

# The McLish Avenue Messenger

This is the message we have heard from Him... God is Light (1 John 1:5).

July 12, 2009

MCLISH AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST • 607 McLish SW • Ardmore, OK 73401



This New Testament passage quotes an Old Testament passage. Where is the Old Testament passage found?

*“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”*

Matthew 4:16 (NKJV)

Evangelist

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 am

Worship ..... 10:30 am

Worship ..... 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm

The Importance of Words

## Grace

Ben Bailey

Another vitally important word in Christianity is grace. The Greek word for grace is *charis*. Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines grace as "kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved" (Thayers, pg. 666). Concerning God's grace, Vine's notes "in this respect there is stress on its freeness and universality, its spontaneous character, as in the case of God's redemptive mercy, and the pleasure or joy He designs for the recipient." Of all the words one could ponder, the grace of God is one of the most amazing. God's grace has provided us with so many wonderful things in Christianity. Notice just a few of these:

1. The gift of Christ (2 Cor. 8:9).
2. Salvation (Eph. 2:8-9).
3. The ability to deal with trials and tribulations (2 Cor. 12:9).
4. Justification (Rom. 3:24)
5. Jesus death for every man (Heb. 2:9).

While grace is a very important word in the New Testament, we must also recognize that many denominations have construed this word to mean something that it does not. The first way in which some have construed the grace of God is by saying that one cannot fall from grace. This is the doctrine of "once saved always saved." While this is a very comforting doctrine for many, it is not based on the Bible. In Galatians 5:4 Paul said, "You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace." Notice that in the first century, in a letter written to Christians, Paul specifically said they had (past tense) fallen from grace. In fact, the word "from" is not really the best translation. The Greek preposition used is a form of

*Continued inside ...*

# Grace

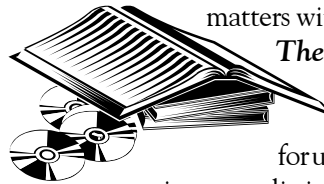
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ek, which literally means “out of.” Not only is Paul saying you have fallen from grace, he is saying you have fallen out of God’s grace. Question: Where do you originally have to be to fall out of something? One cannot read this verse and say that a person can not fall from grace. Also, Peter said to Simon the sorcerer, “Your money perish with you...” (Acts 8:20). Notice that Peter said to a man who had been saved that just as his money would perish physically he was going to perish spiritually. Can anyone really read this account and say that we cannot fall from grace?

Another way in which the grace of God has been perverted is by the doctrine of salvation by grace alone. As we introduce this thought we want to make clear that we do believe that the gift of salvation is completely and utterly based on God’s grace, but this does not negate man’s response of action. In Ephesians 2:8 Paul said, “By grace are you saved through faith...” It is important to notice that we are saved by grace, but this salvation is also based on our faith. God has done his part by providing salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:1, Jn. 1:17), and we must do our part by obeying His will for us (Faith-obedient trust in God, Heb. 5:8-9, Matt. 7:21).

The words that we have looked at the last few weeks should make every Christian fall down on his knees and thank God for His love and grace. May we always make it our aim to exalt the love and grace of God in truth.

**Media available** If you’d like a copy of a specific lesson taught from the pulpit, please write down your name and which lesson(s) you are interested in and give to Melba Wallace. Don’t forget that tracts are available in the tract racks at the back of the auditorium and in the hallway to the offices. These can be used in discussing religious matters with friends and neighbors.



**The Gospel of Christ** CDs and DVDs are available at the back of the auditorium for use in your own Bible study or in evangelistic efforts. If there is a CD or DVD that is not out that you’d like copies of, please use the order forms in the tract rack on the right side as you are facing the back. Also available are transcripts of **The Gospel of Christ** media. Don’t forget to check out [www.thegospelofchrist.com](http://www.thegospelofchrist.com) to access all the media available through that effort.

## Outreach Groups

### Group 1

Chock & Mary Aldridge  
Ron & Peggy Jones  
Ray & Tomi Harness  
James & Tammy Gravelle  
Ronnie Byrd  
Steve Mann  
Scott & Tina Saner  
Jaccie Pirtle

### Group 2

James & Dana Meece  
David & Linda Johnson  
Ben & Christie Bailey  
Betty Higgins  
Harold & Martha Dillard  
Pat Ballard & Vickie Fletcher  
Bill & Gail Stewart  
Earl & Sue Mann

### Group 3

Vernon & Arlene Castleman  
Sharon Ryan & Christy Murray  
Cecil Hargrove  
Lovell & Mary Hughes  
Lonnie Harris  
Rick & Suzanne Tidwell  
Tom Matlock  
Sharlene Wallis & Rebecca



Darlene Pennington's brother, **A. W. Roberts**, fell and broke his hip. Melba Wallace's sister, **Wanda Barnum**, is having health problems. **W. O. Clark** is scheduled to have a pacemaker and stint installed in the near future. **Ken Saner**, Scott's father, had a pacemaker installed last week. Please continue to remember: **Kevin Pendergrass** •

Melinda Wilson's uncle, **Tom Teilborg** • **Joyce Gilliam** • **Joanne Craft**, April Willis' mother • **Betty Higgins** • **Mona Blanton** • **Murray Goforth** • **Tabitha Ray-Barton**, Rick & Mary Ray's daughter • **Danielle Fontenot** • **Tom Matlock's** brother-in-law • **Jean Cary's** nephew • **Jeff Willingham** • **Rebecca Stafford** • **Margaret Sparger** • Glenda Vinson's sister, **Marie Daube** • **Lisa Moss**, wife of Robert Moss • **Jim Bowman** • **Frank Pennington** • **Debra Thomas' mother** • **Earl & Sue Mann** • **Marty Stinson** • **Donald Moyers** • **Pat Morrison**, Olga Sue Stinson's sister • **Virgie Burchfield** • Norma Perkins' friend, **Jerry Lover** • **Dorthea Phillips** • **Madeline Minyard** • **Jerry & Glenda Vinson** • **Harry Phipps** • Sharon Ryan's mother, **Mary Griffeth** • Larry Ryan's mother, **Lorraine** • Peggy Jones' sister, **Mary Warner** • **Pat Ballard's mother** • **Jamie Feroli's mother, JoAnn Watson, and grandmother** • and those shut in/nursing home members.

**Our sympathy** Please remember Sean Bugbee and family in your prayers as Sean's grandmother passed away in Wyoming. This was his mother's mother. Many of you remember Les and Julia from when they attended services here at McLish. Please keep this family in your thoughts, prayers and actions during this time of sorrow.



**Blood drive** Our blood drive is today after morning services. If you haven't signed up, but are still interested in giving, see Scott Saner to see when there are openings in the schedule. Only whole blood will be taken during the drive. Oklahoma Blood Institute will have their mobile unit in the parking lot, but check-in will be done in the hallway to the back. Everyone's willingness to donate is greatly appreciated.

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

### July

- 11 Melba Culbreth
- 12 Lonnie Harris  
Lori Patrick  
Gail Stewart
- 14 Nancy Bugbee
- 16 David & Linda Johnson '65
- 17 Virgie Burchfield  
David Johnson
- 18 Ethan Aldridge  
Collin Aldridge
- 19 Cody Murray  
Colten Brinkley
- 20 Bobby "Trey" Austin  
Sue Creecy
- 21 Barton Pettit
- 24 Doug & Rhenea Aldridge  
Steve & Toni Mann '87
- 26 Thomas Matlock
- 29 James & Dana Meece '72
- 30 Colin Saner

### August

- 2 Kevin & Chelsea Pendergrass '08  
Kathie Clifton
- 3 W.O. & Gloria Clark '62
- 4 Paul Giles
- 6 Shelly Hicks  
Ashley Castleman
- 10 Clayton Austin
- 11 Ashley Grant  
Andy & Melody Smith '73
- 12 Judy Grammer
- 14 Craig Anderson
- 15 Melissa Waller

**Teachers** Anyone willing to teach a class for the new quarter, please check with Todd Hicks. If you would like to assist in a class, he can also find a spot for you! Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

**Children's homes** Westview will be here the week of July 13th and is requesting: Rotel, Velveeta, 100% juice, canned fruit, sweetened cereal, canned chicken, potato/tortilla chips, canned soda, bottled water, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, peanut butter/cheese crackers, Pine Sol, AA and AAA batteries, shampoo, conditioner, 13/39 gallon trash bags, paper towels, bathroom tissue, Spray & Wash and dryer sheets.



**Prayer request** Joshua Popejoy will be deployed to Iraq in August. He is the youngest son of Rick and Mona Popejoy who currently work with the congregation in Lindsey. They ask for prayers not only for Josh, but for all those serving in foreign lands.

## Those to Serve Today

Announcements..... Randy Scott

Lord's Table	Ron Jones Kenneth Parker	Jerry Beavers Doug Aldridge	Todd Hicks Robert McClanahan
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Song Leader.....	Vernon Castleman	PM Opening Prayer.....	Earl Mann
AM Opening Prayer .....	Lovel Hughes	PM Closing Prayer.....	John Johnson
AM Scripture .....	James Gravelle	PM Lord's Supper.....	Jerry Beavers
AM Closing Prayer .....	Andy Smith		

Greeters July 12 & 15..... David & Linda Johnson, Ronnie Byrd

## Elders

**Charles Aldridge**  
710 15th NW  
223-4602

**Vernon Castleman**  
3533 Dogwood Road  
223-0983

**James Meece**  
909 Davis  
223-7637

## Deacons

**Fred Bellomy**  
223-3240

**Martin Dotson**  
226-6450

**James Gravelle**  
223-7911

**Todd Hicks**  
504-2829

**Ron Jones**  
223-7268

**Steve Mann**  
223-7246

**Scott Saner**  
226-2920

**Jerry Vinson**  
223-3865



Today

noon Blood Drive

**July 15**

7:00 pm Floyd Johnson gives devotional

**July 16**

6:00 pm 39 & Over meet

**July 22**

7:00 pm FA Shellenberger gives devotional

**July 29**

7:00 pm Scott Saner gives devotional



**August 2**

noon Fellowship meal

**August 5**

7:00 pm James Gravelle gives devotional

**August 12**

7:00 pm Ben Bailey gives devotional

**August 19**

7:00 pm Todd Hicks gives devotional

Scripture from page 1, 2