

Notes & Letters

Grateful to be a Partner

I am so thankful for this ministry. It is a good blessing for me to be able to be a small part of supporting it. God bless!

D.W. - Concord, NC

Disagreement with the Grace Position

Dave Breese [in "Danger," Grace in Focus (Mar-Apr 2003)] not only does not understand the "Lordship" salvation position, but he also misrepresents it, creates "straw-man" arguments to make his point, uses Scripture out of its context (i.e. 1 Cor 11:30 and 1 Tim 1:20), and offers no quotations from the opposing side to make his claims legitimate. All in all, Mr. Breese does much to tarnish the character of a sound, logical defense of his position. His followers would do well to understand the books of First John and James (preferably taken in context).

J.P. - Winston Salem, NC

What a Relief!

When I asked my pastor about it [James 2], he said that it meant that true faith always results in at least some good works. His answer did not help me, because Paul seems to clearly teach that faith alone, for the person who does not work (Romans 4:1-8),

guarantees eternal salvation...if I have to look to my works for assurance of eternal salvation, I am in utter despair. Growing up in a Christian home, I was taught all my life that no one can do one single thing to merit salvation... Yet my previous pastor taught that 1 John gives people "tests" by which they can look at their lives and determine if they are really saved... the articles you sent me have really helped me and my husband! Thank you so much! You will never know how much we appreciate your taking the time to send them to us when you don't even know us. The explanations you sent make perfect sense in the context of the rest of the epistle, and that interpretation fits perfectly with Paul's theology. Best of all, it gives overwhelming joy to know that simply accepting God's offer of the eternal salvation available through Christ's death and resurrection as a free gift is enough to be sure of going to heaven.

Paradoxically, I feel that if I can know for sure that I will go to heaven apart from any works of my own, then I am freer to really do good works from the right motive of just pleasing the Father who loves me rather than constantly trying to make sure I am really saved. Finding your website was an answer to prayer! We are so happy! May God bless you!

E.B. - Sykesville, MD



Grace Christian Church members before Bob's message

PARTNERS

in Grace

Grace Christian Church

Kendallville, IN

June 12-14

When I arrived at the Fort Wayne airport, I knew this trip would be different. As I walked into the main terminal area, I saw five guys smiling at me with Cheshire-cat grins. Their enthusiasm for the gospel and the grace message filled me with energy.

It turns out that I had "met" one of the Pastors, Scott Mosley, via the Internet a few years ago when he took five or six classes from our School of Theology. His brother, Chris, is what many churches would call the Senior Pastor.

This church started from a handful of people six years ago and now there are over 250. Scott and Chris had been in a very legalistic Protestant church that taught that eternal life could be lost. When they saw the light, they saw the need for a new church in the area to promote the grace message. Thus Scott incorporated this church even before he had a single member. God has really blessed since then.

Other than the classes Scott took with GESOT, none of the Pastors at the church have any formal theological training. Yet they are all well grounded. I joked with them that their lack of training may be the reason! It was very

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Bob with GCC pastors Nate, Chris, Daniel, and Scott

Burleson (TX) Bible Church

June 27

Dr. Charlie Bing was on vacation and so he asked me to fill the pulpit for him. As it turns out, he got back on Saturday night so he and Karen were able to be there on Sunday.

The prodigal son passage in Luke 15 was my topic. The audience was very responsive.

While I've spoken at BBC four or five times in the past, this was my first time in their new building. Before this they'd met in a Putt Putt facility and after that in a health facility. This new building is great. They've only been there for 5 months and they've already experienced some nice growth.

I also enjoyed going out to lunch with Mike and Paula Lanier, Fran and Joe Stilwell's daughter and son-in-law.



Burleson Bible Church in their new building

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Financial Report

June Revenue	\$15,723
June Budget	\$25,919
YTD Revenue	\$320,295
YTD Budget	\$311,028



Highlights

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July 2004



Dan Lash, a local pastor, Dar, and Daniel at GCC



Members of Grace Christian Church Saturday night




Grace Christian Church on Sunday night

Grace Christian Church

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encouraging to me to see a church operate on grace principles where the leadership of the church came to these truths from the Word of God.

On Saturday and Sunday nights I spoke on assurance. At the first service on Sunday morning I spoke on 1 Tim 4:8, "Godliness Is Profitable for This Life and for the Life to Come." In Sunday School I spoke on Matt 7:21-23 and the issue of false professors. In the second service, I spoke on Matt 16:24-27, "Saving Your Life by Losing Your Life."


This was my first trip to this Free Grace Church. I hope to be able to go back. They are a great group. 

Spotlight on Your Support

It isn't easy to show people what we do at GES. Who wants to see pictures of people sitting at computers writing and editing articles and books, planning conferences and seminars and publications, or answering people's questions on the phone or via mail or email?

Of all the things we do, speaking is the only one that really lends itself to pictures. So that is what we report on each month. But the truth is, we do a lot more than that. As important as speaking is, even more important are all the behind the scenes things we do. Your support enables us to do all these things: the seen, less seen, and unseen. Writing and editing are not glamorous in and of themselves, but the result of the work can reach multitudes for years to come.

So keep in mind each month as you see this newsletter that while the pictures focus on Free Grace churches, conferences, and schools at which I speak, that is only part of the story. Our website reaches people all over the world and your support makes that possible (see p. 4, third note). Our newsletter and journal touch people both in terms of the hardcopies we send out and the electronic copies we post on the Internet. Our books and booklets are influencing many. Our commentary project has the potential to provide an invaluable resource for the Body of Christ.

Thanks so much for making all this possible. We do not take you or your support for granted. We spend your money, which we realize comes from God, as wisely as we can. Our aim is to glorify God by promoting His grace message as effectively as we can, to as many people as we can, without compromise. We are committed to clarity even at the expense of numbers and influence. For without the clear message, we have lost our very reason for existence. 

Victor Street Bible Chapel


Dallas, TX

June 6

Second Timothy 2:11-13 is a passage that has long been one of my favorites. I have preached on that many times. But I had never preached the entire passage in which it occurs. On this Sunday I spoke on the first thirteen verses of Second Timothy 2.


The theme of this passage is an exhortation: Endure by being strong in His grace. We are only able to endure because God gives all believers the strength we need to endure. But that gracious enablement is not automatic. We must seize it by having our minds renewed from the Word of God. We become stronger the more our thinking changes our behavior.

In the Lord's Supper meeting that followed, we discussed all of the New Testament passages in which the verb translated *be strong* (*endunamoō*) occurs. We found that one who is strong in the Lord can become stronger and that strength comes through partaking of and applying the Word of God.


Everyone was very encouraged, indicating they found the two messages to be very helpful. 

New Book on Assurance

We received the first three chapters back from the editor and they are ready to go. We are now plowing ahead—editing the rest of them. It appears we are on pace to have it in print by Thanksgiving. Please keep this project in your prayers.

There are several other books by grace authors in the works as well. We will keep you posted. 

June Financial Update

Although we fell significantly short of our budget last year, I'm glad to report that the trend stopped this year thanks to your giving and God's goodness (see box on p. 4). Our reserves are still low. But, we are praying that this upward trend will continue, enabling us to begin replenishing them and in addition expand our current ministries. 

Grace on the web



www.faithalone.org



Victor Street before Bob's message



Charlie and Karen Bing with Bob after the service



The only three BBC members that see eye-to-eye with Bob