

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Have We Misunderstood Grace?

by Neal Pollard

Perhaps the subject of grace has been neglected in some pulpits and congregations. Undoubtedly, it has been misunderstood and improperly taught since the first century (cf. Romans 6:1; Gal. 5:4).

It is vital to properly emphasize and explain such a huge concept within the gospel message. Why? Because of what it is—the completely free and undeserved expression of God’s lovingkindness and favor toward mankind; because of what it does—brings salvation (Titus 2:11; Ephesians 2:5) and comfort and hope (2 Thessalonians 2:16); and because of what it cost to make available (2 Corinthians 8:9; Hebrews 2:9). Perhaps some try to restrict God’s grace, making the requirements of Christ more stringent than Scripture teaches. If we forbid what God permits, we are distorting grace.

However, our age tends toward the other extreme. Far more people try to make God’s grace extend further than Scripture teaches. This is not novel to our times. From the time of the early church, some apparently wanted to make God’s grace embrace things it simply does not cover.

Jude contended against some who attempted to have grace cover excessive indulgence in sensual pleasure (Jude 1:4). By leaving Christ’s grace for another gospel, teachers contradicting the gospel message distort not just the gospel but also grace (Galatians 1:6-9). Paul also contradicts the idea that continuing in sin, without repentance, is an attempted abuse of God’s grace (Romans 6:1). Passages like these serve as a warning not to try to make God’s grace cover what it simply will not.

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Dates to Remember

- ★ Ladies meet the 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food
- Men meet the 4th Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.

Sermons and bulletins available @
Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.



Melbourne Church of Christ
A Place to Belong

Elders

Danny Brightwell
291-3439

Shelby Qualls
346-5255

Deacons

Bryan Phillips 373-0546
David Brightwell 307-5714

Alan Love 243-4608
Joe Cooper 291-4653

Minister

Ryan Lloyd
368-7886
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR 72556

Family News

- Ladies Day will be June 3rd Registration is from 9-9:30am and the program ends with a salad luncheon. Kitty Smith is our speaker.
- * Communion is gluten-free and travel communion is available.

OPENING PRAYER Danny Runion

CLOSING PRAYER Larry Young



ALAN LOVE

Continued...

Grace will not cover willful disobedience or a refusal to repent; it will not cover a lifestyle, habit, or relationship that violates the expressed will of God. Some in adulterous marriages defend their relationship, trying to hide behind grace. Some feed addictions, sure that God's grace will sweep away the guilt. Some refuse to follow God's plain plan of salvation, claiming that they will ultimately be saved by grace on the day of judgment. Such ideas and claims are tragic misunderstandings and ignorance of revealed truth.

The source of grace is divine. So are the explanation and terms of it. Paul's teaching is definitive when he says, "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:2). The life in Christ is a new life (Romans 6:4), a life characterized by turning away from sin, lust, and unrighteousness (Romans 6:12-13).

Let us never restrict God's grace. By the same token, let us never redefine it—especially to excuse or validate sin. How that disgraces and cheapens the act that brought grace, Jesus' painful sacrifice. May each of us grow in knowledge and appreciation of this great Bible doctrine.

Prayer List

Military: Derek Love, A.J. Talkington **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Josh Morehead, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Debbie Hoskinds, Emma Jean Cooper

Health: Ted Kidd	Richard Gunter	Donnie Vest	Joanna Smith
Joe Guiltner	Dan Clark	Wilma Cooper	Wayne Crosby
Tracy Thomas	Brooke Pritchard	Troy Gaston	James Nicholson
Bill Roland	Hayden Phillips	Donny Smith	Joanne Weston
Bill Wiseman	Debbie Nicholson	Helen King	Phil Haagenon
Mary Kosmitis	Dorothy Teague	Jim Fowler	Shirley Lewis
Diane Owens	Ivy Jo Slade	Jeff Young	Lynn Hicks
Justin Teague	Charlotte Cooper	Cecilia Broughton	Sue Campbell
Arlene Davidson		Chip & Regina Master	Deborah Halcom
Ted & Sanyia Austin		J.B. & Wanda Dill	Nevin Hart
Dwain Welch	Jerry Roland	Christie Haney	

April Birthdays

Betty Brightwell 2 nd	Bill Younger 3 rd	Tyler Kelly 4 th
Donna Hill 7 th	Derek Love 8 th	Imodean Webb 9 th
Lacey Weston 9 th	Cleve Weaver 12 th	Melissa Morrison 14 th
Nancy Richardson 15 th	Jack Hendrix 15 th	Rhett Morrison 17 th
Francis Gillihan 22 nd	Doug Sipe 25 th	Michelle Smith 26 th
Kenya Wyatt 29 th	Dana Ingram 30 th	

April Anniversaries

Joe & Dana Ingram 17th

2 Timothy 4:13-16, "Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."