

Notes & Letters

The Lost Son

The Lost Son (Grace in Focus, Nov/Dec 2005), is right on. I appreciate your hard work in this challenge against the so-called "Lordship theology." Praise God for your ministry.

R.W. - Springfield, VA

Thanks for Clarity Among so Much Confusion

I've had lots of confusion growing up, and even into adulthood, about the varying ways ministers would present the gospel. Even on one-to-one conversations, most ministers I talked with don't present grace in a clear way. One preacher told us that "Unless you've given everything you have to God, including all of your money, you are not a Christian."

There needs to be a clarion call to grace in this country.
V.H. - Johannesburg, MI

Your Articles Answer My Questions!

I'm writing to tell you that I like your website and the message of free grace you promote. I find it an encouraging message, especially when we see how much you have studied the Scriptures. The very issues you tackle are issues that

I have been battling in my mind for some time now, and I totally relate to how you say that there are many different gospels being preached out there.

C.W. - e-mail letter

Regarding Is Perseverance Required?

This article was beautifully presented. The arguments are simply stated, but profound. I only wish that truly saved evangelicals would come to these conclusions and present

them clearly, so that confusion be kept to a minimum. God bless you and thanks!

D.W. - Concord, NC



Bob and Sharon went out to dinner with several GES supporters while in California

Partners in Grace is a monthly magazine of:

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Financial Report

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|-------------|----------------------|
| Dec Budget | \$29,212 |
| Dec Revenue | \$51,750 (+22,538)** |
| YTD Budget* | \$175,272 |
| YTD Revenue | \$200,126 (+24,854) |

*Our Fiscal Year is July 1-June 30



**Note: These figures are not final. At press time, we are still receiving gifts postmarked in December 2005. With most December gifts in, our revenue for the month is \$51,750. We ended up getting almost fifty special year-end gifts totalling over \$17,000. While we fell short of our goal of \$84,000, we still had a good month. Thank you for your gifts.

PARTNERS

in Grace

Pre-Tribulation Study Group Dallas, TX

December 5-7

Dr. Arnold Fructenbaum (Jewish believer) and Dr. Ergun Caner (former Muslim) spoke at the Pre-Trib banquet I attended on Monday evening.

On Tuesday, Pastor Arch Rutherford and Zane Hodges and I enjoyed a nice time of fellowship over lunch.

In addition to Arch and Zane, I saw a number of Free Grace friends at this conference including John Brumett (TX), Ken Hornok (UT), René Lopez (TX), Andy Woods (TX), Lewis Schoettle (GA), Arnold Fructenbaum (CA), Mark Piland (TX), Dr. Tom Baurain (Kansas City), Tyler Beard (TX), Mark Carr (TX), and Jon Hanson (ND).

After Dr. Caner spoke on Islamic Eschatology on Tuesday morning, I went up and asked him, "Where do you stand on the Lordship issue." "I believe in it. Jesus must be our Lord to be our Savior," he replied. I then asked, "Yes, but must one submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ to be born again?" "Yes, of course."

I gave him my card and told him I'd love to talk about this later if he had time and interest. He seemed genuinely open to talking again, so hopefully we will. He is an extremely gifted communicator. If he were in the Grace camp I'd try hard to get him to speak at our conference. PG



Bob with Tom Baurain, René Lopez, Zane Hodges and Mark Carr at the Pre-Trib Conference



Victor Street Church before Bob spoke on 1 John 4:12-16

Victor Street Bible Chapel Dallas, TX

December 4

When we see love demonstrated within the believing community, we see our invisible God according to 1 John 4:12-16. That was the theme of my sermon this day. You can hear it online at www.faithalone.org. Click on "Online Audio" and scroll down to my messages. While it is a very difficult passage, it is also extremely powerful.

During the Lord's Supper meeting I spoke on Numbers 32. That is a remarkable passage. Two tribes, Reuben and Gad, want to stay on the east side of the Jordan, evidently with no desire to go and fight in the Promised Land. Moses tells them that if they don't go over and fight in the conquest, then none of the tribes in that generation would enter (Num 32:15). There would have been another time of wandering in the wilderness if Reuben and Gad had not responded obediently to Moses' charge.

You can also listen to that message online. PG

Highlights

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January 2006



Grace Chapel on Christmas Day before Bob spoke on Matthew 1:21



Bob and Sharon Wilkin with Laurie, Timothy, Lorina, and Babbette at Grace Chapel



Sharon with Steve and Vicki Anderson and their son, Joe, who is a student at Chafer Seminary.

Grace Chapel Orange, CA

December 25

Sharon and I made it out to Southern California for Christmas. We were able to visit with my Mom on many occasions. Unfortunately, she wasn't feeling well on the trip. More on that in a moment.

On the Friday before Christmas Sharon and I enjoyed an evening of fellowship with GES partners Ricardo and Laurie Campos and Frank and Babbette Tyler, along with Laurie's parents, Jack and Irene. We enjoyed a nice meal together, followed by looking at homes with neat Christmas lights and displays. The evening culminated with dessert and presents at the Campos's.

I spoke on Matt 1:21 on Christmas morning. What did the angel mean when he told Joseph that Jesus "will save His people from their sins"? He wasn't saying the message of John 3:16 in different words! The angel was saying something entirely different. The angel meant that Jesus will one day deliver Israel from the consequence of their sins, which is Gentile subjugation. One day in the future Jesus will return and liberate the nation! Never forgot Israel when you think of Christmas.

My mom went into the hospital on Christmas morning. She has been having trouble breathing. Fortunately they were able to help her with breathing treatments and antibiotics and other medications. She was released from the hospital in less than a week. However, this is a problem she's had before. Just a month ago she was in the hospital for this. So we'd appreciate your prayers for her. PG

Commentary Update

We now have almost all of the commentaries in house, and have begun editing them in earnest. So far, Jeremy has completed a first draft edit on Matthew and Mark. This involves checking the length, grammar, punctuation, spelling, style rules, Greek usage, outline flow and Bible reference accuracy. I've done an exegetical/theological edit on Matthew 1-19. There's a long way to go!

This is a huge undertaking. This book will be at least five times longer than any book we've yet done. It will probably be around 1200 big two-column pages. In addition, since it is a commentary, this material requires even more care in editing. With our small staff, this is quite a challenge. Jeremy and I will be doing most of the editing work.

Concerning the commentary fund, we took in \$2700 for the first six months of this fiscal year (June-Dec). We are scheduled to print near the end of 2006, and will need approximately \$18,300 more between now and then. We appreciate your prayers on this important project. PG

GES's 11th Annual Grace Conference North Dallas Crowne Plaza Hotel

February 27-March 2, 2006

We've moved the conference. This will be our first year at the Crowne Plaza. The hotel rooms are all suites, with a refrigerator and a microwave. You essentially get two rooms for the price of one, a bedroom and a living area with couch that makes into a bed. Each room can sleep up to five people. For only \$84 per night, this is quite a deal. They offer a free shuttle service from either DFW or Dallas Love Field. They even offer free shuttle service to the malls in the area during the conference.

The hotel is near Galleria Mall, one of Dallas' finest malls. It is also near lots of nice restaurants. More information about all of this is on our website. Just click on the the "Annual Conference" link.

You may register online at www.faithalone.org. Or you can call us toll free at 1.877.292.2522. The registration fee for first time attendees is only \$60! Pastors (including anyone on a church staff) who've never attended may come free. The normal \$160 registration fee is still a bargain, and it includes one's spouse! We hope to see many of you there. We'd appreciate your prayers and your help in spreading the word about this important conference.

If you haven't reserved your hotel room, we suggest you do so now. Call the hotel directly at 1.888.303.1746. Mention that you are coming for the *Grace Evangelical Society's Conference* to the get the special room rate.

Jennifer is handling all conference matters for us. If you have any questions, please call or email her (Jennifer@faithalone.org). PG

Anderson Book Released in Late December

Dave Anderson's new book, *Maximum Joy*, is now in house. It is a devotional commentary on First John. We received it right after Christmas. It is an excellent book and a nice companion to Zane's commentary on 1-3 John. Thank you for your support that made it possible for us to do this. PG



Grace on the Go

January

- 8 Free Grace Bible Church, Sachse, TX
- 15 Victor Street Bible Chapel, Dallas, TX

February

- 13 GES Winter Board Meeting, Irving, TX
- Feb 27-Mar 2 The Grace Conference, Dallas, TX



The GES Staff wishes you a grace-filled 2006. From left to right: Jeremy Myers, Brandon Wallace, Bob Wilkin, Jennifer Mosburg and Daniel Mosburg



Bob with Arch Rutherford and Jon Hanson at a banquet at the Pre-Trib Study Group Conference



The children sang a special number while Bob was at Victor Street Bible Chapel