



New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Our Need of Grace - by Elder Neil M. Phelan, Jr.

Taken from "The Daily Record" The First Year IN RETROSPECT

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." Revelation 22:21

While the Old Testament ends with the word "curse," what comfort we find in the closing words of the New, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ Be with you all. Amen." It so pleased God to end the divine cannon of scripture with a short prayer which means so much to us: our need of **God's grace**. As John's petition still lingers for us before God's throne, let us examine our personal need of God's grace today.

Grace is the granting of blessings that are undeserved and unearned. In short, grace is **unmerited favor** from a loving Father. Every blessing that the poor sinner will receive is a product of God's amazing grace and flows through the fount of every blessing: Christ. While in nature we observe those who are favored with beauty, intelligence, musical skill, or athletic ability, grace ascends into the spiritual realm. One has likened it to the rain that nourishes the trees, flowers and plants. While they did not, nor could not, have asked for it, it fell and blessed as God ordained it. Grace displays God's sovereignty. As a glass reflects the light of the sun, so grace reflects the sovereignty of God as the great potter molds the clay to His own purpose.

Grace **distinguishes**. It separates God's people from the world. Paul said, "But by the grace of God I am what I am." - 1 Corinthians 15:10a. Had God left Paul to himself, he would have spent his whole life hating Christ and persecuting Christians. It was by

grace - divine favor - that changed a persecuting Saul into a loving



Paul. Could any one accuse God of being unjust if Paul had been left to himself? Thus we see grace. Man left to himself is dead in trespasses and in sin. But it pleased God to choose a multitude and lift them out of their fallen condition. This is grace; this is divine favor. That is why we say that salvation is by grace.

Paul refers to God's grace as "the power of Christ." When he was buffeted by Satan with his thorn in the flesh, Paul found God's grace sufficient. "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

- 2 Corinthians 12:9. While God did not remove Paul's thorn, He gave him the grace to endure it. And that is God's promise to His beloved. He does not promise to remove our trial,

(Continued on page 3)

Sister Edna Gordon and her friend Mary enjoying Sunday worship service.

Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church
P.O. Box 771048
Winter Garden, FL 34777
407-656-7007
www.wintergardenpbc.com

Worship Service
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Elder Glenn Blanchard
771 Bending Oak Trail
Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-905-5627
primitivebaptist@embarqmail.com

Tapes (subscription or address information):
tapes@wintergardenpbc.com

Pastor's Letter - Elder Glenn Blanchard



It seems like only yesterday that I answered the call to pastor New Hope PBC. Actually it was November 1994, twenty-two years ago. I can honestly say that it has been the adventure of a lifetime! I have decided that it is now time to pass the torch. I notified the church that I would like to step down as pastor at the end of the year.

I plan to stay on as a member and to serve the church anyway I can. I love WGPBC and the cause of Christ as practiced among the Primitive Baptists. At this point in my life I would like some able men to come among us and take over the duties of pastor. Sixteen of my relatives have joined WGPBC and I feel like the rest of the members are family also. Pat and I love Winter Garden and our life here. We feel like this is where we belong.

Please keep WGPBC in your prayers as we search for a new pastor.



We rejoiced to receive new members Olivia Davis and John Harvey by letter. We hope we can be a blessing to them for years to come.

Taking a look back. Denise Wintersein, E.W. MacDonald, and Carroll Phillips all joined Winter Garden Church in the 1970's and still attend today.





Wishing frequent visitor Jenai Farrell God's blessings as she moves to Washington to pursue her education.

Enjoyed sweet fellowship with Hank and Inella Morrow and Inella's caretaker Sheri.



Our Need of Grace (continued from page 1)

but He will give us the grace to endure it, just as the Hebrew children. God did not remove the fiery furnace, but He favored them by walking with them through it.

Our **justification** is by grace. "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." - Romans 3:24. What mortal inhabited the realms of glory to beg Christ to descend to the cross for their sins? It must have been loving, divine favor that moved the Son to intercede and die for sinners.

Some may say, "Has this grace been extended to me? So many times I feel to be a castaway." According to Paul, this loving favor extends to every object of God's love. "But unto every one of us is given grace according to

the measure of the gift of Christ." - Ephesians 4:7. Has the Lord ever answered just one **prayer** in such a way that you knew without a shadow of a doubt that He heard you. If so, we can be sure that we have been favored. But we would go further for our evidence. Has God blessed you to believe in Christ, the Savior of sinners? Man, by nature, will never believe this good report. This is a product of grace (Acts 18:27, 28). Has He blessed you with convicting grace, that loving favor that brings us to the door of repentance? This must be divine favor for many have never been blessed to see their pitiful condition. And what about **restraining** grace? Where would the world be today without this grace? And on a personal

level, where would we all be? As Spurgeon said, "We all have enough gunpowder in our hearts that the devil, with just one spark, could ruin us." If we can say yes to any of these, we must know that we have been highly favored for these blessings are hidden from much of the world.

We close today with a prayer I found in an old book, recorded by one Duchess of Gordon: "O Lord, give me grace to feel the need of Thy grace; give me grace to ask for Thy grace; and when in Thy grace Thou hast given me grace, give me grace to use Thy grace."



Sister Leta (not pictured) continues to share God's love through teaching others how to quilt. Kristin Bullard, Kyla Blanchard and Rachel Blanchard (top left to right) Abby Anderson, Hannah Anderson, Lorianne Lawrence and Nathan Lawrence. (bottom left to right)





Clyde Blanchard enjoyed a visit from his daughter Jen, from San Francisco.

Brother E.W. MacDonald enjoyed worshipping with family Mark and Debbie Earnest.



Increasing the Odds - by Elder Dolph Painter

The Lord told Gideon, I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites – Judges 6:16. Gideon spun around and relayed the following message to his soldiers, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian – Judges 7:15.

Well, Gideon didn't exactly spin around and share God's message of deliverance. Actually, several events took place between Judges 6:16 & 7:15. The series of events I find most interesting is the manner in which God tweaked the numbers for this battle:

- The Lord didn't like Israel's odds. As a matter of fact, God told Gideon that if Israel's 32,000 whipped Midian's 125,000, Israel would get a big head. So, Gideon told 22,000 of his soldiers to pack up and head for home – Judges 7:1-3.
- The Lord still didn't like the odds. God told Gideon that if Israel's 10,000 whipped Midian's 125,000 Israel might get confused [about] who delivered them. So, Gideon told another 9,700 of his soldiers to pack up and head for home – Judges 7:3-8.
- Even with the odds 300 to 125,000, the Lord

wasn't completely satisfied. God told Gideon He wanted to make extra sure that when Israel's 300 whipped Midian's 125,000, Israel would recognize that God and God alone delivered them. So Gideon had his soldiers put aside their weapons and armed them with pitchers, trumpets, and lamps – Judges 7:16.

Three hundred unarmed men against 125,000 armed men were numbers the Lord found to His liking.

You see, God wasn't concerned with the Midianites; they were whipped before the battle ever begun. Although, God was concerned with the Israelite's conversion, so God worked the numbers to increase the likelihood of conversion.

Paul said, "...for when I am weak, then am I strong." - 2 Corinthians 12:10 I believe Paul to be teaching, I am strongest when I am most dependent upon God. Stripped men see God the most clearly.



It is always such a blessing to have visitors worship with us. Sister Kristin Bullard, with her dad Scott, sister Emily and Uncle Steve. (top left) Yanika Pitt and her mother Cynthia Ellis. (top right) Margaret Wehner, Zelma Trotter, her niece Paula Winkle, from PA, and Norma. (middle right) Barbara and Gyovanna Cavalcante and their dear friend Mirtes. (bottom right) Les and Michelle Stanley, visiting from Georgia. (bottom left)



Announcements

Las Vegas Primitive Baptist Church – Proceedings of Constitution

Compiled and written by Elder Buddy Abernathy

On Wednesday evening, July 13th, a group of around 35 Primitive Baptists gathered at the home of Sister Adrienne Uselding in Las Vegas for the purpose of constituting a Primitive Baptist Church. The evening began with a traditional Primitive Baptist worship service consisting of singing, prayer by Brother John Morgan Owens of Alabama, and preaching by Elder Craig Butler, pastor of Tuscaloosa Primitive Baptist Church of Alabama. We then gathered around the swimming pool and, while singing a hymn, gave the opportunity for believers to request baptism. The following brothers and sisters came forward: Nancy Anderson, Janyce Benson, Michael & Valerie Flock, Frances Reilley, Adrienne Uselding, Austyn Uselding, Michael Uselding, and Margo Young. Elder Buddy Abernathy then administered the ordinance of baptism.

Following the baptisms, we reassembled in the house for the purpose of constituting a church. The following elders assembled themselves to form a presbytery: Buddy Abernathy (AL), Craig Blair (AL), Sam Bryant (AL), Tracy Frederickson (CA), Dwayne Hooven (GA), Tom MacClaren (OR), Chris McCool (AL), Don Richards (TX), and Matthew Sonstegard (CA). The presbytery elected Elder Buddy Abernathy to serve as moderator and assign the various duties pertaining to the constitution. Elder Abernathy appointed Elder Don Richards to serve as clerk, Elder Tracy Frederickson to read the Articles of Faith, Elder Tom MacClaren to read the Church Covenant, Elder Dwayne Hooven to read the Rules of Decorum, and Elders Sam Bryant and Chris McCool to deliver the charge. The documents were then read; affirmed by Brother Michael Flock, spokesman for the group; and approved by the presbytery. Having now formed a church, the members voted to receive Sister Cheryl McClellan by letter. The charge was then delivered by Elders Bryant and McCool, and Elder Abernathy concluded the service with prayer.

The church then had a communion service in which Elder Abernathy spoke concerning the unleavened bread, Elder McCool concerning the wine, and Elder Bryant concerning the washing of the saint's feet. Having concluded all of the services, the congregation disbanded with expressions of love and fellowship towards one another.

The members of the Las Vegas Primitive Baptist Church would like to express their sincere appreciation to all of those among the Primitive Baptists who have encouraged and supported them in their endeavors to form a church. They also request prayer on their behalf that the Lord will send them a pastor. The church currently meets at 10 A.M. each Sunday morning at the Bill & Lillie Heinrich YMCA located at 4141 Meadows Lane in Las Vegas. For more information, contact Michael Flock at 702-273-8716 or Valerie Flock at 702-273-8719.

We were blessed to worship with the Warren family. Karen (Warren) Sharp, Mike Warren, Ellie Sharp, David and Kathy Warren.





Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church
P.O. Box 771048
Winter Garden, FL 34777

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
MID FLORIDA
PERMIT #12145

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Help us keep costs low!
Let us know before you move.
Thanks!*

Please come visit us!

New Hope Newsletter



Barb, Phil, Robin, and Jeanne Hughes from Wisconsin helped to collect supplies for various places, including a school for the deaf near Kakamega.

