

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; Galatians 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.

Continued on inside cover...

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

- Eula Fulbright is now home from the hospital. Home health has not started yet but she is doing ok.
- There is an account set up at 1st National Bank of IZARD County for anyone that wants to donate money to Ty Cooper’s family to help during their time of need.
- * Communion is gluten-free and travel communion is available.

OPENING PRAYER Doyle Wyatt

CLOSING PRAYER Alan Love

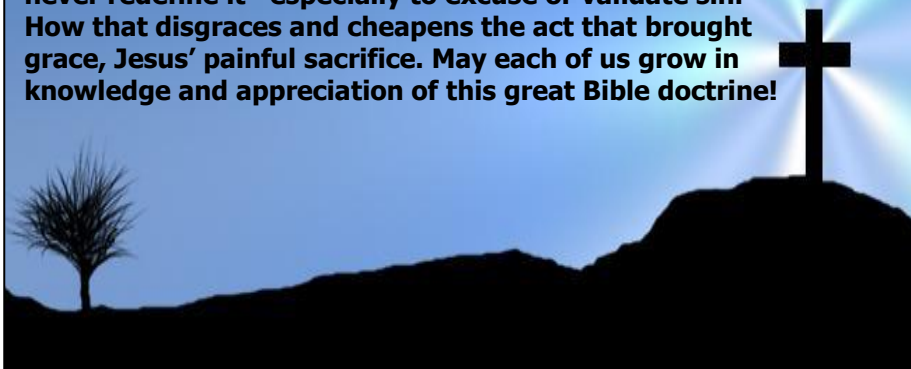


Chip Master

Continued from front cover...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. 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

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	

Nursing Home: Debbie Hoskinds, Holly Stroud, Emma Jean Cooper

September Birthdays

Alan Love 1 st	Sandra Taylor 6 th	Marilyn Smith 6 th
Brad Sipe 8 th	Aaron Hoskinds 8 th	Randy Haney 13 th
Ann Lawrence 15 th	Sally Adkisson 19 th	James Phillips 20 th
Landon Taylor 25 th	Halle Jo Cooper 26 th	Christie Haney 26 th
Robert Langston 27 th	Stephanie Gillihan 28 th	

September Anniversaries

Trey & Melissa Lamb 2 nd	Brad & Julie Teague 20 th
Brad & Laura Sipe 22 nd	Wayne & Melanie Crosby 23 rd

John 1:14-17, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."