

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, February 16, 2014

Volume 19, Number 7

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

HOW FAR DOES THE GRACE OF GOD EXTEND?

by W.R. Jones

The inspired Apostle Paul wrote; “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” (Titus 2:11f) Obviously, everyone has **access** to the grace of God, but does that mean that the Lord imposes His grace on all men regardless of whether they want it or not? Certainly not! All men have

access to grace, but not all receive grace into their lives. The masses reject the marvelous grace of God. This is sad, but true!

The grace of God is the most wonderful thing in the world and if we did not have it none of us would have any chance of going to heaven after life is over here. But, how far does the grace of God extend in application? I hear of many who are taking the liberty to cover situations and conditions where there is no Divine approval.

Who is in charge of God's grace, man or God?

Let us suppose you were a person of authority and you handed me an umbrella and commanded me to hold it over a particular person, perhaps a per-

son of considerable rank. Now, just suppose I decided on my own to take the umbrella and hold it over someone you had not authorized. Would you be pleased with my action? **Would you allow me to disregard your authority and take your umbrella where I pleased?** What I am trying to say is that the grace of God is fixed by the authority of Him who extended it and we have no right to take it upon ourselves to extend it where we please. So, let's face it, all who take liberties with God's redemptive grace are **presumptuous**. They act as though it belongs to them and they can extend it and apply it **at will** without regard to what the Lord has said on the subject. I have heard many funeral sermons where the preacher assumed that the deceased had been saved by the “grace of God” when in reality the dead person had never accepted the grace of God while he was alive on this earth. **Presumptuous, indeed!**

(Grace, continued on pg 2...)

V.B.S. Countdown Schedule

(for Teachers *and* helpers/volunteers)

Feb 22 - Workday
March 29 - Workday
April 26 - Workday
May 17 - Workday
June 23-26 V.B.S.

Each work session
is scheduled for
10:00 AM

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(Grace, continued from pg 1...)

The grace of God will not cover those who ignore the Gospel of Christ...

This is true because the redemptive grace of God cannot be separated from the Gospel of Christ. (Titus 2:11-12) "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" It is interesting to note that the gospel is referred to as "**the gospel of the grace of God**" and the "**word of his grace**." (Acts 20:24,32) You will observe that the grace of God was "**seen**" only after the gospel was preached and the people turned to the Lord.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MATTHEW 8 - 10

February 16 - 18

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOB 35 - 42

February 19 - 22

I TIMOTHY 4:13

Today, people who will not **obey** and **live** by they gospel are not receiving God's grace and we have no right to make them think otherwise.

God's grace does not cover those who seek to benefit from His grace apart from true faith...

This is true because it is impossible to enter into saving grace separate and apart from **true faith**. Notice this passage; (Romans 5:1-2) "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith in this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Let us also remember (Romans 10:17) "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.: In (Ephesians 2:8) we read; "By grace are ye saved through faith." True faith cannot be produced in the heart by anything other than the **true gospel**. All those who seek to serve God by the **doctrines and commandments of men** do not have a true faith, and therefore, they do not have access into the grace of God unless they leave such and turn to the gospel. We do not have the right to try to cover them with God's grace while they rebel against the gospel. To do so is to mislead people.

The grace of God does not cover us with unconditional security...

This is true because the New Testament teaches us that **entering the grace of God** is conditional and **remaining in the grace of God** is conditional. The Hebrew writer records; (Hebrews 12:15)

"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;" We are plainly told by the apostle Paul that a child of God can **fall from grace**. (Galatians 5:4) "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." He was talking about Christians who sought justification by trying to keep the Old Testament Law which was no longer in force. Let us tell all men they may **enter the grace of God**, but let us be sure we tell no man he **cannot fall from that grace**.

There is a great deal more proof that could be given, but I feel this is surely enough for any honest person to see my point. Now, let us consider the following. The gospel teaches that a sinner must **believe** in order to be saved. (Mark 16:15-16) What right do I have telling a person who **will not believe** that he has received the grace of God. The gospel teaches us that one must be **baptized** in order to be saved. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38) What right do I have telling one who **refuses to be baptized for the remission of sins** that he has **entered the grace of God**? To tell a man he is saved, when indeed he is not, is to do him a great disservice.

What about a brother who has divided the church by introducing unscriptural practices such as, church support of human institutions, the sponsoring church plan, the "social gospel" such as kitchen, so-called fellowship halls, gyms an secular education sponsored and housed by the church? He has helped lead a great part of the church into apostasy. Do we

(Grace, continued on pg 3...)

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014

Annual Singing September 20, 2014 **Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier) September 21 - 24, 2014**

Sick and Shut-Ins

Grief Stricken

Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy

Directory Info

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

What Jews Believe About
the Messiah's Kingdom

Tonight:

A Sermon About Nothing

Baptized...

(Grace, continued from pg 2...)
have the right to fellowship this apostate? What business do we have trying to act like he is in the grace of God when in reality he has "fallen from God's grace". Let us be certain that we do not act as though the grace of God is ours to do with as we good and please.

Conclusion...

Let us take care that we do not try to extend God's grace where He has not authorized it in His word. (File Copy, edited for space)



FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

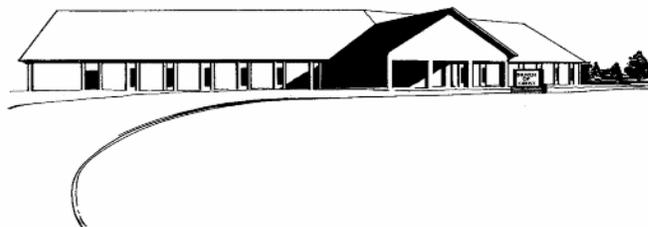
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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