he'd speak if he couldn't get Billy Graham to fill in for him!). Brother Damon is doing a great job with our Wednesday night opening service and the Adult Choir and I know you'll enjoy his message. [Note other special events on the calendar on back of this page]

A number of churches have contacted me about "Nine to Noon" services and I hope to meet these Pastors at the National. Our Church still thinks it's great!

I'll still be praying for the Church, the Outreach Ministry, and special request even on Vacation. Keep Trusting God to Bless.

. Preacher Mike Ps 16:11



To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

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Grace FWB Church

July 14 - August 24, 1991



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 14 Choir Practice	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20 Matt Ard Birthda Tommy Sullivan Wedding
July 21 Russel Lowder Birthday	July 22	July 23 Calvin/Susan (A)	July 24 Matthew Frye Birthday Calvin Grooms Speak  Choir Practice	July 25	July 26	July 27 Angela Young Birthday
National Association of Free Will Baptist					Pastor Vacation	
July 28  Rev Ronnie Jones (9 & 11) Choir Practice	July 29	July 30 Marion/Althea (A)	July 31  Damon Runion Speak	Aug 1 Preacher Mike Birthday Wade McKnight Birthday	Aug 2	Aug 3 Theresa Lowder Birthday
Pastor Vacation						
Aug 4 L.A. Emphasis (9am) Marie Lowder Birthday	Aug 5 Wilma Gaskins Birthday Whitney Newell Birthday Channing Matthews Birthday Woman's Aux	Aug 6 Anne McKnight Birthday	Aug 7  Dennis Hart (VBS Program)	Aug 8	Aug 9 Carl Jordan Birthday	Aug 10
Aug 11 Katrina Lowder Birthday Mike/Donna McGee (A)	Aug 12 Robert/ Roxanna (A)	Aug 13	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16 Anthony Thigpen Birthday	Aug 17 Michele Spring Birthday
Vacation Bible School						
Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20 Wade/Patricia (A)	Aug 21  SALAD SUPPER	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24

CEASING FROM SIN

Peter uses a phrase in each of his two books that has tremendous implications- "cease from sin". It is important because the first case tells about HOW to Cease from Sin while the Second case tells of someone who CANNOT Cease from Sin. Those are the two principles that many people stumble into Hell over!

I want us to determine what the Scripture means by these verses and then see how they can affect our life.

The verse that describes circumstances that would cause a man to "Cease from Sin" is 1 Pet 4:1- *Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;*

The next time it's used it describes one of the most horrible situations imaginable; someone who cannot "Cease from sin"!- (2 Pet 2:14) *Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:*

As Christians, we know that *faith without works is dead?* (James 2:20) and to say we have Faith in Christ without a changed life is wrong. We know that sin should no longer control our character or conduct- *Whosoever is born of God doth not (continually) commit sin;* (1 John 3:9).

Yet Christians still find that *sin doth so easily beset us* (Heb 12:1) and Christianity is a fight instead of a folic. We long to be someone who has the Victory over sin but feel, instead, like those who "cannot cease from sin".

Today's verses show us that:

A. Suffering in the Flesh is the road to Ceasing from Sin

B. Giving in to the Flesh is the road to continuing in Sin

This does not mean we need to Punish ourself or those around us in order to be right. It simply means Yielding to the desires of the flesh instead of yielding to the directions of the Savior will develop a pattern in our life that will effect everything we do.

Instead of being willing to make the sacrifices necessary to grow as a Christian we want only to pamper and pet self; until comfort and ease become our god. Unwilling to allow Christ to control our life we soon lose control ourselves.

This leads to manifestations of Bitterness or Anger toward everyone we meet. We won't yield control to Christ because we want to be in Control but we find there are many things we can't control:

We can't control our

1> Problems- accidents, disasters, happen because "Time and chance happen to all men".

2> Personality- No amount of self effort will change the fact that you are a "morning person", or an "optimist", etc.

Going outside of our SELF to the SAVIOUR is the only hope we have. And the only way to accomplish that is to become new Creatures.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Cor 5:17-21)

I. THE OLD THINGS THAT PASSED AWAY. God always begins by "cleaning up the New ground"; removing the hindrances so the help can work. Remember That!! Far too many people seek to stack righteousness on top of rottenness and find themselves with a faulty foundation!

You must have a:

A) DESIRE TO LEAVE THE OLD- As long as you are content living in sin then you'll never change. We call this **CONVICTION**

B) DEFINITE DECISION to turn from Sin to God. This is not a vague "someday I hope to do better" thing; it's a conscious decision that God can and will help you and you're willing to follow His direction. We call this **REPENTANCE**.

When you do this there are 3 things that change in your life:

1) Sin's Bondage- You used to serve your master the Devil but now you have changed "Bosses". Satan may still issue some orders sometimes (and you may still find yourself obeying them!) but his power over you has been broken and you now can learn to live in liberty.

2) Sin's Burdens- The bondage of sin stacks many burdens on your back: No Peace of mind, inability to maintain relationships, destruction of your body, and wasted time and energy.

3) Sin's Punishment- You were under God's Wrath with Hell only a Heartbeat away but now you are a Citizen of Heaven with a mansion prepared and waiting for you!! If that doesn't change a man's outlook then I don't know what will!!

II. THE THINGS THAT BECOME NEW. But when you accept Christ as Savior you don't just give up something; you BECOME something new- a New Creature (Creation); with a new desire and a new destination. We call this being **BORN AGAIN**.

A) The Source of the Transformation- "All Things" are of God. It is not a New Leaf but a New Life; not your Ability but God's Spirit. It is not like a diet where your will power determines the alterations but like a doctor prescribing medicine; your part is to accept the help and the medicine does the work. A "Born Again" Person is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9) and his body becomes the Temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor 6:19-20). The Spirit Baptizes the person into the Body of Christ where they are given a function to perform (a spiritual gift to enable them to do their part in the Body of Christ- I Cor 12:-). As they yield themselves to Him, they can also be Filled with the Spirit in order to faithfully fulfill their place in their family and Society (Eph 5:18-6:9)

B) The Serenity of the Transformation- Reconciled to God by Jesus Christ. We were enemies of God but a "peace treaty" was signed at calvary and we now have Peace WITH God as well as the Peace OF God. We still must fight Satan but we do so with the armor of God about us and the knowledge that the outcome is already determined!!

C) The Service of the Transformation- given us the ministry of reconciliation= sharing the Gospel of Christ with a lost world.

Our Mission is: Well Defined- Show men Christ
Satisfying- Eternal Value
Rewarding- Pleases God and Man

So there you have it. God is able to Take away the old things that were defeating us and bringing about death and replace them with a new birth that gives us POWER to change, PEACE in the Change, and a PLACE of service that is glorious and Good. Isn't it sad that some people are rejecting His offer and remaining in sin. How awful Hell will be to remember what you could have had and instead suffer pain and punishment in outer darkness while you see the Saints of God enjoying Eternity with Him.

ARE YOU SAVED????

God's Guidelines for Every Generation

Exo 20:1-17

Many many things change in life- births, deaths, marriages, divorces; yet the one thing that remains constant is God- Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever (Heb 13:8). That's why He is often referred to as the "Rock". He's Strong, Stable, and Secure.

The thing we fail to realize many times, however, is that God is not only Constant in His love and care; He is also constant in His expectations and His judgment! He not only expects us to accept His love, He expects us to follow His rules.

That's what today's message is about. Most people at one time or another have learned the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Even the unsaved world takes them as a good guideline for living. But I think they're more talked than walked today; and I want us to examine them again as God's Guidelines for EVERY Generation, including this one.



I. THE SOURCE OF THE COMMANDMENTS- And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Note that "Lord" is in all Capitals. That means in the King James Version that it is the Hebrew word "Jehovah": the self existent one. This is not a Passing Sermon by a local Pastor. It's the eternal word of from God who exist without our help or effort. In other words, the following is true and relevant regardless of what man thinks or does.

Note also that God gives the REASON He expects these people to follow these rules; He has delivered them from Bondage into the Blessedness of His Covenant People. The laws should be readily agreed to out of their love for Him.

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMMANDMENTS.

A> They cover every area of our life- They are specific enough to be easily understood and "general" enough to cover every situation.

B> They Belong together- They are individual guidelines that form a UNIT. You can not pick and choose which of them you will obey- Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. (James 2:10).

C> They cover our conduct with God and Man- The first 4 deal with man's relationship to God. The last 6 deal with Man's Relationship to other Men. Jesus said they could be summarized in two great commandments- Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Mat 22:36-40).

III. THE SENSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS

1> The Priority of God- Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Your "god" is the thing that occupies first place in your heart. God said that place belongs to Him.

2> The Person of God- Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Even when God became a man we have no description of what He looked like. God does not want us to worship a form; He wants us to Love and Adore HIM (Sort of like my wife and I. While she has retained her exceptional beauty, I haven't! If she only loved my body we'd be divorced now).

3> The Pronouncements About God- Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Your name is your "Personal" identification. God knows when we downgrade His name we also downgrade Him. Remember also that our prayers are made "in the name of Jesus".

4> The Privilege of Time with God- Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Parents have found that expensive toys don't replace time with their children. God is not looking for a brief visit a couple of times a year. He wants us to spend time getting to know and love Him EVERY Week.

5> Children Relationships- Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. The Home is God's first "line of defense". He expects us to honor the position held by our parents (even if the parents sometimes don't live up to their responsibilities).

6> Society Relationships- Thou shalt not kill. As a society we have the responsibility to protect other members of society. This means we don't kill babies, old people, or people we don't like. It also means we hold those accountable who do knowingly kill others.

7> Marriage Relationships- Thou shalt not commit adultery. The only place God intended Sexual Relationship to take place was in the marriage relationship. Pre-marital, extra-marital, and non-marital relationships are forbidden by God (This also includes Homosexual relationships).

8> Business Relationships- Thou shalt not steal. Exorbitant prices, lazy workers, taking of property; all are included here.

9> Community Relationships- Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. The tongue is like a fire; it can burn down a neighborhood. Isn't it strange that we always seem to tear down the people closest to us??

10> Personal Relationships- Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's. This is "Paul's Sin" (Rom 7:7) and the downfall of many other people. Contentment is GREAT GAIN.

Those are the Rules. Do You need to Repent???

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . 10:00am
Worship Service (WVLC) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 15 Aug. 15, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

A number of very good things have happened since the last newsletter so let me bring you up to date.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: I think we had the best Worship Services we've ever had at this year's National. We arrived just in time for the Sunday Night Service (They were receiving the Offering when we arrived) and every service was great.

The business was troubling and it appears the structure of the denomination continues to deteriorate but I've seen that coming for a long time. In the midst of all that it's still good to see old friends and worship together. Looking forward to next year's meeting already.

Meanwhile, back at the Church, things were going very well. I've seen the tapes of all of the services while I was gone and the Lord sure did bless. I appreciate everyone's faithfulness and the work they did.

Our vacation was very good also. We rode thru the hill country of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia (and I never did get a day to sleep!) and just enjoyed looking and relaxing. It must have helped a little because several people have said I'm preaching better now!!

BIRTHDAY: The Church REALLY Surprised me with a Birthday party during Refreshment time on Sunday, August, 4. They had a beautiful cake, a large amount of refreshments, and then gave me a check for \$267 for my Birthday (No that is not a dollar for each year old I am!!).



NEW BOOK: "Miracle Messages" Volume II has been delivered and you should receive your copy by the latter part

of next week.

I am trying to hand deliver as many copies as possible to cut down on mailing expense so it will be next week before I mail them. I had 1500 copies of this edition printed so feel free to request additional copies for friends and family. (I also have just a very few copies of Volume I left for anyone desiring them).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We're in the middle of a very good VBS as I write this newsletter. Graduation is Friday. Everyone has worked VERY hard and I appreciate all they've done.

Hope to tell you about some expansion Plans very soon. Continue to Pray . Preacher Mike

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GRACE FWB Church

August 11 - September 21, 1991



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 11 <i>Katrina Lowder Birthday</i> Mike/Donna McGee (A)	Aug 12 Robert/Roxanna (A)	Aug 13	Aug 14 Sammy/Jeanie (A)	Aug 15	Aug 16 <i>Anthony Thigpen Birthday</i> VBS GRADUATION	Aug 17 <i>Michele Spring Birthday</i>
<div>Vacation Bible School</div>						
Aug 18	Aug 19 <i>Carpet Cleaned in Fellowship Building</i>	Aug 20 Wade/Patricia (A)	Aug 21  SALAD SUPPER CHOIR PRACTICE	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24 <i>Jeanie Taylor Birthday</i>
-- Aug 25 CHOIR PRACTICE	Aug 26	Aug 27 David/Mary (A)	Aug 28 CHOIR PRACTICE	Aug 29	Aug 30 <i>Jennifer McGee Birthday</i>	Aug 31
Sept 1 CHOIR PRACTICE	Sept 2 <i>Roxanna Young Birthday</i>  Labor Day	Sept 3	Sept 4 CHOIR PRACTICE	Sept 5	Sept 6 <i>Arnold Lowder Birthday</i>	Sept 7
Sept 8 CHOIR PRACTICE	Sept 9 Ladies Aux Meet  Rosh Hashanah	Sept 10	Sept 11 Howard/Hope (A) <i>David Wilkes, JR Birthday</i> CHOIR PRACTICE	Sept 12	Sept 13	Sept 14
Sept 15  HOME COME! <i>Choir Robe Concert/ Old Fashion Day</i>	Sept 16 <i>Elise McBride Birthday</i> <i>Calvin Spring Birthday</i>	Sept 17 <i>Johanna Lowder Birthday</i>	Sept 18  Yom Kippur	Sept 19	Sept 20	Sept 21 <i>David Gowd Birthday</i>

APART

Part of the wonder Christianity is it's TOGETHERNESS. It brings sinners together with God and changes them into Saints. It's brings people from varying background together and forms the Body of Christ. It's great to be part of this togetherness. I especially like the way Paul describes how we were brought together in Christ- *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.* -- Eph 2:12-13

But there is also a place in Christianity for SEPARATION. And that's what I want to look at today. I want to use as a topic the word "Apart. It means- to separate, to put at a distance; and the scriptures verses where the word is found tell us some of the need and benefits of Separation in the Christian life.

I. CONSECRATION:

A. Dedicate our Bodies: *thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S (Exo 13:12).* The first fruits of our life should be set aside as an offering to the Lord. A good rule to follow is to Give God the First part of your day, the first part of your pay, and the first say in your life.

B. Isolate our Prayers: And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. (Mat 14:23) Prayer Closets should be a normal part of Christian life. God can hear you with the TV going but it's difficult for you to hear Him!



C. Separate our Devotion: And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, (Matt 17:1). In this place of Separation these Disciples saw Jesus Transfigured before their eyes and heard the Voice of God. Maybe the reason our eyes are so dim and our ears so dull of hearing is because we never get to a place God can deal with us.

God calls us to "Come Apart" and be Holy for He is Holy. The Power and Holiness in your Christian Life are in direct proportion to the time you spend in communion with God.

II. CONTAMINATION: And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even (Lev 15:19).

We isolate people with disease from healthy people lest they catch their sickness (This particular problem was more moral than medical but the principle is relevant). The Bible is also clear on the Christian remaining separate from the world and it's contaminating influence.

If you play in the mud, you're going to get dirty. Our garments are white, let's avoid anything that would dirty them.

III. CARE: But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him (Psa 4:3). This is the separation of a Prized Possession (Like China dishes you put in the China Cabinet. You use the paper plates normally and the China when special company comes).

What a special joy to know that God values me enough to Discipline me when I need it (Heb 12:-) while at the same time holding me in His Hand, protected from anything Satan can throw at me.

IV. SORROW- And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; (Zec 12:12)

When Jesus heard of it (John the Baptist's death), he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities (Matt 14:13). There are times that Sorrow needs company and times it needs Separation- Blessed is the man that knows the difference (We condemn "Job's Friends" but they at least knew enough to sit with him quietly until he was ready to speak).

V. CONFIDENCE- When the Disciples failed to help the demon possessed boy they came to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? (Mat 17:19). They wanted to find the reasons for their failure in a private session. One of the "missing ingredients" in life today is people taking the time to share burdens with one another. Everyone, even Jesus, feels the need to talk in confidence with close friends- And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, (Mat 20:17)

VI. VACATION: And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat (Mark 6:31). Vance Havner says we either come apart or come A Part! Everyone needs time to Rest, Reflect, and Recharge.

VII. COMMITMENT: Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls (James 1:21).

It's not enough to be separate FROM sin; we must be Separated UNTO God. Separation FROM Sin is called Repentance. Separation UNTO God is by Faith and leads to Salvation.

Are you Apart from God today. Come to Christ and become a part of the Body of Christ with the Blessed Hope of His soon return.

KISS THE KING

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. (Psa 2:12)

A kiss is considered a very private, very personal exchange between two people. It is much more than "swapping spit"!! as one of our men says. It implies concern and commitment.

"Kisses" are mentioned numerous times in the Bible and we're going to look at several implications from Kisses before we look at the command of our verse, "Kiss the King, lest he be angry".

I. KISS OF LOVE: Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine (Song 1:2). Babies are kissed thousands of times by everyone who gets close to them. It used to mean something special when a Boy and Girl kissed on a date (Now, evidently, everyone is expected to kiss every time, all the time).

Husbands and wives generally have at least two kinds of kisses; One is the "peck" of "you're important but I really don't have time for you right now" and the other is the Kiss of love and loving (Which is the one that's "better than wine").

Let me mention also that every parent should kiss or hug their child often enough that the child will feel loved and appreciated.



II. KISS OF BETRAYAL:

A. Most Famous Betrayal Kiss- Judas kissing Jesus: Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast (Mat 26:48). Some people USE other people while claiming to love them. People are not juice boxes that you suck the juice out of and then throw away.



B. Jacob betraying his father for the Blessing: And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son (Gen 27:26). Jacob had already bought the Birth Right and now he was stealing the Blessing. People come to me regularly saying they love the Lord; while they mean they expect the Church to support them. A kiss whose's only purpose is to get instead of give has the wrong attitude.

C. Where we get our term "Back Stabber" from. When Joab kissed Amasa and then stabbed him: And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. (2 Sam 20:9-10).

All of these people Kissed with their mouth and not with their mind! They wanted to give the APPEARANCE OF LOVE but they had different motives in mind.

I think that's what dealing with a prostitute would be like; lust without any love (and, therefore, no real satisfaction). Isn't that the way some people treat God? They bring their bodies to church but keep their mind and love somewhere else; and then wonder why the Church service is not meeting their needs.

III. KISS OF SERVICE: Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet (Luke 7:45). We hear people use the expression "Kiss my foot" all the time. For them it is a term of contempt; for us it is a method of service. It means we are willing to show our love thru great sacrifice; Caring for the Sick, Helping the Hurting, giving our Self as well as our substance.

Sometimes the person you're kissing has "onions on their breath" and the kiss is not as pleasant as it could be. In the same way, it would be nice if no one needed our help or concern except when it was convenient to us. Seldom is this the case however. Sometimes the only way to serve is to "kiss the feet", but, remember, Jesus said that if any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all (Mark 9:35).

IV. KISS OF GREETING: I'm just going to mention this in passing because the Bible mentions it so much. We shake hands today instead of kiss one another on the cheek but it refers to that act of friendliness that shows other people we're glad they're there. Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you. (Rom 16:16) All the brethren greet you.



Greet ye one another with an holy kiss. (1 Cor 16:20) Greet one another with an holy kiss. (2 Cor 13:12) Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. (1 Th 5:26) Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen. (1 Pet 5:14)

If all you do is come to Church and sit in your pew you miss the real joy of Christian Fellowship. Greet the other people with a smile and a hearty hello. It'll make them feel better and give you a joy in the service you've never had before.

Let me also mention that a visitor should never come to Church without being greeted by most of the members. It takes a lot of effort and will power to come into a strange church; make it as easy as possible on them.

V. KISS OF SUBMISSION: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him (Psa 2:12).

When a man sins, IT IS GOD WHO IS OFFENDED; but man who wants to be petted! When I offend my wife, I don't expect her to suddenly begin petting me; yet man thinks that God is supposed to make him feel good about himself since sin makes him feel so bad.

If Sin has separated you and God, come back to Him today, show Him a broken heart of repentance, ask His forgiveness because you have hurt Him so much with your sinfulness, and then pledge you allegiance and affection to Him. Kiss the King, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way!!

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service 9:00am
Bible Study Hour 10:00am
Worship Service (WVLC) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 16 Sept 12, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

HOME COMING THIS SUNDAY

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages

11AM HOME COMING WORSHIP SERVICE. Rev Robert Rose will bring the Morning Message as well as provide Special Music. (Broadcast over WVLC)

NOON: HOME COMING MEAL. Church will provide Chicken, ice, and utensils. Mr & Mrs Dallas Wise will provide the Bread. Church ladies are asked to bring the remaining food and desert.

1:30PM CHURCH HISTORY AND FUTURE MINISTRY

2:00PM CHOIR CONCERT. The Fabulous Grace Choir will present an hour of beautiful music featuring the entire Choir as well as numerous quartets formed by Choir members. A SPECIAL OFFERING will be received to purchase new Choir Robes (Our goal \$1000).

{ Note- We will not wear Old Fashioned Clothes as first planned. Everyone seemed to think their regular clothes were old enough! }



JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY



Sometimes I wonder how other Churches can get any Blessings since the Lord seems to spend all His time Blessing us!! I wouldn't trade being a Christian at Grace for anything in the world.

During the past two months we have lost 15 regular attenders due to moves or college and, yet, our attendance has continued to climb!! It just amazes me to see how the Lord is always able to meet every need.

One of those moves was our regular Organ player. We know the Lord has someone to take her place. So whoever you are, you might as well start coming to Grace and be done with it!

NEW SONG BOOKS- The Church decided to purchase 100 new song books to supplement the 75 books we already have. We leave some books in the Fellowship Building for Wednesday Night services and several times recently we have run short during our Worship Service. This will give us enough for right now as well as meet our needs for future growth.

NEW BUILDING PLANS- We have been talking recently about a temporary expansion plan for the Church. We thought about knocking out the back wall and going back 30



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feet in order to put in a Baptistry and new Choir loft. This would expand our seating by 75 to 100 and allow us to seat around 200 to 250.

The Deacons and I met about it and they expressed that they'd rather "Go for the Gold" than settle for the Silver! They said why waste time and money on remodeling an old building with no insulation. Let's build a new building that will look right and honor God! (Glory!)



IN SEARCH OF:

We decided on a couple of items to "Trigger" the building. When we can average 100 in Sunday School for 3 months then we feel we will

Need the building as well as be able to pay for it. So now it's a matter of people working and praying and witnessing.

While we are accomplishing this task we will also be working on a church budget that will allow us to begin putting more money into the Building Fund. Our goal is to have at least \$50,000 in the Building Fund by the time we need to build.

What thrilled me about the whole thing was the sense of excitement I felt in the Deacons as they discussed our future plans. They gave me the impression they think the future is Now! What an opportunity God has given us!!

MEMORIALS: I'm pleased to acknowledge Memorial Gifts to the Outreach Ministry: In Memory of Pauline Evans and Edith Ard by Eris Jones; In memory of H.D. Chandler by Wilma Gaskins; In Memory of Nellie Stephens by Kathy Lewis. Thanks also to all of you who have contributed in the last two months so we could publish and distribute all the books we have.

Rev Pete Bove has asked me to include his name and address in this newsletter because it is read by so many people. He is a young preacher from the Gilead FWB Church looking for opportunities to preach and seeking his first pastorate. He can be reached at P O Box 325, Scranton, S C 29591 (803-394-8201).

I don't have it in a "Book" form but I do have the notes on our study in the book of Romans available if you would like to get them.

We are also looking at writing our own Sunday School literature beginning in the Spring Quarter of 1992. Several pastors in the State have expressed an interest in this project. More later.

I don't think I've mentioned our Wednesday Night Service lately. It's very well attended. The main reason is because it's such a blessing. Every song is a request song, People get to testify about what God has done for them during the week, we have a time of Bible Study, and we end with a request prayer. It's great.

OUTREACH BLESSINGS: We were happy to receive a call from Mr Earl Hucks requesting the use of some of our "Miracle Messages" articles in the paper he edits; "The Piedmont Informer". That allows us to reach even more people with the Gospel and we praise the Lord for continuing to expand the Ministry.



The distribution of "Miracle Messages" Vol II is going very well. If you need additional copies for friends or loved one then

let me know as soon as possible. (It cost over \$1 per copy to mail individual copies. You could really help if you'd get a number of copies and distribute them in person; but don't let that hinder you from ordering single copies. The Lord has met every need and we WANT everyone to have a copy).

Keep in mind, also, that we continue to distribute Bible Study Booklets. In fact, my problem right now is that I have more request that I'm able to fulfil. I find it hard to find the time to run off all the stencils for all the pages in a book any more. One day I'm going to catch up (I am. I really am!!).

bible
study

Come join us at Grace. We don't want any "lost sheep" wandering in the wilderness. We want all ONE HUNDRED safely in the fold each week.

..... Preacher Mike



THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Phil 4:13)
(NIV)-- "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
(Wuest)-- "I am strong for all things in the One who constantly infuses strength in me"
(Amp Bible)-- "I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me-I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, (that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency)."

One of the major problems we have in Christian Circles today is the practice of taking a verse out of context and then making it say what we want it to say. Our verse for this message is that way. People proudly quote it and claim it's "Promise"; but end up in disaster or doubt when they try to push it's meaning beyond what God intended. I want us to avoid the dangers in what it doesn't mean, claim the victory for what it does mean, and then turn it from a Sunday Morning message into a life style.

I. WHAT CAN WE DO - ALL THING!!!

A. What it doesn't mean- I can't fly! I can't sing. In fact, I find it difficult to lose the 15 lbs of extra fat I'm carrying around each day! I also can't keep my hair from falling out or my body from deteriorating. Why, I can't even make people come to Church!!

So this is not a "Magic Verse" that allows me to become a god. It has tremendous promise but it also has it's limitations.

B. What it really means- In order to find those limitations we must look at the Context of the Verse (That means looking at the verses immediately before and after this verse to see the theme of what Paul was saying). *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Not withstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction (Phil 4:11-14).*

Some people had accused Paul of being in the Ministry simply to live off other people. To combat this, Paul usually earned his living as a tent maker while he did his mission work. Like anyone traveling from city to city, this was not a very stable living. Sometimes he would get along great; other times he went hungry! Sometimes he could buy a new suit and sometimes he couldn't even get patches for the suit he had!

It is in this context that he makes the statement of verse 13. He isn't saying he's superman through Christ; he's saying he's able to face anything life sends his way through the strength he receives from the indwelling Christ (Note that, even with that in mind, he uses the verse after verse 13 to thank people for their part in helping him).



II. HOW CAN WE DO IT - THROUGH HIM. How could Corrie Ten Bloom pray for her Nazi guards and keep up her faith in a death camp? How can Christians today face death, disaster, disease, and disappointment? Only Through HIM--Christ. It is not our will power or stamina but our Savior that makes the difference. (Without my glasses, everything in the world is fuzzy and out of focus. I stumble around and continually get lost. With my glasses on I must face the same obstacles but now I can see how to avoid or overcome them!).



III. WHY CAN WE DO IT - HE GIVES ME STRENGTH

Our main question now becomes HOW DOES HE GIVE US STRENGTH????

A. Inclination- I CAN if I WILL (Jesus told about 2 sons, One said he would and didn't. The other say he wouldn't and did. It was the one who actually did the work that obeyed the Father).

Most of the work in the Church that goes lacking does so because people say "I can't" when they really mean "I won't".

Christ does not give me strength and then let me decide if I want to do the job; once I dedicate myself to the work, he gives me strength to do what he wants done.

B. Faith- "All Things" means depending on His sufficiency. It is trusting God for strength for whatever comes your way. (I was reading in an old "Grace and Glory" the other day and saw the preacher had said this church could reach MILLIONS with the Gospel. Either he's crazy; or he believes God can give the strength needed IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE!)

C. Submission- "Through Christ" means I take up my cross and follow Him. I turn away from my own will and ways and walk submitted to His plan for my life. I don't expect God to empower me to "do my own thing". I do expect Him to be my power for any thing He asks me to do.

D. Receiving- "Who gives me strength: (Builds me up)

1. Inner strength- Because the Holy Spirit lives within
2. Wisdom- To make the right choices, to say the right things.
3. Patience- To wait on God's time, to endure life's problems.

We offer you today, not a clique about the good life; but a life changing Christ. He can change your Destination as well as your Disposition. He can enable you to face life as it really is; and come out victorious. Won't you accept Him today.?

SATAN'S STRATEGY

Paul told the Corinthians that he wanted to inform them of Satan's Strategies lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices (2 Cor 2:11). Sadly today, it seems that many people are ignorant of WHAT Satan is trying to accomplish (The destruction of everything and Everyone that is connected with God); as well as HOW he is trying to accomplish it.

I want to go back to the original example of the Devil's Deception in Genesis 3:- and use some examples as recent as this week's newspaper to show that this continues to be his strategy (Note that this was also his method with the Son of God nearly 4000 years after the Garden of Eden- Matt 4:1-11).

Let's see how Satan works at destroying us and then let's avoid his pitfalls, tune out his lies, and get as close to God as we can.

1. CONFUSION ABOUT GOD'S WORD- Gen 3:1-4. The first thing Satan did was to ask Eve, "Did God REALLY say that you shouldn't eat of EVERY tree in the Garden?". The first worm of doubt Satan places in a person's mind about the Bible involves having to defend God's Word against normal logic ("Surely if it's right to eat one fruit, it's right to eat another"). Remember the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God (1 Cor 1:18). God doesn't think the way man thinks and the natural man receives not the things of the Lord Jesus (1 Cor 2:14).

Let's look at the Friday, August 30 front page of the "Florence Morning News"- "Censorship in schools getting worse, First Amendment advocates claim". In the article, "People for the American Way", an antiGod group headed by Norman Lear claim censorship because some parents objected to their children reading books depicting incest and containing Anti-Christian material.



Censorship is the key word here. These people say that if religious people had their way then even books like "Huckleberry Finn" would be banned. They think it's fine that schools are basically banned from using (and, in many cases, even reading!) the Bible but they don't want anyone telling children they can't pollute their minds with the trash of the world. And it begins by saying, "If you censor the really bad things then you'll end up censoring the good things also". Satan's strategy is still at work!

After Confusion, Satan tries DOUBT- "You shall not SURELY die".

Another article on the front page of Friday's "Florence Morning News"- "Sexual Preference Biological?". The tone of the story suggests that it's a proven scientific fact now that men become Homosexual because of a difference in their brain; regardless of what the Bible says. What they fail to realize is the fact that the Bible backs up this theory!!- And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (Rom 1:28).

Then on the section "B" front page the headline screams, "Researcher: Paddling more harmful than beneficial". This article gives the impression that this "Expert" has found that God's guidelines about corporal punishment are all wrong. The fact that he heads an organization opposed to corporal punishment is given no significance. He's an "expert" and as such certainly knows more than God!!

More and more, Society is teaching you AND YOUR CHILDREN that man is god while God is old fashioned and out of date. What can you do to battle this strategy of Satan??

A. Read the Bible- Satan doesn't mind you owning a Bible as long as you don't read it! Make your Children read it. Have Family Devotions where the Bible is read and discussed.

B. Use the Bible- Give your children guidelines based on the Bible; and let them know that's where they came from! Base your life on what the Bible says instead of what the "Experts" believe. Stress the fact that Sunday School, Prayer Meeting, and Church attendance are more important than any Public School activity.

II. CONCEPTION THAT YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING- Gen 3:5 *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.* Even among Church members the belief is common that you ENDURE Church things while you ENJOY things in the world. Every Church service is not "Great" and "Fabulous"; just as every meal in a home is not grilled steak or ice cream. Sometimes all you have is "Meat and potatoes"; but even "meat and potatoes" are good if you're hungry!

Davey Allison is sitting on the pole for today's Southern 500 (I imagine they have more in attendance than we do!). If he wins he will get over \$294,000 (\$80,000 for winning, \$114,00 for winning from the pole, and \$100,000 for winning part of the Winston Million). But more important to him is the praise and adulation of race fans and the TV audience.

Atlanta Braves fans are sore armed from "Tomahawking" right now while dreams (that may become nightmares!) of championships dance dizzily in their head.

People are continually looking for some new form of "rest and relaxation". More and more of them take place during Church or require that you miss Church in order to attend. And more and more people act as if that ache in their heart can be healed at a race track or ball park instead of in a service devoted to worshipping God. Some how Satan has convinced people that the answer to worldliness is found in wallowing in the world instead of commitment to Christ.

III. CURIOUS ABOUT FORBIDDEN FRUIT- Gen 3:6 *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.* Curiosity is a Natural and a Powerful part of Human Nature. We can't ignore problems like Sex, Drugs, and Peer Pressure. We need to talk about how God is better than these problems openly and honestly (Don't get too graphic, For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret (Eph 5:12); but let them know they can talk to you about these things).



Someone is going to satisfy the curiosity that people have. We can bury our head in the sand while TV shows and trashy newspapers tell the wrong side of these issues. Or we can show how the Bible is just as relevant for a Madonna video as it was for sin in the camp of Israel.

Satan is out to destroy you. Will you listen to his lies; or come to the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life- Christ.

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Vol IX Num 17 Sept. 26, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

I've already given away a large number of tapes of the Home Coming Services so if you haven't gotten yours yet you need to put in your order right away.

It was a great day in the Lord. Brother Rose preached as well as I've ever heard him and the Choir gave a marvelous musical presentation of the joy found in the Christian life. The attendance was very good (we fed over 150 people) and the Lord just blessed in all of the day's activities.

NEW BOOK: We've finally gotten the time to put together a large number of copies of "The 12 Disciples".



Booklet (With Mrs Janice and Miss Debbie's Help) and copies are now available for anyone requesting them. This Book gives a brief history of the life and death of each of the 12 Disciples and then develops a message based on the main character of the Disciple.

The messages are good for Sunday Morning as well as Wednesday night if any of you preachers want to do a Study Course (I preached these messages during the time our Church was learning the names of the Disciples. We also adapted some of the material for Vacation

Bible School. Let me know if you need those additional notes).

BIRTHDAY: I am mailing this newsletter on my Mother's Birthday. She has been a constant source of strength and inspiration thru the years and I thank the Lord. His providence allowed her to be my Mom.



I hope you can join us **THIS SUNDAY** for some Special Services: 9:00am "The Catholic Church; how it began, the errors that evolved"

10:00am "How to Be Saved and Sure"

11:00am "The Depths of Satan" (How Satan gets into your life; How to get him out, and Keep him out).

NEXT SUNDAY: (Oct 6)

9:00am Gilead Singers (You'll enjoy this. They're good).

10:00am "The Place of Works in Salvation"

11:00am "The Lord, the Thief!"



There is a **SPECIAL** Blessing awaiting you at Grace. Come get it this week Preacher Mike

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THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The word Church means "Called Out Assembly". It's basic beginning was when Jesus "Called Out" his Disciples and instructed them in the things of God. However their original concept was that Christ was the Messiah and would restore Israel as a world power [Acts 1:6] with the Apostles acting as His "Cabinet" [Mark 10:35-37]. Even after the Jews had rejected Christ and His message the Lord had to drag Peter "kicking and screaming" to the place that he would open the doors of the Gospel to the Gentiles [Acts 10:-]. It took the ministry and message of Paul to bring the Gentiles fully into the Church and even then there were 2 "branches" of the Church- One headquartered in Jerusalem [ministering primarily to the Jews] and the other at Antioch [with a vision for the whole world]. (One wonders what would have happened if Jerusalem would not have been destroyed in 70AD by the Romans).

That first Church is vastly different from the church of today- in it's Message, It's Methods, and it's Meeting Place.

I. IT'S MESSAGE

A) Power for Forgiveness

1. The Sacrifice of Christ for Sin "They believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah or Christ, and that he had freed them from their sins and transformed their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. They believed that theirs was a better way because it offered the believer forgiveness of sin, peace with God, hope for the future, a new and higher ethical code, power to live up to that special ethical standard, and life after death".

2. The RESURRECTION of Christ conquered the fear of death "A few disheartened followers were transformed into the most dynamic movement in the history of mankind. Without this firm belief in a risen Christ, the fledgling Christian faith would have faded into oblivion" (Quotes taken from the introduction of Eerdman's handbook to the History of Christianity)

B) Power to Change- thru the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit

II. IT'S METHODS

A) Organization

1. Leadership

- a. Apostles (Acts 1:12-26,
- b. Councils (Acts 15:-)
- c. Elders and Bishops (Acts 20:17, Phil 1:1, I Pet 5:1)

2. Laity

- a. Commune type at beginning- (Acts 4:32-5:11)
Deacon selected to oversee (Acts 6:)
- b. Later involved Widows as helpers and teachers- Tit 2:3-5

B) Outreach

- 1. Limited (Acts 8:5-14)
- 2. Fanned by Persecution
- 3. Carried on by Paul

III. IT'S MEETING PLACES

- A) The Outer Portion of the Temple (Acts 3:1-2)
- B) The Homes of Members (Acts 12:12, Philemon 2)
- C) Jewish synagogues/Homes (Acts 17:1-2)

THE STATE CHURCH 313-500AD

Having survived a beginning period of intense Persecution, the Church must now learn to adapt to Prosperity and Peace. Revelation chapter 2 says that this was a time when the Church was infested with "The Doctrine of Balaam" (vs 14). The Doctrine of Balaam simply means that if you cannot curse God's people then you try to corrupt them. When the 10th Roman Emperor died, two generals fought to become the new Emperor. One of them was Constantine. On the night before the battle, legend says that he saw a vision of a cross with the words "by this sign conquer" and he made a vow that if he won the battle Christianity would become the religion of the state. He did win and the Christians were lifted from the catacombs to the castle- but multitudes now joined the Church because it was popular; without any repentance of sin. Whole companies of soldiers were baptized at one time. Constantine became "head" of the Church. The Church became popular with the world but Christ promised to fight it with the Sword!

Constantine did much to help Christianity in the Roman Empire. He established Sunday as a day of rest and worship (321AD); gave Christianity a favored status; encouraged Church building; ordered 50 Bibles written on finest vellum; and reformed slavery and pagan customs. While this may have seemed like the greatest thing to ever happen to the Church, Constantine's purpose (like that of many Politicians) was not to benefit the Church as much as it was to benefit Constantine.

The Roman Empire has begun to crumble from the excesses of it's rulers and leading citizens and Constantine knew that he needed help to control the empire and continue it's culture. He decided the best way to do this was to turn the Christians from Enemies into Allies. (This is borne out by the fact that he delayed being baptized until just before his death, killed the young men that stood in his way of complete control of the empire, and kept the position of chief priest of the pagan state religion).

The two major setbacks to the Church during the time of Constantine's rule were: 1) Since Constantine protected the Church he felt he had the right to rule in it's spiritual matters, thus beginning the long running battle between Church and State. 2) He moved his capital to Byzantium (Constantinople) which eventually led to the division of the Church into Eastern and Western Branches.

Later rulers continued the process of granting privileges to the Church until Christianity finally became the State Religion. Emperor Gratian renounced the title of Chief Priest of the pagan state religion. Theodosius I in 380AD issued edicts that made Christianity the exclusive religion of the state with punishment for anyone who worshipped any other religion. An order issued in 392AD prohibited paganism and Justinian ordered the closing of the school of Philosophy in Athens in 529AD so that paganism would no longer be taught.

So in just a few hundred years Christianity had spread to become the leading religion of the Empire. Yet this very Prosperity and Popularity would soon lead into the Dark Ages of the Church as well as Civilization.

The Barbarians:

During the latter portion of the 4th century the Barbarians began to come into the Roman Empire; eventually leading to the fall of the Empire. This influx of people was a great opportunity for Christians to be Missionaries and many of the Barbarians eventually were converted to Christianity. Sadly, they also brought many of their Customs with them and they became a part of the Church organization and activities- one prime example is that the Church changed the Barbarian's worship of "hero" into worship of "saints"; a practice that still plagues many of the European Churches today.

The Doctrines:

During this period of development and lack of Persecution the Church had to formulate it's doctrines. Due to the fact that the Church had no central body, many doctrines began to be formulated by the people in a particular Church or area. The first Council (held at Nicaea in 325AD) dealt with a primary part of the Christian Faith. 3 views of the Divinity of Christ were put forth- 1) Christ was created by God. 2) Because of his life and obedience to God's Will Christ was to be considered Divine, although subordinate to God. 3) Christ existed from all eternity and was coequal with God, although a different personality. A compromise position was taken (Christ was created by God but was like God) and it was many years later before it was finally clarified that Christ and God are Equal. During the following years councils were held to decide on the deity of the Holy Spirit, The relationship of the natures of Christ, and even the manner of man's salvation. Although they were not always correct in their finding, at least a set system of doctrines and beliefs were begun and eventually was refined into the major doctrines we have today. This system of Doctrines is essential even today as we constantly face new cults and beliefs.

As the Church struggled to adapt to it's Political peace and define it's doctrines some people began to long for the "Purity" of the old ways and started the Monasticism movement- moving away from the world to live as "Monks" with as little contact with the world as possible. Monasticism developed like this: First, ascetic practices were carried on by many within the church. Later some of these withdrew from society to live as hermits. The holiness of these hermits attracted others, who would take up residence in nearby caves and look to them for leadership. Soon a community was formed and communal life was begun. (Some carried this life to insane lengths- One lived buried up to his neck in the ground for several months and then spent over 35 years on the top of a 65 foot pillar near Antioch. Others lived in fields and grazed grass as cattle. One became "famous" because he never undressed or bathed after he became a hermit. Another wandered naked in the vicinity of Mount Sinai for 50 years).

These Monks rendered a valuable service to the church by preserving many of the early writings and stressing holiness but they also allowed the less dedicated to run the Church and eventually this led to the corruption of Papal leadership.

CATHOLIC CHURCH 500AD-1500AD

Rev 2:18-29

After the Fall of the Roman Empire there followed a time of instability. This instability was caused by the invasion of the Barbarians and the lack of central government. The Catholic Church stepped into this "Vacuum" and became a Political as well as Spiritual power. They justified this by saying that the kingdom of God was thought to have two arms: (1) the spiritual, presided over by the pope, was to have responsibility for men's souls and (2) the temporal (Ruled by the Emperor) was to have responsibility for the physical well being of man. The Pope and the emperor were to give each other mutual support.

During this time the Western Church, headquartered in Rome, made great gains in winning people in the Northern and Western part of what had been the Roman Empire. Mean while, The Eastern Church (Constantinople) was barely able to hold it's own against the invading hordes of Islam. This use of energy to prevent the Moslem Invasion was one the reasons the Eastern Church failed to grow but there were others.

The Greek Church never received the degree of Independence that the Roman Church did because of it's Philosophy about leadership: In the Roman Church the Pope acted as if he were an Emperor. In the Greek Church the Emperor often acted as if he were a Pope (The Greek Orthodox Church is the "mother" of the Russian Orthodox Church).

The Roman Church chose Latin as it's language while the Eastern Church chose Greek. With the language came a different philosophy- Latin considered matters practically, Greek considered them along Philosophical lines. The Roman Church refused to allow it's clergy to marry while the Eastern Church allowed everyone except the bishops to marry. The Priest in the East had to wear a beard while those in the West were allowed to shave. The Eastern Church forbade the use of all images (except the Cross) in the Church while the Western Church was crowded with Pictures and statues.

Unwilling to be swallowed by the Roman Church, the Greek Orthodox Church officially broke with the Roman Church (in 1054AD) and what had been a fact in substance now became a fact in actually.

This was a time of Missionaries and Muslims; and Feudalism and Fractions as the church reached out to "win the world" and as Islam was born and developed into a world conquering force in the Middle East. Following the rule of Charlemagne (around 800AD) most of Europe divided into Feudal Estates protected by it's own Knight (and in some cases, Army). Each Estate was ruled by a Feudal "Lord" who often warred with those who were not part of his "kingdom". Since the Church had accumulated large portion of land by donations, this system greatly affected the Church during this time.

Several Factors helped solidify the Supremacy of the Pope during this time period-

1) **PRIESTLY POWER:** Derived from 2 main functions.

A> **CONFESSION-** The Priest were the only ones who could hear "confession" and absolve the person of their sins (Thru various acts of Penance). This made it impossible to get to Heaven without the help of the Priest.

B> **TRANSUBSTANTIATION-** About 831AD, Paschasius Radbertus, Abbot of the monastery of Corbie near the city of Amiens, began to teach that by a divine miracle the substance of the bread and the wine were actually changed into the body and blood of Christ. The Roman Church did not officially accept this until 1215AD but it became an important "hold" for the priest over the people as they people were required to take communion and only the priest could pray over and "convert" it.



2) **MONASTERIES:** The Monastic reforms carried out by the Clunaic Monasteries in the 10th and 11th centuries made a great contribution to the supremacy of the Papacy. By the 10th century the monasteries had become wealthy and corrupt as men now used them for an easy life of luxury instead of dedication. In 909AD, Duke William of Aquitaine started a monastery at Cluny in eastern France. It was so effectively run until many other monasteries came under it's leadership and the leader of the Cluny Monastery became "Abbot" over nearly 1100 other monasteries.

The Cluny Abbots called for reforms that included condemning the practice of buying and selling Church offices for money and the practice of appointing family and relatives to important offices. Celibacy was instituted among the clergymen and it was also insisted that the Church be free from control by emperors, kings, etc.

These reformed Monasteries created schools that made Latin the common tongue of the Middle ages. They also inspired the launching of the Crusades against the Muslims in the Holy land and were leaders in the missionary effort of the church at this time.

3) **PURGATORY:** An "intermediate" step before Hell was invented by the Church at this time. It allowed the Church to say that people could be "purged" from their sins and still enter Heaven after death. Often the Church required large amounts of money from the surviving family in order to insure the person went to Heaven rather than Hell when they left Purgatory. This gave the Church tremendous economic power, as well as emotional control, over the bereaved.

All was not always Progress and Peace for the Pope--In the Middle of the 11th century, Pope Benedict IX was driven from Rome and Sylvester III was made Pope. Benedict returned to Rome, however, and sold the Papal throne for a large sum of money to a man who became Pope Gregory VI. Then Benedict refused to step aside and so for a time there were 3 men who claimed to be Pope. Finally a council was called (1046AD) at which Benedict and Sylvester were declared to be deposed and Gregory was forced to resign in favor of another man who became Pope Clement II.

Like any Church, There were some very good leaders and some extremely rotten leaders during this time. Sadly, the trends always seems to be to more Papal control and less dedication to the work of God.

GRACE And GLORY

GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WVLC) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm



Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 18 Oct 10, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

What a GREAT DAY we had in the Lord Sunday. Brother Marion Coker gave a great Object Lesson and then capped it off with a live example of the Lesson! (We rotate between an Object lesson (Althea Coker) and Puppet Presentation (Billie Ard and Ann Gowdy) each week during the 9am Service).

Then the Gilead Singers did a wonderful job of singing praises unto the Lord that uplifted everyone in the service. You ought to try our "Sunday Night Service" at 9am. It's a Blessing.

Talk about Blessings, the Lord has really Blessed the Outreach Ministry recently with a lot of volunteer help.

Brother Russel Lowder has volunteered to help print material and run off tapes a day each week. That has really freed us some of my time. Now I can start catching up instead of always falling behind (All of the Sermons for this newsletter are already run off and all but one of the sermons for the NEXT newsletter are already printed! GLORY! I normally had to do this the Wednesday afternoon we published a newsletter. Now I can start working on another book).



For a long time Janice Runion has been putting together books as I would get them printed. Now she has taken on the monumental task of labeling all the cassette tapes I have (I have hundreds of tapes of sermons and study courses going all the way back to the first church I pastured).

I hope to have a book listing all of the tape titles by the spring of next year. We will put them in a filing cabinet, arranged according to date, and brother Russel will be able to make copies for anyone desiring them.

That brings us to more Volunteers. Mrs Anne McKnight, Mrs Donna McGee, and Mrs Jeanie Taylor have all volunteered to help in the Outreach also. As soon as I can get things lined up for Brother Russel, I will train each of these in a specific task so that I will simply have to tell them something needs to be done and they can do it (Mrs Anne has already relived me of the burden of copying Children's Bulletins each week).

The Lord has seen fit to advance the Outreach Work to another phase. Pray that He would give us Wisdom and Strength to do our best for Him Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
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Lake City, SC 29560

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THE COMPLETE CHURCH MEMBER

I. Joins the Church:

A. Enters the Lord's Way- And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:47). The Only Door into the Church is Jesus Christ. Church members aren't made they're "born".

The 3 Requirements for joining our Church are:

1. Willing to acknowledge the fact that you have repented of your sins and by Faith have accepted Christ as your Savior.

2. Baptized by immersion (or pending)

3. Willing to follow the faith and practices of our Church

B. Realizes it the Lord's Work- I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mat 16:18). It's Not a Club; it a Church. A Christian will want to identify himself with God and His work. It's part of making a stand for God against the Devil.

II. Attends the Church.

A. Has a Desire to Attend- I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD (Psa 122:1).

B. Has a Duty to Attend- Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Heb 10:25). The FWB Treatise says a person who does not attend or support the Church for a year is subject to dismissal. Common Sense says a person who joins the church should attend it. If it's dull and dry and unappealing to you then let's make any Biblical changes necessary (One thing you won't find any problem with here at Grace is willingness to try something new!).

III. Gets Something from the Service- The Right Attitude is needed. You can't come in and expect God to "Cram a Blessing down your throat". You want to receive a Blessing but you must be "blessable".

A. By Participation- One of the main things I have noticed thru the years is that the people who GET the most from Church services are the people who GIVE to the Services.

1. Give Your Talents- Part of the Body of Christ. Do your part.

2. Give Your Tithes- And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD (Lev 27:30).

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Mal 3:8-10).

3. Give Your Time- MAKE Time for Church and Church Activities.

B. By Observation- Knows what to look for in the Sermon

Inspiration- a Message FROM God FOR the People

Illustration- A pathway into the Mind of Men

Application- God's Word and Man's Works Meet

The Complete Church Members learns how to live in the real world of real problems depending on God's Strength and direction. He can face Life and doesn't fear death. The first step is Salvation. The next Step is Becoming an active part of the body of Christ, the Church. Then comes growth and development into the person God wants you to be. Isn't that what YOU want??

DEPTHS OF SATAN

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden (Rev. 2:24).

While warning the Church at Thyatira about the awful consequences of allowing the "woman Jezebel" to control the Church, Jesus inserts into a promise an ominous phrase- The Depths of Satan. He refers to it as something used in a manner of speaking ("as they speak") but it is a very real situation we need to understand and avoid.

This "depths of Satan" can be something as "simple" as periods of intense Depression or Doubts or something as serious as the full Degradation of a life of sin. I want us to see How we open the Door to allow Satan to lead us into these depths, What we Must do to Close the Door, and How we can keep the Lock on the Door.

1. HOW DOES SATAN GET INSIDE THE DOOR?

A) Sometimes it's a necessary part of God's work in our lives:

1> There are times that sin in the life of a man causes us To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus (1 Cor 5:5). This delivering unto Satan is to bring about repentance and restoration and never has as it's ultimate goal the destruction of the person.

2> Sometimes Satan's sifting is to purify men- And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren (Luke 22:31-32). Remember also, the example of Job. God allowed Satan to lead him thru a tremendous valley in order for Job to develop from one who simply "heard with the ears to one who saw with the eyes".

B) Most times, however it's the result of our own sins:

1> PRIDE: And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. (1 Chr 21:1). David "put himself in a corner" and then felt he had to go thru with the numbering of the people to prove his power. How many people today start on drugs or drink on a "dare"!

2> PUTTING FLESH ABOVE SPIRIT: But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men (Mat 16:23). Multitudes of people today know that attending Church and following God is important. They just get so busy meeting their needs in the world until they find themselves bogging deeper and deeper in the quicksand of everyday living. And the harder they try on their own, the deeper they go into the depths of Satan.

3> FAILURE TO FOLLOW GOD'S DIRECTIONS: Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency (1 Cor 7:5). Husbands and Wives begin to take each other for granted. Then someone at the Office begins to pay you a little attention. Soon that grass on the other side of the fence looks extremely green and another marriage is on the rocks. Hatred and bitterness replace love, the kids are forced to chose sides, and divorce becomes another name for the depths of Satan.

4> BAD LANGUAGE: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme (1 Tim 1:20). One of the first commandments was to honor God's name. When you treat God's name lightly you treat God lightly, and are a prime candidate for Satan's control

5> DELIBERATE SIN- Rom 1:28 Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Sometimes people deliberately chose to do wrong. They want the Pleasures of Sin without considering the Price they will have to pay. Misery and trouble in this world and Hell to come. Oh, the Depths of Satan!

6> CURIOUS SIN- Astrology, Horoscope, etc. When you "knock on Satan's Door" he'll generally let you in!

7> EMPTY PLACES- When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first (Luke 11:24-26). Something will occupy our heart. If we're not filled with the things of God then Satan will plant his "weeds" there.

8> CONTINUED SIN- Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; (Heb 12:15). Things like Anger, Hate, and Bitterness come into our life and CONTROL us. We treat these emotions like friends and lovers; not realizing they are slowing but surely destroying us and those around us.

II. CLOSING SATAN'S DOOR

A) Will to do it- If you are satisfied in your sin then you'll never change. We call it Repentance but it's just looking at sin from a different view. Satan becomes an unwelcome guest instead of an invited friend.

The only way you'll get Satan out of your life is to look him in the face and tell him directly and convincingly, "Get thee behind me Satan".

B) Work to do it- Eph 6:10-18 tells us to Put on the whole armor of God. It doesn't say, "Try to work up a certain feeling" or "Pretend everything is going to be alright". It says to put on the proper clothing, take up the proper weapon (the Bible), hold up the proper shield (Faith) and stand steadfast against Satan. It's work and warfare; but worth every effort.

C) Faith to Believe it- For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (1 John 5:4). We face a defeated foe. When he comes to our door we tell him, "We don't want any!". If he tries to insist that we must yield to his temptations and threats we simply say, Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:57).



Remember, if you don't wade in the shallow water with Satan then he's less likely to drag you into the depths. Don't allow him to build Strongholds in your life. If they are already there, destroy them completely. If he is trying to establish them then defeat him with the power of God.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church today is composed of nearly 875 MILLION members (as compared to less than 250 THOUSAND FWB). It is one of Three major "branches" of the Christian Faith- (1) Roman Catholic, (2) Protestant, and (3) Greek (Russian) Orthodox. It is the only religion that has it's own embassy, it's own army (Vatican Guard and Jesuits), and occupies a sovereign "state" within another country (Vatican City in Rome). The Pope is treated as a "head of state" when he visits other countries and he is even consulted about many of the national policies of countries.



A Church with this many People and this much Power needs to be studied and understood. If they are the right Church, then we need to join forces with them and combine resources. If they have unacceptable errors then we need to identify these errors and avoid them.

I. THE ESTABLISHMENT:

Catholics claim that the Church at Rome was begun by Peter and is now the only true Church because of APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION (Each Pope is chosen by "Lot" and confirmed into the Apostolic line). They base this on Matt 16:18 where Jesus said to Peter *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* They believe that Jesus said He would build the Church on Peter as the foundation. They fail to realize, however, that Jesus was using a "play on words" to tell Peter the "Pebble" that He (Christ) would be the foundation stone from which all of the Church would originate.

There is also no external evidence that Peter ever headed the Church at Rome. In fact, When Paul wrote his letter to the Roman Church he didn't even mention Peter. Something he surely wouldn't have done had Peter been the leader of the Church.

It is most probable that the Church was begun by Jews returning from Pentecost (Acts 2:10); supplemented by people saved from Paul's Missionary Journey who journeyed to Rome for business reasons.

II. THE EXPANSION-

A) Physical Location: Located in the Capital City of the Roman Empire (also the largest city in the Empire- 4 million people), the Church would have the greatest opportunity for growth of any Church. Add to this the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD and the pressure from the barbarian hordes that caused the Church at Antioch to lose influence and you see why Rome would become the main Church.

B) Leadership Needs: The Roman Government subjected Christians to intense persecution during the first 300 years of the Church. This gave increasing need for someone to lead the Church and define areas that were worth dying for and those that could be compromised on (Note that Paul answered many of these questions during his ministry).

C) Doctrines Defined: The diversity of cultures and backgrounds of the young Christian Church brought about the need for a clear definition of Christian Doctrines- Even Peter said *our beloved brother Paul 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* (2 Pet 3:15-16).

The Roman Church was able to take the leadership in calling councils and meetings of spiritual leaders in order to define these Doctrines.

So we find the Church at Rome growing because of Natural as well as Theological reasons.

III. THE ERRORS: Sadly, Errors began to creep into the Church, errors that would eventually become so pronounced until the Lord would pull out a group of "Protesters" (Protestants) to maintain the purity and principles of the Word of God. These errors are things that we must avoid also.

A) Compromise with the World- Rev 2:14 When the Persecution stopped, the Church became popular; But it allowed it's popularity to sway it's principles. Whole regiments of soldiers were baptized without any sign of repentance. Barbarians were allowed to bring wrong practices from their worldly religion into the Church- Hero worship became "saint" worship, Church events were corrupted with worldly practices (Found even today in many things done at Christmas, lent, and Halloween).

B) Separation of Priest and People- Rev 2:15 More and more the Priest were considered an "elite" group that controlled the people's access to God- Confession had to be done to a Priest, Communion "became the actual body and blood" of Christ and as such could only be administered by a Priest, and Latin became the language of the services so that the ordinary citizen didn't even know what was going on, much less participate.

C) Joining of Church and State- Rev 2:20 Just as Jezebel was the queen that spurred Ahaz to do evil, so the Church joined the government in seizing power. More and more the Catholic Church became a part of the Government; to the place that the Pope many times considered himself equal to the Emperor. Even today the Catholic Church is the only Church with it's own embassy, secretary of state, and intelligence agency.

D) Erroneous Doctrines- Rev 2:23

1> Worship of the "Virgin Mary". Mary was highly favored and deserving of honor but she is not to be worshipped or prayed to.

2> Purgatory- Invented as a means of raising money and justifying church members who lived in sin, this practice of "praying and paying" men out of Hell is completely wrong. *if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be (Eccl 11:3).*

3> Acts of Penance- Repentance is a part of salvation but to tie special works to forgiveness is to go against the main teaching of the Scriptures that Salvation is by Grace thru Faith AND THAT NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.

The Catholic Church carried on a needed and meaningful role in the early history of the Christian Church. We rejoice in their early work and share the Joys of God with True Believers in their Church (as we would any Church). As we will see in our continued Study in Revelation, however, major errors developed that caused a need for "Protesters" to stand against, and eventually, leave the church.

These errors are why the Protestant Church today lays such emphasis on the Priesthood of Every Believer, the availability of the Bible for All Believers, The separation of Church and State, and the need of holiness in the Christian life.

It is also the reason that I believe the Protestant Church has so many different denominations. God guards the Purity of the Church by limiting the control exercised by one person while at the same time allowing "iron to sharpen iron" as denominations continually watch each other.

The history of the Christian Church is littered with Churches that have allowed riches and wrong doctrine to steal their testimony for God. Our goal in studying those mistakes is to learn to avoid them. Let us always be on guard against Satan's wiles and attacks.

GRACE And GLORY

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Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 19 Nov 07, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

It has been an "up and down" several weeks here at Grace. Many people have been sick and we lost a fine lady when Mrs Donna McGee passed away suddenly. You will remember that Mrs Donna had just volunteered to help with some of the Newsletter typing. The next week she became ill and had to be hospitalized. We will miss her greatly.

Several People have given **MEMORIALS** to the Outreach Ministry in behalf of Mrs Donna- Don & Kathy Lewis, the Dot Sullivan Family, and Damon & Janice Runion. These memorial Gifts, and gifts from many others, help us continue to reach thousands each week with the Gospel. What an opportunity!



As far as the "Ups" are concerned; The past month has been a Blessing for our **MUSIC MINISTRY**. The Choir Special continues to bless each week and I appreciate the extra time and energy these people put in.

A number of groups have been formed from the Choir and they sing a Special each Sunday just before the Sermon. They really help the spirit in the Service (When one group is named the "Glory Boys and the Gracettes" how can they help but stir things!!)

Our "Family Fun Night" was one of the best we've ever had with **MANY** people in attendance (The fellowship Building was about as full as we could get it). The costumes were great this year (See, you don't have to dress up as a witch or a ghost to have fun) and the people who "volunteered" to take charge of the games and the food did an excellent job.



Thanks Grace People. You showed again how great Grace people can really be. Now let's put the same energy and enthusiasm into our Faith that we put into our Fun.

I have been publishing Newsletters for around 14 or 15 years now. We want to expand the **MINISTRY** of these newsletters to those of you who have recently become members of our "family". So several of the Church ladies have gone thru the back copies and listed every sermon they contain. We hope to have a book listing these sermon titles, along with the old Cassette Titles, by the first of the year. Then we'll be able to immediately provide copies to anyone who wants them.

I'm trying to do as much as I can in these last days. Will you pray with (and FOR) me.

..... Preacher Mike

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The Man With Five Lives

We've heard the fables about a cat having Nine Lives but did you know that every man has "Five Lives"? Let's look at what they are and then see how God can change every one of them.

I. The Life The World Knows You By-- The world judges us by our outward appearance- I Samuel 16:7 *But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.* The world expects you to dress and act like it does and it judges you by it's standards. Don't allow them to pressure you into their mold.

It is a Christian's responsibility to let their light shine in the world so they can see Christ in you.

II. The Life Friends Know You By-- Take the example of Daniel. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat and it led Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to take the same stand. Eventually this lead Friends and Foes alike to know Daniel was:

1. A man of prayer. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God (Dan 6:5).

2. A man of God. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end (Dan 6:26).

When your friends talk about you what do they say?? Does your character magnify your Christianity?

III. The Life Your Family Knows You By. Luke 2:20 *But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart* (Luke 2:19).

A. You can't fool your family. They see you without your "make up" on. Do you bear your cross or are you simply cross?

B. Do they know you as one living the life. And he (Jesus) went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:51-52)

Are you leading so the Circle will be unbroken. Are do you break the hearts of those who love you?

IV. The Life The Church Knows You By-- Do They Know You as:

A. A Saved Individual?

B. A dedicated individual?

C. One that loves the Lord?

D. One that can be counted on to be faithful to all Church services?

E. One that is upright? Psalm 37:37 *Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*

Are you a Help to the Body of Christ; or do you cripple it's effort.

V. The Life God Knows You By- Reputation is what people think you are. Character is what God knows you are.

This is the most important one. One day it won't matter what others think of you but it will be all important what God KNOWS about you.

God knows your heart; is it right with Him?

God knows your trust; is it in Him?

What would God testify about YOU today? Would He say, "He's religious but lost" or "He's my child because of his faith in my Son, Jesus Christ"???

In Reality, There is only ONE LIFE and it will soon be past. Are you living it for God or serving Satan? What will be your destination at Death??

I. THE PLAN OF A THIEF-

1. A Thief does not announce his coming- Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber (John 10:1). You must be ready at all times. That's why Matt 6:19 says you'd better lay up your treasures in Heaven. You won't have time to run to the bank.

2. He comes for a certain purpose- He's not going to come to debate with unbelievers, or exhibit His wonders; He's coming to claim a prize- His Bride.

3. He does not take everything in the house- Jer 49:9 If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleaning grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough. He leaves more than he takes- The Broad way has many while the straight and narrow has few. Just because you're attending a Church does not mean you'll be taken! You must be Born again.

4. He takes only the most precious things- The gold, silver, and precious items- Malachi 3:17 says that those who witness for Him are His Jewels.

5. He does not come to stay- as soon as he gets what he came for he departs- You must be ready WHEN he comes! or you'll be left



II. PREPARING FOR A "THIEF". His Coming calls for:



1. Alertness- Matt 24:43 know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. You must be on Guard at all times.

2. Holiness- II Peter 3:10-11 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. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. There won't be time to "take a bath" when He comes. Keep clean.

3. Awareness- I Thess 5:2-4 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you as a thief. When you know it's time for the baby to come you pack your bags, gas up the car, and stay when you can be contacted. We don't know the day or the hour that Christ is coming but we know the time is near!

4. Covering- Rev 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Make sure you are wearing your Garment of Righteousness, as well as, the Armor of God.

This garment of righteousness is free to all who are willing to repent of sins and trust Christ as Savior.

One of the saddest things I know of is the fact that some thieves read the death notices in the paper and use the time that the family is at the funeral home to rob their home. Even sadder than that, however, is the fate of those who know the Lord is coming back as a thief and, yet, make no preparations. HAVE YOU???

THIEVES

-891

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee (Rev 3:3).

Normally when we talk about a Thief it is in a bad light. Even Jesus said in John 10:10 that The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.



I think it's important, therefore, to look at a few of the negative things about Thieves before we look at them from a different light:

1> You should not be a thief of this world's goods- I Peter 4:15 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. We're living in the day of situational ethics- If I feel my need is greater than your need then it's alright for me to take it from you (Sam Walton would never miss a little item stolen from Wal-Mart. My company wouldn't miss these paper clips, or stamps, or piece of equipment). If you have more than me then it's alright for me to steal from you (Government, insurance, etc).

2> You should not steal from God-

A) His Tithes- Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. God deserves and demands 1/10 of your income; regardless of how much that is! It's not for YOU to decide if God needs your tithes or if you can use them better somewhere else. Many people rob from God and then wonder why there are "bars on God's Blessing Window".

B) His Time- We are to redeem the Time; that is, "Buy up" every opportunity. Only one life, will soon be past; only what's done for God will last.

C) His Honor- Mark 11:17 Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves. When Church becomes a "Power Base" or a Profit Scheme then it loses it's Prayer Power; and if it loses that it loses everything! That's why we have a policy here of never selling anything. God is our source as well as our strength.

Remember this, A Thief can't remain a thief and go to Heaven- I Cor 6:10-11 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Now that we've seen how Bad being a thief is I want us to consider the fact that there is coming a day in which Jesus will act like a Thief!! (See the Text verse as well as I Thess 5:2-4 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night). This is a very serious day; a day that we are commanded to WATCH for, A day in which the Lord will return for His Church. Because of this I want us to see the PLAN of a Thief as it relates to Christ acting like one and then I want us to see how we should PREPARE for His coming as a Thief.

THYATIRA TROUBLE

Rev 2:18-29

Why is the Church so ineffective today?? If 1/4 of the people in America claim to be Christians; why doesn't a quarter pound of salt effect a pound of meat!! The world is going to Hell and the Church either can't, or won't, do anything about it.

Not only that, but even Christians seem to be plagued by the same problems that worry the world; nerves, disobedient children, the "rat race" mentality, giving in to peer pressure, etc.

In His message to the Church at Thyatira, Jesus shows them why they are being condemned to these "Depths of Satan" (2:24). I want to see how these "Thyatira's Trouble" have become TODAY'S TROUBLES. Then I want us to understand that God has the answers; if you will just ask the right questions!

The Church has now graduated from "Persecution Pergamos" into an accepted State Religion that is Popular with the people. Instead of using this opportunity, however, the Church lays down in the lap of "Jezebel" and loses it's testimony.

That is the same problem today. Never have we had more opportunity to do something for the Lord. Yet, over and over, the Church is hobbled by members who are not committed to God's work or faithful to God's House. Let's see the consequences of that.

I. SECOND HAND SIN- vs 20 *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols (Rev 2:20).*

God was not condemning them because of the wrong THEY were doing; He was condemning the fact that they were not standing against wrong doctrine! They became partakers of "Second Hand Sins". These "Second Hand Sins" effect several major areas:

A) SOCIETY SINS- "Second Hand Sins" are a prevalent evils in society today- No ones wants to be an "outcast of society" by going into "Gross sins" so they won't have an affair; but they don't mind viewing "R" and "X" rated movies. Many people wouldn't take drugs or alcohol but they don't mind making a profit from those who sell them.

The Secondary Sins of "Accomplice" are the BAD we Condone or Congratulate- ROM 1:32 *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

We don't participate in the wrong but we encourage it by our support as spectators. We won't commit Adultery but we'll laugh at, and support, TV shows that promote it. We allow our children to pay Rock Stars Millions of dollars to glamorize drugs and sex; and then wonder why they go wrong!

B) SAINT SINS- The GOOD we Fail to do- James 4:17 *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.* Much Church work "dies on the vine" because no one is against it; but they won't support it either.

[Just a little "side bar". It's also possible to have Second Hand Faith- Mark 2:5 *When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.* I think there are numerous times when others "travel along" with someone else's faith- Sometimes Pastors lead a lot of "doubting Thomases". And how many times in a Church have you heard someone say, "I don't think it will work but I'm willing to let you try"!]

It was bad enough that they had "Second Hand Sins". To make matters even worst there was also:

II. REJECTED REPENTANCE- vs 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not (Rev 2:21)

A) Space to repent- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9). God has given us all the "ROPE" we need. We can use it to escape from the pit of sin or we can use it to hang ourself!

B) She repented not-

1> Believed Mercy was Deserved instead of due to the Goodness of God: Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (Rom 2:4)

2> Refused to face the fact of their sin: When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Mark 2:17).

If I was God I'd open the pits of Hell today and tell people, "You wanted to play games with my Grace. Let me show you what the losers get!". He doesn't; He just continues to offer His Love and Grace to "whosoever will" accept it.

There does come a time, however, when this Rejected Repentance leads to :

III. DESERVED DESTRUCTION- vs 22-23 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works (Rev 2:22-23).

A) The "irony" of her destruction- cast into a bed. She wanted to be "loved" so God used her desire to destroy her.

B) The Example of her destruction-

1> Those that commit adultery with her into great tribulation- Those that go along with her will suffer greatly.

2> Kill her children with death- The effects of sin will "ripple" down to those who come later (Remember, Every man stands for HIS OWN SIN; but the sins of the Father effect the children by leading them wrong).

3> all the Churches shall know that I am he that searches the mind and heart- Nothing Hid from God

4> I will give every one of you according to your works- You decided to trust in your works instead of my Word so I'll bring you into judgment based on your works--When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. (Ezek 33:13)

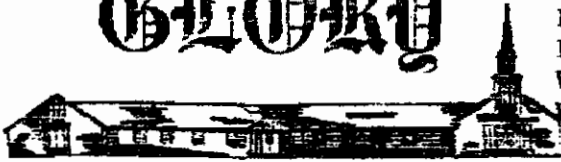
God has given us every privilege we could ask for. What a great punishment will be ours if we:

1) Allows "Jezebel's" Teaching to go unchallenged

2) Continue to live in our sinful ways and refuse to follow God

3) Continue to play games with God until His wrath begins to come.

GRACE And GLORY



GRACE F W B CHURCH

A Little Church with a BIG Vision

First Worship Service . 9:00am
Bible Study Hour . . . 10:00am
Worship Service (WVLC) 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:30pm

Pastor Mike Jones -- 394-3725

Vol IX Num 20 Dec 05, 1991 ++ 348 Lawrence St ++ Lake City, SC

As you will see from the calender on the back of this page, December is a busy month here at Grace. And the "sad" thing is that there were several activities that should have been included on the calender but I was unable to confirm dates. Our prayer is that God will use everything we do during this month to reach the lost and Glorify Him.



Several dates to Note are: THIS SUNDAY (Dec 8). Missionary Sherwood Lee will be our special guest. He will be showing slides of his recent visit to India. It will inform you as well as inspire you (and to top it off, you'll get to eat Pancakes afterwards!).

FRIDAY (Dec 20) is the time for our giant Christmas Play. It will involve most of the people in the Church as Puppets tell about, and the choir sings through, scenes from Christmas Past, Present and Future. Brother Dāmōn wrote and is directing this presentation. I hope you can be here for it. I believe you'll get a blessing.



What a Blessing our annual Praise Service was. Everyone who participated did an excellent job. It was one of those service that makes you want to shout "GLORY" over and over. If you'd like one of the Audio or Video tapes then let me know.

One of the things we plan to do next year is "Read the Bible Thru in 1992". To help everyone get started, and stay on course, the Outreach Ministry has purchased "Daily Study Bibles" for each family in the Church. (12 of the 36 were given as Memorials. That really helped). We will be giving them out during December so everyone can start reading together on January 1.



Our plans are to preach from a text in the previous week's reading during the 9am service each week during 1992. That will help encourage the reading and help turn that reading into practical application.

Your Prayers and Contribution help make things like this possible. Plans also call for the use of some of the Outreach Material in a local Jail Ministry. More next time. . . Preacher Mike

To KNOW and to SHOW CHRIST

Grace FWB Church
P O Box 1003
Lake City, SC 29560

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December 1991 Grace Free Will Baptist Church



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 	3 Marjorie McAllister Birthday	4 Jimmy McAllister Birthday	5 Graham/Robin (A) Patricia McKnight Birthday	6 6:00pm Junior Class Party 7:00pm Teen Look In	7
8 Beth Brosch Birthday 10:00am Pancakes 4:00pm Distribute FRUIT BASKETS	9 Tom McKnight Birthday	10	11	12 Betty Lou Thompson Birthday	13	14 7:00pm Adult Class Party
15 Rusel Lowder Birthday Teen Class Party 10:00am Casseroles	16 Kim Matthews Birthday	17	18 6:30pm Primary Class Party	19	20 7:30pm CHRISTMAS AS PLAY	21
22 Dallas/Lola Wise (A) Winter begins 10:00am Finger Food	23	24	25 OZ/Lola (A) Christmas 10:00am Christmas Service	26	27 Dallas Wise Birthday David McGee Birthday	28 Ralph/Miriam (A) 8:00pm THREASHER 50TH ANNIVERSARY
29 10:00am Doughnuts	30	31 New Year's Eve 8:00pm New Year's Eve Service				

November 1991

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 1992

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

A FEARFUL THING

Heb 10:22-39

All of us are a little afraid of "things that go bump in the night". We try to overcome this fear by making fun of it (That's why young people want to dress up and scare people on Halloween). This Fear has a tremendous force, however, and can (1) PARALYZE us (as we "wring our hands" in indecision); (2) PUSH us to tremendous effort (Man who tore the door off a burning truck to save a boy); or (3) DRAIN our strength, vision, and effort (As happened to the children of Israel when they faced the giants in the promised land).

Sometimes it almost seems as if we produce that that we feared by our faith in it's reality- *For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me* (Job 3:25). "I was scared I was going to get in a wreck." "I've always been afraid I'd have cancer." "I knew the whole time I would lose this job."



We must be aware, however, that everyone has a PRIVATE FEAR that is not necessarily reasonable, but none the less, real. Some are terrified of snakes (I'm not going to make a pet out of one but a snake is just an animal), some are terrified of heights (I LOVE the mountains), some are terrified of needles (AMEN Brother!).

The Bible, however, says that only one thing is a Fearful thing- *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God* (Heb 10:31). That's why I believe I can safely say I would be **AFRAID TO DIE** if I consistently and deliberately missed Church Services.

The writer of Hebrews is warning the people in our text about "falling away" from faithfulness to the Lord and to His work. He warns about:

- 1- Wavering Faith- *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* (Heb 10:23).
- 2- Weak Worship- *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching* (Heb 10:24-25).
- 3- Willful Sin- *For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries* (Heb 10:26-27).

All of these are VERY DANGEROUS- Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (Heb 10:29).

And I think all of them key around Willfully Missing Church. One of the first signs of a wavering Faith is slackness in attending Church. Watch people, when they are strong in faith and love for God; they will be at Church every time the doors are opened. When they get depressed or down spirited they will become "too tired" to attend or, suddenly, Church will become "boring".

Watch also a person who begins to willfully go back into sin. The preaching at Church pricks their heart and convicts their souls. It soon becomes easy to find something about the Pastor or the Church that makes them angry; and gives them an excuse to stay away.

But then these people have to die and *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God* (Heb 10:31) when you have despised His Church and forsaken His Son.

Those are the "Fearful Reason" to attend Church. Let me also give you some Factual Reasons:

1) Church ought to be MORE of our life rather than less as the end approaches. The world is becoming increasingly wicked and we need God's strength and guidance more and more.

What would you think of a man who starved to death because he was too lazy to walk to where all the "bread" he needed was located? What do you think of people who face life without God when the Church doors are wide open?

2) What would Jesus do? The Bible says it was Jesus' "Custom" to go to Church (Luke 4:16). If you are a follower of Christ then you should do as He did.

3) How must Jesus feel when He prepare a feast for you each week and you're too busy to come eat it? (Matt 22:1-9). I know this, the ladies of this church would be VERY UNHAPPY if they worked all week to prepare for guests for Sunday dinner and then those guest "took a notion" to go to a restaurant instead. I also know that the Pastor, Sunday School Teachers, and Musicians of this Church work hard each week to "lay out a feast" for those people who "take the notion" to show up.

4) What kind of Testimony are you giving? How do you explain to the people that you witness to or invite to Church about your absence (Oh, Is that why you don't witness for God? Am I wrong, or isn't failure to witness disobeying God's orders?).

--I would hate to die knowing that I had shown by my testimony that I thought the world was more important than the things of God.

--I would hate to die having deliberately given a bad example of Christian living to other people.

--I would hate to die and see the look on God's face when I tried to explain why I thought my desires were more important than His orders.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God if you aren't living right; but it's great to BE IN HIS HANDS saved and sure. Is it a fearful thing for you to face God or are you longing to see Him face to face whom so long you have known heart to heart. Remember, Your actions bear witness to your attitude.



KEPT FROM INIQUITY

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God (Rev 3:2).

The warning that Christ gives to the Church at Sardis is one that all Christians need to heed today- Be on Guard; Increase in Strength; Realize that God is the one you must Please.

As the world we live in becomes increasingly wicked, we must be more on guard than ever against being entrapped by the mud and mire of sin. How can we "Keep ourselves from Sin"? and live the Victorious Life? How can we live so we can say like the Psalmist in Psalm 18:23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

Within this verse we find 3 main topics that tell us about the Iniquity that floods our world- A Personal Danger, A Special Guard, and a Happy Result.

I. A PERSONAL DANGER "Mine Iniquity"

A) It is a REAL Danger- This is not "I'd like to lose 10 pounds so I'd look better". This is "If you don't lose 20 pounds in a month you'll die!"

1> For the Sinner, the Wages of Sin is Death (Hell Forever)

2> For the Christian, it involves Chastisement, lose of Fellowship, lose of Victory, lost of rewards, and the possibility of Apostasy.

3> Your "dirt" defiles others also- Sinners lead others into sin, Christians cause weaker brothers to stumble or become discouraged.

B) It is a PERSONAL Danger- All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way (Is 53:6). We cry against the sins of others and over look our own- BETTER TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR THAN OUT THE WINDOW.

1> Sometimes it depends on our Personality- Some expect much and fall into covetousness; some expect little and fall into despair and disbelief. Disbelief is as the sin of witchcraft and covetousness is idolatry.

2> Sometimes it depends on our Situation:

a. The Young Man is tempted to sinful pleasures; the Old Man to Covetousness; and the Middle Aged to Despair (On a journey you need God's protection from start to finish).

b. The Rich have Temptations the Poor never know of (Easier for a camel to go thru eye of needle than for rich man to enter Heaven); yet the poor are tempted to do wrong or be bitter because they aren't rich.

c. Those with Great Talent are tempted to Pride. Those with One talent are tempted to hide it.

d. Those in Adversity are tempted to doubt God or do wrong to relieve the burden (Don't be like Pharaoh who prayed for God to remove the frogs and then became harder of heart afterwards).

e. Daily Living brings temptations. Some have home lives that cause them to vex their righteous soul from day to day as Lot did (II Pet). Some work in places of corruption and gossip (To Cheat in school or lie on the Job; sin is sin).

3> Sometimes it's a "Ghost from the Past" that continues to haunt us. Perhaps you used to gossip or lie or lust or steal and even today it's easy to fall back into the well worn ruts.

Whatever our own PERSONAL Sin, we need to acknowledge it and realize the danger it poses for us. Sadly, it's this kind of personal confrontation that causes people to be angry instead of Repentant.

They take out their anger on the Church or on the Pastor by fuming and vowing to never return again. Yet, these same people will pay and adore a doctor to tell them they have heart trouble!!

This very real danger means we must set up--

II. A SPECIAL GUARD "I have Kept myself from Mine iniquity"

A) I'm not talking about Reformation. If you haven't been Born Again then you're fighting a losing battle.-Self effort will only end in defeat.

B) If you are saved then there are 4 things you can do to guard against sin:

1> Find out what it is- If the Doctor is treating you for heart problems and you have a broken leg then you're in trouble. If you covet all the time then it's probably because you don't really believe God will meet your needs. The ROOT Sin is Disbelief while the FRUIT Sin is a Covetous life. If you don't deal with the Root then the Fruit will come right back!

2> Make Sin exceedingly sinful- Realize God hates it and His children must hate it also. See what it's doing to your life, your friends, and your relationship with God.

Avoid the Places of Temptation- Even a weak Delilah can conquer a strong Samson if he's lying in her lap!

3> Call on the Power of the Holy Spirit to aid you in defeating Sin. Why fight an elephant with a pea shooter when you have a cannon by your side!

4> Pray and Believe against Sin- *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (1 John 5:4).*

Pray for God to "Lead you not into Temptation". Tell God you WANT to be pure.

Remember that *the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly (Rom 16:20)*. Because a Battle looks bad doesn't mean the Devil won't be defeated.

God does not put you in the place where you CAN NOT Sin but in the place where you DON'T WANT TO Sin.

Fight manfully onward
Dark Passions subdue
Look ever to Jesus
He will carry you through

III. A HAPPY RESULT "I Kept myself from mine Iniquity"

A) You live a victorious life over sin

B) You are a light for the Lord in a sin darkened world

C) You will be able to face God and hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Have you Kept yourself from your sin or has Sin kept you from God??? Acknowledge your sin, Ask God to Forgive you, and then rest in His strength-- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*

A, T, & T

A T and T, the Telephone giant, had a slogan once that I want us to adopt; "Reach out and touch someone". It involves two main parts:

- (1) An EFFORT- "Reach Out"
- (2) An EFFECT- "Touch Someone"

We have a good Outreach Ministry here at Grace but we can, and SHOULD, have a GREAT Outreach Program. That's based on our belief that one of the main purposes of this Church is to use every means possible to reach as many people as possible with the Gospel of Christ.

The Potential is unlimited- the World!! The means are available right now; if we are only willing to use them. The Time is growing short (Europe is building a common army. In January of next year they get a common currency and "common" borders. The Middle East Peace Conference is meeting in Spain this month [For years some have claimed that the antichrist would be a resurrected King Juan Carlos of Spain. I've always doubted it but think what would happen if everyone was sitting around this conference table arguing and bickering and this King came walking in! He would be the man to bring Peace to a region that even the US and Russia couldn't seem to help]).

How can we become the "A T and T" of our City and Community?

1. BECOME WATER BUCKET CHRISTIANS: Our Church is basically a "Water Bucket". You come in each Wednesday and Sunday to refill your sponge so you can squeeze yourself dry each week in your home, school, or job. In order to continually squeeze the water of life on others you must keep getting refilled.



You come to Church to Worship God and to learn how to live as a Christian. Then you leave to Scatter seed everywhere. It can be via "Damon Digs", "Billie Books", or "Marion Mouth" but everyone has some seed to sow (The Pastor's job is basically to tell you something new about Jesus each week so you can share that information with those around you-- Remember, Jesus said, If HE was lifted up, HE would draw all men unto Himself).

2. AVOID THE HOLY HERMIT SYNDROME: "Holy Hermits" isolate themselves from the world. They claim it's to keep holy but many times its to avoid ministering to the hurts and needs people have. Becoming a Holy Hermit keeps us out of "hot water" but it usually makes us COLD HEARTED and Pharisaical!!

Our services must be warm, friendly, and fervent so people will want to attend. You don't hatch eggs in a refrigerator!

Our attitude must be like the Prodigal's father. We don't love their sin but we love them; and can't wait to get them back into the family.

3. EVERYONE MUST DO THEIR PART IN GOD'S WORK: Some are ploughers, some planters, some pruners, and some are pickers; but EVERYONE MUST be involved in getting the word of God to a lost and dying world. Most people do as least double duty but no one can do everything by themselves. That's why it involves the Entire Church.

The Pharisees tried to condemn the Disciples for walking thru a field and plucking grain on the Sabbath. I think we will be condemned for walking thru a field of ripe grain and not plucking any!!

Reach out and touch someone this week. You may find that's all they've been waiting on.



IN THE HEART

In the past few weeks we have seen several men of prominence splashed across the TV screens because of Sexual Accusations. In both cases, the accusations were more about "heart" sin than Physical activity. Rev Jimmy Swaggart looked at dirty books and picked up a prostitute; Judge Clarence Thomas was accused of Sexual Harassment.

Both situations caused a great deal of "Curiosity" because they exposed the Private "heart" to Public view. I want us to look today at some things that people might find in OUR heart if they were open to Public Display.

1. **WICKEDNESS**- And 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 (Gen 6:5). In fact, God finally came to the place He said, The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jer 17:9). Even Jesus proclaimed that out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: (Mat 15:19).

That's why Jesus came to give you a New Heart! Have you had that "heart surgery"??

2. **DESIRE TO WORK**- And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. (Exo 35:21)

We talk about not have a "heart to work". When you know you're doing the job God called you to do then you'll have a peace of heart and a willing attitude. What a difference it makes when you know God's will for your life!

3. **DISCOURAGEMENT**- For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them (Num 32:9). Giants in the land can take our eyes off the Lord's Power and make us look at our physical ability. That's when our "heart melts" and we quit trying.

One of the greatest "heart diseases" in America today is Discouragement. People don't know who to trust and many have allowed the worm of "no hope" to eat away at their heart until they have no strength left to live life. Put Jesus on the throne of your heart. He makes it so that "against hope you can believe in hope!" (Rom 4:18).

4. **MEMORIES**- But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19). The Psalmist said that these memories of God's activities brought joy and satisfaction to life- My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches (Psa 63:5-6).

Keep a "heart picture book" of past Blessings from God. From time to time, bring it out and look again at what God has done. Then take heart! He will do greater things in the future.

5. **LOVE FOR GOD**- And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might (Deu 6:5). The main thing I want to find in your heart is a deep abiding Love for God. If God's love fills your heart then you won't have room for doubt, discouragement, or wickedness. What is in YOUR heart today??