



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister
Eddie F. Ray III

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist

Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.....1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

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Grace And Peace

Cecil May, Jr.

Paul uses “grace and peace,” usually adding a few words and phrases, as his greeting in all of his epistles. The most frequent version is, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Charles Hodge is fond of saying “In Bible study the unfamiliar needs to be read; the familiar needs to be read more closely.” Let’s look more closely at this familiar greeting.

Chairain (translated “greeting”) was the usual greeting when two Greek-speakers met. It is also how they regularly began epistles (see Acts 23:26). Its connotation is something like, “good luck,” or “have a good day.” “Grace” in Paul’s greeting is *charis*, obviously a related word. Paul “baptized and sanctified” the two common greetings, “grace and peace,” by adding “from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” “Grace” from God and Christ is not just “luck” or “fortune.” It is a gift from God, planned before the worlds began, which when appropriated by living faith, brings salvation from sin and a purpose for life.

“By grace” is the only way a person who has sinned can be saved. No sacrifice we are able to offer will take away our sin, no material price is sufficient to pay for forgiveness, no amount of good works can erase even one sin. We are “unprofitable servants” (Luke 17:10), because any good work we can do we are obligated to do; doing it just keeps us from committing a sin of omission (James 4:17).

The opportunity to give liberally to help accomplish good works is a grace (2 Cor. 8:1,7). The gifts we exercise as we serve, exhort, give, lead and show mercy are “according to the grace given to us” (Rom. 12:6-8). Paul said, “By the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Cor. 15:10), and, I suspect, whatever is good and effective in us is by the grace of God as well.

“Peace” (Heb., *shalom*, Gr., *eirene*) was the common Jewish greeting in Bible times, as it is to this day in that part of the world. “The peace” which is from God is more than an assurance of nonaggression. It is “peace with God” (Rom. 5:1) because as sin, which produced enmity, has been forgiven and removed; we are reconciled to God. Jews and Gentiles were as estranged from one another as any two warring groups today, but the gospel brings peace with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Regardless of their race, nationality or color (Eph. 2:11-22). We are all reconciled to God in one body through the cross. Then, replacing anxiety with prayer and thanksgiving, we have a “peace of God which passes all understanding” (Phil. 4:7).

So, in his epistleatory greetings, Paul transforms the common greetings of Gentiles and Jews into a foretaste of the blessings of the gospel about which he writes.

(*Preacher Talk*, 2017)

Indispensables

Hugh Fulford

The dictionary defines “indispensable” as “not subject to being set aside or neglected; absolutely necessary; essential.” There are a number of indispensables connected with the gospel. These cannot be set aside or neglected.

Blood

The blood of Christ is indispensable. In Hebrews 9:22 the inspired penman states, “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and *without shedding of blood* is no remission.” We often emphasize the human side of salvation and well we must. But our faith, repentance, confession, and baptism save us because of the shedding of Christ’s blood! Jesus declared, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (Matt. 26:28). Again it is said, “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us” (Heb. 9:12). The Christian’s cleansing from sins committed after baptism is dependent upon the blood of Christ. John wrote, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). While modernists ridicule the necessity of the atonement and the shedding of Christ’s blood, the Bible is bold to assert that it is a gospel indispensable!

Faith

In Hebrews 11:6 it is stated, “but *without faith* it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Faith summarizes man’s total response to God’s will. Paul wrote, “for by grace are ye saved through faith” (Eph. 2:8). He states, “therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1). The gospel is God’s power to save “every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16). In a world of doubt and disbelief, let us not minimize the necessity of faith!

Works

Still further, James declared, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith *without works* is dead also” (James 2:26). While faith is man’s response to God’s grace, faith that is not active is not saving faith as can be seen from a casual reading of James 2:14-26. Jesus asked, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). Let us not lose sight of the fact that works of righteousness, works commanded by the Lord, are indispensable to our salvation. (Acts 10:34-35).

Holiness

Holiness is a Christian indispensable. In Hebrews 12:14 we are exhorted, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, *without which* no man shall see the Lord.” Earlier in this portion of the Hebrew letter (12:1-11) the

writer had discussed one way holiness is achieved—by the chastening of the Lord. In fact, it is definitely stated that the Lord’s chastening is in order “that we might become partakers of his holiness” (Heb. 12:10). Holiness means separateness. We are to be separate from the world and as much like our Lord—in word, thought, and deed—as humanly possible. The Christian is under the demand of holiness. Peter said, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:15,16). Indeed, holiness is a Christian indispensable; without it we shall never see the Lord.

Love

Christian love is indispensable. Paul wrote, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and *have not charity* [love], I am nothing” (1 Cor. 13:2). Love is the queen of all virtues. Regardless of what else may be true of us, if we have not love—love for God and love for man—we are nothing. Thus, our Lord said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matt. 22:37-40). God’s word says, “Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” (Rom. 13:8). Later it is said, “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10).

Christ

Christ is the great indispensable. In the parable of the vine and the branches Jesus said, “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for *without me* ye can do nothing” (John 15:3). Indeed, Christ is the foundation of it all. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). The person without Christ may be existing, but he is not living. “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:2). Do you have Christ? Have you put him on by being baptized into him? (Rom. 6:3,4). Is he living in you? (Gal. 2:20).

Let us not neglect or attempt to set aside that which God’s word declares to be indispensable!

(*Gospel Advocate*, October 23, 1980)

PRESIDE: C.J. Stafford
ASSIST: Jack Braddock
 Ian Huff
 Oakley White

Jason White
 Cedric Huff
 Evan Manning
 Jack Woods

A.M. OPENING: Dan Dawson
A.M. CLOSING: Robert Jeter
P.M. OPENING: Irwin Thomas
P.M. CLOSING: Tom Wacaster

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK of August 5, 2018

BIBLE STUDY: 210
 A.M. WORSHIP: 265
 P.M. WORSHIP: N/A
 CONTRIBUTION: \$14,659.00

HOMEBOUND

Virginia Ditto	Albert & Ruth House
Hazel Eskew	Betty Jones
Doris Jean Cole	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Anita Hopper	Velton & Dorothy Trimm

OUR SICK

Ill at home: Phil Houston, Dean Pipkin, and Sharon Reed.

Martha McKelvey, Germantown Methodist, Room 307 South.

Patsy DeShields, Germantown Methodist, Room 323 West, (no visitors please.)

Wayne Sanders, recovering from surgery, St. Francis Hospital, Room 665.

Nick Martin, grandson of Doris Cooper, recovering from an accident.

New Classes to Begin

Sunday, August 12:

Greg Mangrum will begin a study of *I & II Timothy* and *Titus* in the auditorium.

Keith Mosher will continue his study of *Luke* in the Chapel Hall.

Wednesday, August 15:

Barry Grider will begin a study of *The Divided Kingdom* in the fellowship hall.

Matthew Jones will continue his study *Taking Sin Seriously* in the fellowship hall

Baptized: Payton Willis

Requested Prayers: Lisa Jeter and Martha McKelvey.

Placing Membership: Clay Adams

HEARTS AND HANDS

Team "E" (JIM WOODY) will meet Saturday, August 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Jim and Edwyna Woody. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert. Contact Edwyna at (901) 484-1569 or edwinner@comcast.net.

Team "A" (ROBERT BERCH) will receive assignment cards August 12.

TEAM "D" (RANDY ELLIOTT) will meet Friday, August 24 at 6:30 at the home of Carolyn Hayes for a covered dish dinner. Please see Carolyn or Mary Elliott for a map.

EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S COMBINED CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

2018 SUMMER SERIES Wednesdays, June 20-August 8. Theme: *Add to Your Faith...(A Study of the Christian Graces)*. Speaker August 8: Billy Bland. Topic: *Add to Your Faith...Charity*.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON Sunday, August 12 following morning worship. **ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING** immediately after luncheon beginning at 12:30. Zones 3 and 4 will be responsible for set up and clean up.

JC'S BACK TO SCHOOL BASH Sunday, August 12 at the home of Jason and Leah White following the afternoon service. Please see Leah White or Melissa Brown for what to bring.

YOUNG ADULT DEVO Friday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Robert and Julie Berch.

BABY SHOWER: If you would be able to help with a shower honoring Lauren Teachout on Sunday, August 26, please see Leah Connell or Fritzi Rickles.

KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, August 26.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO Timothy Nichols in the passing of his brother-in-law, Donald Marshall.

Last week's solution:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness. Jeremiah 23:5-6

CORNERSTONE

Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

NDA EHT ROLD LLEDCA USMLEA NIGAA EHT TRIHD TMIE. NDA EH SROEA NDA WTNE OT LIE, NDA SIDA, RHEE MA I; ROF UTOH TSIDD LLCA EM. NDA LIE VRPIEEEDC TTHA EHT ROLD HDA LLEDCA EHT LIHDC. TRROHFEEE LIE SIDA UTON USMLEA, OG, EIL WOND: NDA TI SLLHA EB, FI EH LLCA EEHT, TTHA UTOH TSLHA YSA, SPKEA, ROLD; ROF YTH VTSRNEA TRHHEEA. OS USMLEA WTNE NDA YLA WOND NI SIH PLECA.

Priceless

Andrew Lankford

It's so easy to feel good when things are calm and peaceful,
when birds are singing, when the sun is rich and warm.
But when things are not so calm and peaceful,
when fear and doubt and loneliness fall like flames,
it's not so easy to feel good.
One thing is for certain, however,
even in the midst of a dark and stormy night,
Christ died for us! That will never change.
As long as we live and breathe that will never change.
No matter what we are facing, no
matter how difficult things become,
Christ loved us so much He died for us.
That great sacrifice makes us priceless in the eyes
of a God so strong He created the universe
with the sound of His voice, a God
so intelligent He composed the greatest
love story ever told, a God so limitless
He knows the end from the beginning.
We are indeed priceless, even when
we may not feel like it, even when
we believe all hope is lost.

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