

Partners in Grace

July 2011



Garland (TX) Bible Chapel June 19

I've spoken on Matt 16:24-28 before. But this time I added in some material that really improved the clarity and power of the message. Only by following Jesus on the path of suffering can we truly experience the abundant life He wishes for us. It is a paradox that to gain our lives we must lose them. Ultimately this looks to Jesus' soon return when He will come in glory and will reward His servants according to their works (Matt 16:27). The Free Grace position is anything but antinomian. We call people to deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow Jesus. We just don't make that a condition for everlasting life. That is a condition for *abundant* everlasting life. While all believers have everlasting life, only those who follow Christ experience that life more abundantly.



NOTES & LETTERS

Impact of Grace NT Commentary

I believe that The Grace New Testament Commentary is having a GREAT impact. I know that I use it more than any commentary that I own. In fact, just recently my cousin emailed me to ask how he could get a copy on his Logos program. I had given him a hard copy of TGNTC and he was using it so much that he wanted it also on Logos. Thanks for producing this commentary.

—Email, BF

Thanks for Help with Assurance

It warmed my heart to have someone I've never met personally respond so quickly and deeply. It's amazing the friendships God can bring into one's life when we walk with Him. Boy, I feel like I was just in a heavyweight bout. It is leaving, and I am getting stronger... but boy, it actually feels like I went through a physical battle!

My problem was doubting whether the Word Itself was true. And that really wreaked havoc on my assurance of salvation... how can I be saved if I don't believe (because of doubt) that Jesus' redemption is really a true fact?

Your words were a tremendous help...so was your show of concern...

—Email

Liked May-June Grace in Focus

I just read your article (Is God an Equal Opportunity Saver?) in the May/June issue of Grace in Focus, one of the best I have ever read! Here are some of the highlights to me: 1. The lake of fire will be tolerable suffering for all, but more tolerable for some (e.g., Sodomites) than others (like those living in time of Christ in Capernaum). 2. Your examples of Jim and Judas, unbelievers who were given a lot of light about Jesus Christ and His message of everlasting life. 3. Your examples of Khan and the woman at the well, believers who were given a little light about Jesus Christ and His message of everlasting life. 4. Why some come to faith and some do not is between the individual and God.

—Email, BH



Victor Street Bible Chapel

Dallas, TX, June 12, Genesis 24

Often this chapter is entitled, "A Bride for Isaac" and when it is preached the applications concern finding a good spouse. However, the chapter is really about God's sovereign behind-the-scenes workings in the lives of His faithful servants. The servant prays all along the way and thanks God each time He works.

As long as we are walking with Christ, we can know that God is at work behind the scenes in our lives to bless us.

Update on Hodges Publications

Because the Hodges trilogy book has taken much longer than expected we've had to push back the work on the Romans commentary. We think it likely that the trilogy will go to the printer by early August. Then we will hope to complete the Romans commentary by the April 23-26, 2012 GES Conference.

The Ten Most Misunderstood Words in the Bible

A year ago I told you it was near completion. Well, in the last year I've improved it a lot, and it is still not quite done. I'm determined to get this out before next year's conference. I'd appreciate your prayers.

June Financial Report

June Budget	\$27,940	YTD* Budget	\$335,280		
June Revenue	\$48,879	\$20,939	YTD* Revenue	\$359,761	\$24,481

We are very thankful for your gifts.

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

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Prayer Requests

Please pray for: GES help desk czar Mark Gray, who came down with shingles in June; for the Hodges trilogy to go to the printer by early August; for the staff of GES and their families; for all the GES supporters and their families; for the U.S. and world economies; for the selection of speakers for next year's GES conference (the call for paper titles has just gone out); for the August 20th GES summer board meeting; for GES finances; for the newsletter and journal; and for Zane's Romans commentary and my ten words book.



Spotlight on Your Support

The U.S. government is facing bankruptcy. We live in exciting and frightening times. But our God is in control. If we go into a depression equal to or worse than that experienced in the 1930s, then God may make good come of that. Likely people will be much more open to the message of life. In tough times people tend to see their need and to turn to God.

So far we are doing well. I keep thinking we are likely to have one or more years in which we experience major shortfalls that cause us first to deplete our reserves and then to reduce our ministry to avoid borrowing money (which we are committed to not doing). But that hasn't happened yet. We realize it may.

Thanks so much for your generous support. We are very thankful to God and we do not take this for granted. We minister knowing that the economy is bad and that our partners are being hurt by the bad economy. But God will always be in control and as Paul said, whether we live in good times or bad, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

