

Tenth Annual


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J. B. Bond brought tremendous passion and insight in his message challenging us to make sure all in our churches, not just the pastor, are clear in their teaching about the gospel. Mike Makidon gave a great message on the dangers associated with our digital technologies. Elliott Johnson spoke on God's call to all of us to be partners with Christ.

Kem Oberholtzer was sick and unable to speak this year as planned. So I ended up giving a fourth main message. The message on the state of grace was particularly well received. My other three messages, on justification by faith alone and on the current confusion about faith and assurance, generated a lot of discussion. In fact, on Wednesday night about 60 people gathered for over an hour to interact with me on my point that justification by faith alone is an absolute essential in evangelism.

We had a few more workshops than last year and the workshops were very good. I particularly liked Bob Bryant's message in which he showed that one must believe in eternal security in order to believe in Jesus for eternal life. Check out all of the titles and speakers on our website.

We had a game night and a movie night and two nights in which 50+ of the conferees went to a barbeque restaurant. The fellowship was great. People met other grace people from around the country and made friendships that will last a lifetime and beyond.

If you were there, you've probably already ordered lots of CDs or tapes (or DVDs). If you weren't there, I highly recommend you get some or all of the messages. This was an outstanding conference. 




Conferees enjoying one of the plenary messages

Spotlight on Your Support

Our first conference had only 35 attendees and until recently each conference lost money. The only way we were able to put them on was because of your support. And while we "make money" now on our conference, that doesn't count in the great costs we have in terms of my time and Mike's time. We wouldn't be able to put on our conference without your partnership.

All we do, whether it is our conference or our publications or talking with people on the phone or via email or mail, is only possible because the Lord has burdened you to underwrite the cost of this ministry.

Thank you for caring, giving, encouraging, and praying. Together we are co-workers. We are committed to use the money sacrificially given to this ministry as efficiently as possible so as to make the maximum impact in spreading the Free Grace message worldwide. 

Financial Report

What a year we've had thus far. With three months to go in our fiscal year, we are \$30,000 over budget! Wow. While we typically fall off a fair amount in April, May, and June, this means we have a good chance of ending the year with a surplus. That is important because it will help us replenish our reserves and give us flexibility in our future planning and ministry. Obviously we can do more when more comes in.

March Revenue	\$38,650
March Budget	\$27,320
YTD Revenue	\$276,312
YTD Budget	\$245,880



PARTNERS

Special Conference 2005 Edition


in Grace

Simi Valley (CA) Evangelical Free Church

March 20

Pastor Steve Brewer and his wife Lynn were at our conference. Then three days later I was privileged to speak at their church! They were so encouraging as they raved about how much they benefited from the conference.

Steve is in a series on First Corinthians, so he asked me to finish chapter 14 (vv 26-40). What an assignment! No wonder he had me speak. I had to talk about tongues, prophecy, and the role of women in the church! Actually it was fun. I kept saying, "The views expressed in this message are not necessarily those of the management."

I had a chance to see my Mom, sister, and nephew as well. Mom is doing quite well. We talked about the gift of eternal life to all who simply believe in Jesus a number of times. While she still isn't convinced, she is more open than ever. In fact, she is reading my new book *Secure and Sure* and she asked me if it wasn't too simple! I told her that people appreciate it when you write simply on a subject like assurance of eternal life. 



Simi Valley E-Free Church on Sunday morning

Tenth Annual Conference

Irving, TX

March 14-17

Attendance was up slightly this year. We had 302 who registered and another 30-plus who attended one or more sessions but didn't take the time to register. There were lots of first time people and we even had about 10 high school students from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Oregon.

The general sessions went very well. Tony Evans gave an awesome message on the sufficiency of Scripture. Dave Anderson brought the house down with his moving message on the need to enrich our lives by suffering for Christ when the opportunities arise. Zane Hodges wowed everyone with two brilliant messages, one on Romans 2:1-5 and the other on James 2:20-26.



The audience's reaction to one of Bob's jokes at the conference

Highlights

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“The conference was great!”

The conference was a real joy. I was especially gladdened to see the proliferation of workshops and found that several of them were not only intellectually challenging but provided lots of material for day-to-day ministry. Thanks for all your hard work.

“A tiny bit of heaven—loved it!”

This conference is spiritual meat that I long for and need. I go home spiritually renewed, refreshed, and invigorated and with new material and concepts to study and share for the coming year.

“This was one of the best in a number of years!”

I appreciate all you’ve done and are doing. Your courage and honesty have made a difference (eternal) in my life and those I interact with.

“I love the conference.”

Just wanted to say a BIG thank you for all you did to make this conference so terrific. I personally benefited greatly from it in a number of areas of understanding, and was greatly encouraged to make the Gospel even more clear than ever. Wonderful fellowship with many new folks from around the country. The presentations and lessons were the best.

“No adequate way to express what this conference means to us!”

Personally, I’ve never been exposed to so much Biblical truth at once! I loved it!

“This was my first conference and it was well worth the trip!”

Very encouraging to me as I lead my church to be a free grace church.

“Great Conference, encouraging fellowship, and practical workshops.”

“I get refocused here!”

The choice of speakers was outstanding. The workshops were very timely as to the subjects covered. Over the years I have seen the conference grow larger each year and this year was no exception. GREAT JOB! Keep up the good work.

“All of the speakers were top-notch.”

I wanted to write and express my deep appreciation for you and the conference. I was a first-time attendee and learned so much. I have come from a strict Fundamentalist background and am slowly learning about God’s Grace. I purchased several books while at the conference and I am just thrilled at what I am learning. I am pastoring full time in Ohio and I can’t wait to teach the eternal truths of Scripture to my congregation. I am excited to be on the right track concerning rewards and I do thank you for your books and your desire to teach the truth. I have found serving Christ for rewards to be most liberating and I want to communicate these truths to everyone. Thank you again and may God bless you and GES.

“Praise God for GES!”

The 2005 Grace Conference

