



Azalea City Church of Christ Family News

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What is Grace?

Grace has been defined in many ways at many times. The Bible, especially the New Testament, speaks much of grace. It is important to know what it really means.

Grace has been defined as the unearned, unmerited favor of God. This definition helps us to see that it is something good that comes from God, which we don't deserve. It is a gift. "The Lord will give grace and glory" (Psalm 84:11). "God .. gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6).

Two important things to realize about grace is the totally undeserving nature of the recipient (us), and the totally generous nature of the giver (God).

It is important to realize that God may give grace as He pleases. He can set conditions, or waive them. No one can demand grace from God based on what they have done. Grace is something you cannot earn by good works or even by suffering. No amount of religious activity - Bible study, prayer, obedience to church leaders, fasting, church programs gives you the right to expect God to bless you or help you in any way. Giving money to the poor or to the church does not earn us any right to God's favor or blessings. Your struggle to obey God's commandments does not earn you God's grace either. Nothing you do can make

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2008 Theme: KNOWING HIM

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month.

Members

Rufus Rush	Conrad Carpenter	Jean Fogle	Myra Blizzard
Beverly Hall	Charlotte Stephenson	Rainie McInvale	Deborah Moody
Ruth Rush	Nita Mae Eubanks	Dorothy Taylor	Billy Allsup
Gail Carr	James & Esther Bell	Clara Frost	Linda Lockler

Friends and Family

Roger Rush	Alden Douglas	Sherry Guy	Barbara Lee
Katie Jones	Jon Hackett, Jr	H.L. Moss	Irene Whitehead
Paul Merrell	Michael Hornbuckle	Loretta Vaught	Barbara Gollotta
Caitlan Goode	Holly Lee Crowell	Wendell Sawyer	Harry Lloyd
Ronin White	J.T. Harrison's mother	Jeannine Webb	Pam Prine
Bob Brantley	Dan Maples	Marvin Fountain	Hixon Nobles
Eric Braddock	Marshall Eubanks	Granville Faries	Deloris Lamaire
Troy Vonada	Pauline Russell	Greg Lewis	Patricia Jones
Dylan Gibbon			

Military

Kenneth Andrews (in Germany)	Keith Moss (Marines)
Aaron Allsup (at Eglin AFB)	Jacob Pierce (in Iraq)
Matt Geroux (in Arkansas)	Matthew Reitz (in Iraq)
Randy Pierce (Paris Island)	Joshua Reynolds (Afghanistan)
Dewayne Nix (Navy, in Texas)	Manuel Baldwin (Iraq)

Expectant Mothers

Kimberly Hall Smith (any day)
Jamie Goleman (January 23, 2009)
Kimberly Holland Claunch (Mar)

New Members and Invitation Responses

Prayer Requests

Wendy Engel
Tammy Cade
Anna Powell

New Members

Phil & Karen Massey
daughters Lexie,
Madison, and Caroline

Upcoming Events

Pioneer game night is scheduled for Friday, November 7th and Friday, November 21st. Please bring your favorite game and finger foods.

The October **men's prayer breakfast** will take place on Sunday, the 2nd at 8:00. If you would be willing to cook for a future breakfast, please sign the sheet located at the information desk in the front foyer.

Steve May is planning **congregational singing** at 5:30 on Sunday, November 9th and Sunday, November 23rd. We will practice new songs and prepare for the evening service. Please make plans to attend.

The fellowship ministry is planning a **new member fellowship** dinner on Sunday, November 16th, after our evening service. We would like for everyone to bring a dish and help us celebrate everyone who was baptized, restored, and/or placed membership with us this past year.

The semi-annual **Azalea City Christian School yard sale** is planned for Friday and Saturday, November 7th and 8th. Please clean out your closets (and garage and attic) and bring your donations to the multi-purpose building. If you have large items, please contact Kim, Rachel, or Evelyn and they will arrange for pickup.

Ministry Information

Monday Night for the Master will take place all 4 Mondays in November. Dinner is at 6:00 and the activities begin at 6:25. Please make plans to attend!

If you have not filled out an **involvement form** for the involvement ministry, please see Terry Cagle to get a form. We need to have every member fill out one of these!

The Benevolence Ministry is planning their next **grocery distribution** on November 6th from 9:00 until 11:00 in the multipurpose building. They gave out food to over 180 people last month! Your help with this endeavor is greatly needed! If you can come help, please plan to be at the church around 8:30. **Please continue to help us out by donating cereal for the food distribution.** You can put it on the counter by the coffee maker in the fellowship hall.

What is Grace? (continued)

God owe you grace. "Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt." (Romans 4:4). The things we do for God or others - our works - if they earned favor with God, this favor would not be grace, but rather something that God owes us according to the principle of what is just and fair. "And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work." (Romans 11:6)

The fact that grace is unearned and unmerited does not tell us everything about grace, because it does not tell us what grace does. A more practical definition of grace could be "God's life, power and righteousness coming to us, the undeserving as a gift." It is through grace that God works effective change in our hearts and lives. God's laws in themselves do not have the power to make us what we should be. It takes God Himself, working in the human life, to make us what we ought to be. At every step, we are dependent on God's life and power to come to us and work within our hearts, if we want to be what God wants and do what He wants.

It follows therefore that we cannot say that our life and power, independent of God, is sufficient to fulfil God's plan. No, every proud religious effort to keep a set of rules, even Biblical rules, is doomed to failure. To live under the law in this way is to be separated from Christ and to be fallen from grace. Paul wrote to some people who had come to fall exactly in this trap. He writes, "You have become estranged from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified [made right] by law [rules]; you have fallen from grace!" (Galatians 5:4).

So then, grace is God's life, power and righteousness coming to us, the undeserving, as a gift.

Grace gives us a new life which is not condemned by God. Through God's grace we are forgiven. Grace also transforms our thinking, resulting in the renewal of the mind. Through grace we are sanctified and made holy. Grace enables us to live the kind of generous, carefree life of service and joy that God would like every one of His children to experience.

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What Grace Does...

Grace saves us

"For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast". (Ephesians 2:8,9).

It is important to see here that by God's grace we have been saved. It is not by works. Salvation is all that God does in taking a fallen man and making him into a son of God - righteous, holy and glorified. Legally it all belongs to us now. God's grace works to make it a reality in our being. First God saves our spirits, making us born again. Then in this life He saves our souls - our minds, emotions and wills, as the process of sanctification in this life unfolds. He also saves our bodies - firstly in part through divine healing and health, and then eternally through the resurrection and redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23). All this, and anything else which God does in salvation, is strictly on the basis of God's grace. God's gift, not our works, made it all possible.

Grace justifies us

"... being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). See also Titus 3:7.

We may be considered to be right by God only because of the grace of Jesus Christ, which is available to us because Jesus willingly laid down His life for us - paying the price we deserved for our rebellion against God. Our justification is not something we receive because of good works, but because of the payment Jesus paid for us at the cross when he suffered and died.

Grace sanctifies us

Indeed, not only our right standing with God, but also our right living depends on grace. God does not leave us to struggle in our own power to think, speak and act correctly. He gives grace after grace. "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace." (John 1:16). We need to "continue in God's grace" (Acts 13:43) in order to go on with God. The Word of God's Grace "builds us up and gives us an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). As we hear about all that God's grace does for us, our faith grows and we can then receive the actual grace to make all this a possibility.

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Youth Calendar

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Teens Tweens				1 <i>Justin Wilkerson</i>
2 Tweens Movie Afternoon in MP Bldg 3-6 <i>Lilly Marler</i>	3	4 Tween After School Unwind 3:30-5:30	5 	6 Teen After School Bible Study 3:30-5:30	7	8
9 Area Wide At Regency	10	11	12 Faulkner Univ Chorus Here <i>Blakelee Warren</i>	13 <i>Isabella White</i>	14 Jr. High FUEL	15 Jr. High FUEL
16 Jr. High FUEL	17	18 Tween After School Unwind 3:30-5:30	19 Sing His Praises 	20 Teen After School Bible Study 3:30-5:30	21 Teen Lock In	22
23 Teen Devo	24 <i>Kaitlin Powell</i>	25	26 <i>Branson White</i> <i>Tyler Williams</i>	27  <i>Courtney Kling</i>	28	29 <i>Haley Durham</i>
30						

What Grace Does... (continued)

The work of sanctification and perfection belongs firstly to God, not to us. This is why it says, "But may the God of all grace, who has called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you." (1 Peter 5:10). It is as the "God of all grace" that the Lord "perfects, establishes and strengthens us."

Grace gives us the power to conduct ourselves correctly in the world. "For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in all simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you." (2 Corinthians 1:12). It is only by God's grace, and the graciousness He puts in us, that we can conduct ourselves simply and with godly sincerity in the world.

By Grace We Have Strength to Stand Against Opposition

A Christian must stand in the grace of God (Romans 5:2). He must be strong in the grace of God. "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 2:1). The Scripture says plainly that is is "good that the heart be strengthened [or established] with grace" (Hebrews 13:9). "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:10,11). All the armor of God is received by the grace of God. We did not pay for the "breastplate of righteousness" or "the shield of faith" or any other parts of that armor. It is therefore by drawing **on the grace of God that we are going to be able to resist temptation and stand against all the temptations and trials that Satan wants to discourage us with and make us fall, if possible.**

Under Grace we are not ruled by the Power of Sin

Some imagine that the correct understanding of grace frees the believer to do whatever he wants - to sin against his conscience, against others, against the Word and against God. However, this cannot be correct, since the Scripture says, "Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14). Paul asks, "Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?" His response is clear. "Certainly not!" (Romans 6:15). Grace is not a license to commit sin. It is a force that both pardons us and empowers us to live right, without falling into temptation.

Continued Next Month...

DEACONS AND MINISTRY LEADERS

ADMINISTRATION:

David Myers 645-0454
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 Scott Jayroe* 649-2233
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BENEVOLENCE:

Ken Murphy 602-8446
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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

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EDUCATION

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EDUCATION

(CHILDREN):

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EVANGELISM/ VISITATION:

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FELLOWSHIP/ INVOLVEMENT:

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 Toby Cagle* 649-2613
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FINANCE:

Dean Simmons* 645-3705
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GREETERS:

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Toby Cagle* 649-2613
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LADS TO LEADERS:

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 Jason Killough 649-2436
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TRANSPORTATION:

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WORSHIP:

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YOUTH:

Jason Killough 649-2436
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Robert Oliver* 649-7770
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***Deacons**

Monthly Records

Weekly Budget 2008: \$8,928.28

	Sept. 7th	Sept. 14th	Sept. 21st	Sept. 28th	Average
Weekly Contributions	\$8,768.00	\$7,357.86	\$7,633.85	\$7,905.85	\$7,916.39
Sunday Bible Class	183	186	172	149	173
Sunday AM Worship	289	257	246	218	253
Sunday PM Worship	Family Day	150	110	No Count	130
	Sept. 3rd	Sept. 10th	Sept 17th	Sept. 24th	
Wed. Bible Study	139	121	180	130	143

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00

ELDERS

Kevin Crowell 660-1888
kcrowell@azaleacity.org

Mike Eubanks 649-3216
meubanks@azaleacity.org

James Graham 645-2945
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CHURCH OFFICE

MINISTER

David Myers
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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Terry Cagle
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YOUTH MINISTER

Jason Killough
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SECRETARY

Glenda Carpenter
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SECRETARY

Carra Deck
(cdeck@azaleacity.org)

Bulletin Submissions: Bulletin@azaleacity.org

MISSIONS

Ukraine

Vlad & Oksana Paziy
Vitaly Rodichev
Valentina Petrussenko

Jos, Nigeria

Steve Worley
Bala Turgong

Television To Watch

“Preaching The Gospel” with James Watkins
Sundays 7:30am, channel 44, Comcast channel 4

“In Search of The Lord’s Way” with Mack Lyon
Sundays 7:30am, channel 33, Comcast channel 7
Direct TV channel 321

“Know Your Bible” with Billy Lambert
Sundays 6:30pm Direct TV channel 321
Sundays 8:00pm channel 33
Wednesdays 8:00pm Direct TV channel 377

The Gospel Broadcasting Network
www.gbntv.org on the internet 24/7

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