



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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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 Faith (continued) Winfred Clark

Grace and Faith Are Closely Related

It is interesting to see the number of times one can find both grace and faith referred to in the same passage. At least five times in the New Testament you will find the terms faith or believe, together in the same passage. Take a moment to look at these cases. First, there is the time when a discussion was under way in Jerusalem concerning the Gentiles. It had been said that they would have to follow the law of circumcision (Acts 15:1). After there had been discussion of this, Peter said,

But we believe that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they (Acts 15:11).

In this case the believing is that concerned one being saved by grace. Two, we have the case of the work of Apollos in Achaia. Here he helped those "which had believed through grace" (Acts 18:27). This would mean that they have had the opportunity by the grace of God to believe. Again, you will find these together in Paul's letter to the Romans. Here he says,

Therefore it is of faith that it might be by grace (Rom. 4:16).

One could not say in this context that one is saved by faith alone or grace alone. But note also, Paul would later say,

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace... (Rom. 5:2).

Faith is here set as the key to the riches of God's grace. Finally, we have that passage where Paul writes to the saints in Ephesus.

For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8).

If there had ever been any doubt about the relationship of grace and faith, this passage should surely solve the difficulty.

We need to take time to look more closely at these in relation to our salvation. One can do this in several ways. He can take a look at other passages that speak of the subject of salvation. For example: we have our Lord's discussion concerning salvation with His apostles. He told them to,

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved... (Mark 16:15-16).

There is no question at all about the matter of salvation being discussed at this point. We know that Jesus knew how men were saved. He set forth the conditions and He paid the price for man's redemption. Would any of us say of the person who believed and was baptized, that he was not saved by grace? We all know what Paul and others have had to say about the matter of salvation being by grace. In view of that we would not deny grace was present in that case.

(continued page 2)

This would have to be an understood thing. But wherein would one find the grace of God in this case? Would it not be found in the message of the gospel to lost sinners? Paul spoke of “the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24). The gospel is both a product of God’s grace and a message of His grace. Without the gospel one could not be saved. He would not know of the provisions of grace, such as “he by the grace of God tasted death for every man” (Heb. 2:9). But the gospel faithfully preached will present the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4). But the gospel faithfully preached will also set forth the commands of the gospel. Is this not the case with Peter and the apostles on Pentecost? Surely we would all agree that they did indeed preach the gospel to those who were assembled. These were told,

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made this same Jesus whom you have crucified both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36).

There can be no question about the essentiality of faith. This was required. When they would ask what they were to do (Acts 2:37). They were told to...

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

There can be no question about the fact of demands being set forth by the preaching of the gospel. If they would ever be saved by the grace of God, and that is the only way they could be saved, then they would have to obey the commands that are spelled out by the gospel. So the gospel facts and commands are definitely related to man’s salvation by grace. There can be no place in the preaching of the apostles for one to think of “grace alone” or “faith alone.” We do find that both grace and faith are involved in the salvation of these who responded to the call of the gospel (Acts 2:41).

There are other instances where this can be seen. We have the record of the conversion of Cornelius. You will find that he is told to send for a man by the name Simon, whose surname is Peter (Acts 10:5). This man was to come and it is said “he will tell thee what thou oughtest to do” (Acts 10:6). We have the record of the fact that Peter did indeed go to the house of this Gentile. Peter spoke of Cornelius and those who were gathered about the fact that “in every nation, he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted by him” (Acts 10:35). He also spoke of the fact that “whosoever believeth in him shall receive the remission of sins” (Acts 10:43). We also know that Peter commanded that same group to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48). This inspired apostle set forth the conditions and commands.

If you take the time to look closely you will see that these Gentiles were saved in the same way that the Jews were saved on Pentecost. The same preacher spoke to both groups was inspired by the same Spirit. You would therefore expect the same commands to be given for these would have heard the same gospel. If you have any doubts that this is the case, then all you have to do is move over a few chapters in the book of Acts. After Peter had preached both sermons you will find him in Jerusalem discussing the matter of the salvation for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Take a moment to look at what he had to say.

Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us: and put not difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith (Acts 15:7-9).

So Peter would say there is no difference in the way they were saved and the way the Gentiles were saved. But was grace involved in their salvation? Let Peter give the answer:

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved, even as they (Acts 15:11).

So there is absolutely no question as to both the Jew and Gentile being saved in the same way by the gospel. They would have to obey the commands of the gospel in the name of Jesus Christ. But their obedience would not negate the grace of God. Neither would grace exclude the commands of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We can therefore see both the matter of faith and grace involved in every case of conversion in the book of Acts. There is no exception to this. There was none in the days of the New Testament, and there is no exception today. Yes, we are saved by grace and faith, but by neither of these alone.

(Fundamentals of The Faith, Third Annual Truth In Love Lectureship, May 1993)

PRESIDE: Andy Ammons Warren Davenport
ASSIST: Jack Braddock Wade Braddock
 Lewis Elliott Cason Grider
 Jonathan Rickles Sam Rickles

A.M. OPENING: Marion Maund
A.M. CLOSING: John Connell
P.M. OPENING: Harold Mangrum
P.M. CLOSING: Mike Reed

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 19, 2018

BIBLE STUDY: 165
 A.M. WORSHIP: 215
 P.M. WORSHIP: 155
 CONTRIBUTION: \$14,593.00

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: Pearl Washington and Theresa Youngblood.

Marci Cordon, will have surgery this week, Methodist North.

Patsy DeShields, Germantown Methodist, Room 449 West, (no visitors please.)

Phil Houston, recovering from surgery at home (no visitors please.)

Lisa Howard, will have surgery August 29.

Betty Jones, Ave Maria Home Care, Bartlett.

Martha McKelvey, Memphis Jewish Home.

Taylor Caffey, father of Kathy Maund, will have shoulder replacement surgery August 24.

Frances Maund, mother of Marion Maund, will be undergoing radiation treatments for approximately 6 weeks.

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "C" (DANNY BRADDOCK) and TEAM "D" (RANDY ELLIOTT) will receive assignment cards August 26.

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

EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES will resume September 11.

SALT (for ladies) will meet Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

BABY SHOWER honoring Lauren Teachout on Sunday, August 26 after morning service in the fellowship hall. She is having a boy. She is registered at Target and babylist.com.

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.

Dear Forest Hill Church of Christ Family,

Thank you for honoring Mom's life with the beautiful spray of flowers. She enjoyed attending church and all the friends she made there. She really looked forward to the monthly lunches with the women's group.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

The Family of Clarine Justice

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Last week's solution:

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

CORNERSTONE

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

UTB TSIH I YSA, EH WIHHC WTSOHE YSRPNLIGA SLLHA RPEA SOLA YSRPNLIGA; NDA EH WIHHC WTSOHE YUUTONLLIFB SLLHA RPEA SOLA YUUTONLLIFB. YVREE NMA RONIGDCCA SA EH UTSRPPPOHE NI SIH TRHEA, OS TLE MIH VIGE; TON YURNLIGGGD, RO FO YTSSNIEEC: ROF OGD VTOLHE A URLHFEEC VRIGE.

God Works For Good

Jack P. Lewis
1919-2018

God is able to take the most dastardly acts of people and use them to accomplish his purpose when those people had no intention whatever of serving him. Nor could their contemporaries see any good in what they did. This is not to affirm that “All is for the best,” as people sometimes say. Neither is it to affirm that people suffering will grasp what is going on and find it pleasant.

Joseph’s brothers, out of jealousy over their father’s favoritism, sold Joseph into Egyptian slavery. It is beyond my imagination to think that, in the pit in Dothan, in chains on the road to Egypt, or in the dungeon in Egypt after being slandered by Potiphar’s wife, Joseph was clapping his hand and shouting, “All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.”

When Joseph was overseer of Egypt, the famine had come, and he had saved his people from starvation, then Joseph could say to his suppliant brothers, “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” (Gen 50:20).

The Israelites in the desert said, “Because the Lord hated us he has brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us” (Deut 1:27; 9:28). Actually, the exodus proved to be the greatest act of love of God toward Israel to that point.

The Babylonian aggressive military machine rolled over the Middle East capturing Jerusalem, burning its temple, executing Judah’s leading citizens, and taking into exile those from whom future leadership could come. Meanwhile through the prophet Jeremiah, God was speaking of “Nebuchadnezzar . . . , my servant” (Jer. 43:10).

Judas’s desire for money put Jesus into the hands of the Jewish leaders and facilitated the crucifixion for which Jesus had come into the world.

I cannot explain the vicissitudes of my life, nor can I explain the hardships of yours. God has not made clear how all of his purposes work; but in all things, he works together for good to those who love him (Rom 8:28).

I would not like to be used by him as Joseph’s brothers were, as Nebuchadnezzar was, or as Judas was. So I think I will keep on trying to learn and to conform to his will as best as I can understand it. Perhaps he also can use that for good.

(Encouragement From An Elder)

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