

Partners in Grace December 2011

Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) Annual Meeting San Francisco, California November 15-18



ETS is a large group of conservative Bible scholars from around the US and Canada. We unite around the truth of the inerrancy of Scripture. There were about two thousand present this year.

For the second year in a row, I was selected to present two messages. My first presentation was on the question of whether James teaches salvation by works. I examined the five uses of *sōzō* (save) in James. I showed that James taught salvation from temporal judgment by works, but not salvation from eternal condemnation by works. The turnout was very good (over 30) and my paper was well received.

My second paper, with 20 in attendance, was on the concept of believing in Jesus' name in the Fourth Gospel. This allowed me to discuss a key problem text, John 2:23-25: I showed that in John to believe in Jesus' name is the same as believing in Him or believing that He is the Christ, the Son of God. This paper went well too, though not as well as the one on James, I thought.

I stayed in an apartment owned by Mike Lii's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Lii. I greatly appreciate their kindness. I roomed with Steve Lewis, President of Rocky Mountain Bible College & Seminary. Pastor Neil Anderson of Coast Bible Church and Professor John Niemelä also of Rocky Mountain Bible College & Seminary stayed in a second apartment in the same building.



It was fun to visit with them and many other Free Grace people including Bill and Leila Hinckley, Jerry Pattillo, Al Valdez, Jamie Bryant, Jim Congdon, Gary Derickson, Glen Riddle, Elliott Johnson, Nathan Holstein, and others.

Grace on the Go

Dec. 4	Victor Street Bible Chapel, Dallas, TX
Dec. 5-7	Pre-Trib Study Group Conference, Dallas, TX (attending, not speaking)
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Marathon, Allen, TX
Jan. 21-22	Winter GES Board meeting, Denton, TX

The Crossing Church

Sequim (area), Washington November 2-6

Sharon was able to travel with me on this trip to the Pacific Northwest. We stayed with GES Board Chairman Frank Tyler and his wife Babbette and their son Tim. We had a fantastic visit. Frank and I walked all over Sequim (pronounced Skwim).



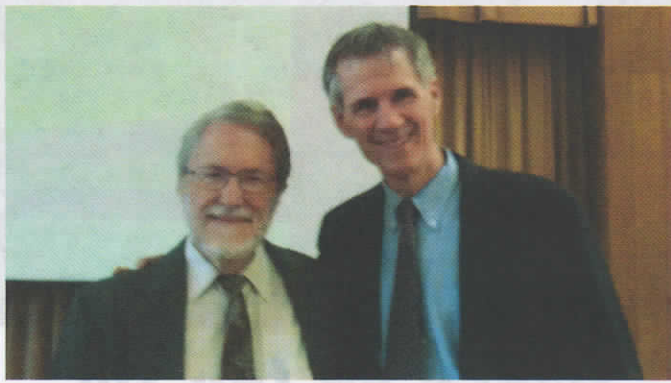
The Pastor of The Crossing Church is Glen Douglas and his wife is Mary.

Glen was very encouraging and indicated he appreciated me coming and the messages I brought. On Saturday night I enjoyed a nice supper at their home.

On Friday night I spoke on James 2:14-17 at the Sequim branch of The Crossing Church. Then on Saturday I presented a four-hour seminar on perseverance in Port Angeles. The last day was a bit hectic. I spoke in Port Angeles on the parable of the four soils in Luke 8:4-18. Then we had a 2.5 hour drive to the Seattle airport, followed by a 4.5 hour flight to Dallas and then another 30 minute drive home.

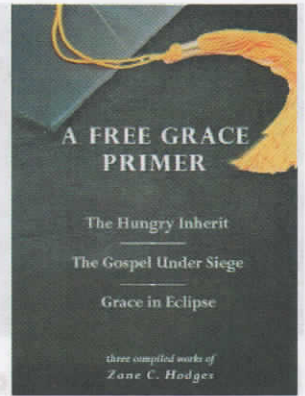
It was an enjoyable time of fellowship and ministry.





Publication Update

In mid November we approved the blue line of *A Free Grace Primer* and then the book went to press. It should ship to our office soon and be ready for sale by mid-December. It is over 500 pages and yet the cost is just \$9.95. Your support made it possible for us to sell it so cheap. Our desire is to keep the price low to enable maximum distribution.



Berean Memorial Church

Irving, Texas

November 13

Many passages in the Bible say that all men will be judged according to their works. I discussed that idea in my sermon at Berean Memorial on November 13. I showed that while eternal life is a free gift, eternal rewards are wages (*misthos*) for work done. The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a time when every believer is judged to determine his eternal rewards.

Victor Street Bible Chapel

Dallas, Texas

November 20

Our march through Genesis took us to Genesis 29:31-30:24. The title of my message was "The Contest of Childbirth." Leah and Rachel vie to see which will have the most sons. Leah, the wife not favored by Jacob, is favored by God and so she has four sons. Then Rachel gives her maid to Jacob and she "has" two sons. Leah follows suit and through her maid "has" two more sons. Then when Rachel tried to buy fertility in the form of mandrakes, God blesses Leah again and she has two more sons and a daughter. Finally Rachel has a son. We must never forget that God is the source of life, both physical and spiritual.

Special December Gifts Would Help

We've been significantly behind budget the first five months of this fiscal year. We normally take in about one fourth of our annual giving in the month of December, which is important since we typically fall well short of our budget for January through June, the second half of our fiscal year. Thus our aim is to come out of December with a \$50,000 or greater surplus that will cover shortfalls in the second half. We realize we may not reach that goal this December since we start the month well in the red. We will do the best we can with what we receive.

We appreciate your generous support and your prayers and encouragement. Thank you for your partnership in what we are doing.

November Financial Report

November Budget	\$31,147	YTD* Budget	\$155,735
November Revenue	\$16,378	YTD* Revenue	\$115,516
	<\$14,769>		<\$40,219>

We are very thankful for your gifts.

*Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th

Partners in Grace is a publication of the Grace Evangelical Society for its financial supporters.

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New Office Update

We are in the final stages of negotiating a deal on a new office. We've already lined up movers too. The proposed new office will increase our monthly rent from \$1050 to \$1175. While we'd prefer no increase in rent, the amount is minor and we are getting an increase in square footage from 900 to 1175. We haven't signed the contract yet, but hope to do so this week. We anticipate a move in date of Dec 12.

Thank you!

In May I will be the big 6-0 if I live that long and if the Rapture doesn't occur first. I am so thankful for your support. You have allowed me to do what I absolutely love for over 25 years now. I am very blessed. I believe because of your partnership we have made a significant impact for Christ. I hope to do so for many years to come. Rest assured, however, that we are cultivating several people who could take over GES if I died or became unable to go on. Our hope is to have a successor in place within five years. I may continue to write and teach into my eighties. I'd like to. But hopefully someone else will captain the ship long before then.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the health of the staff and our Partners and their families, for December giving, for our move and settling into a new office, for the new Grace in Focus magazine starting in January, for us to catch up on the Journal (and get the Autumn 2011 issue in the mail in December), for the soon completion of my book on the ten most misunderstood words in the Bible, for the completion of Zane's commentary on Romans by the April 23-26 conference, for conference planning and registrations, and for Free Grace churches and ministries.