

The McLish Avenue Messenger

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

March 1, 2009

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



*The following is the last verse of
what book of the Bible?*

“Your injury has no healing, Your
wound is severe. All who hear news
of you will clap their hands over
you, for upon whom has not your
wickedness passed continually?”

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 Grace to the Soul

Ben Bailey

In Eph 2:8 Paul wrote, “For by grace have you been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God.” In this text, the inspired apostle tells us that grace plays a vital role in the salvation of mankind. The subject of grace has been a rather controversial subject by the denominational world. Grace is so controversial because many people try to shape the grace of God into what they think it should mean, instead of what the Holy Spirit intended for it to originally mean. Actually, God’s grace hits right at the heart and core of everything man is or ever will be. The importance of grace to the soul is elaborated on by the Apostle Paul in this text. To correctly understand grace we must define it in context.

In Eph 2:1 the Apostle Paul wrote, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sin.” In this verse Paul reminds the brethren in Ephesus that until Christ they were dead in sin and in a lost state. Ephesus was a Capital City, major seaport, and cultural center among the provinces of Asia Minor. As one would enter the city of Ephesus by ship, the first thing that would come to view was the Temple of Dianna. Dianna was the pagan goddess of love and fertility, and the central figure of idol worship. It is believed that some of the members at the church in Ephesus were once part of this idolatry (Acts 19:23-41), hence they “walked according to the course of the world” (Eph 2:2). Also, in Ephesus the problems of black magic or sorcery (Acts 19:19), sensuality, and sexual uncleanness were very rampant. Those who practiced sorcery believed that they must appease their god or goddess by fulfilling the desires of the flesh in their honor. Since Dianna was the goddess of fertility and love, it is no wonder the Apostle told the brethren they “conducted themselves in the lust of their flesh fulfilling

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Grace

Continued from front page

the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath”(Eph 2:3).

It is evident that the Ephesians were once dead in sin. However, every human being has at one time been just as spiritually dead as the Ephesians. I Jn 3:4 says, “sin is a transgression of God’s law”, and Rom 3:23 says, “ All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” As a result, “Your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you. . .”, and, “the wages of sin is death”(Isa 59:2; Rom 6:23). In light of these passages not only were the Ephesians dead in sin, but you and I have also at one time been dead in sin.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) (Eph 2:4-5). In Eph 2:1-3, man had fallen into the quicksand of sin and was sinking fast, but in verses 4-7 God intervenes by throwing in the life line of Grace. Paul affirms in this passage that a combination of both God’s mercy (Heb 8:12), and His love (Jn 3:16) are the amazing grace of God. An overview definition for the grace of God is, His unmerited favor towards mankind. However, an even more accurate

definition is, when God allows us to receive what we don’t deserve (heaven), and allows us to escape what we do (Hell). An acrostic way to remember grace is God’s Riches At Christ Expense. In essence it could be said that the grace of God ran through the veins of our savior and spilled on the ground at Calvary for all humanity (Titus 2:11-12). I believe the Old Hymn sums it up best,

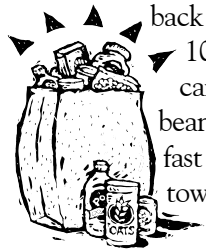
“Amazing Grace!

How Sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found
was blind, but now I see.”

Tax forms If you need a form regarding 2008 donations for tax purposes, Melba has them available in the office.

Children’s homes Westview will be back in March and is requesting: Velveeta, 100% juice, Nestle Quik, applesauce, canned fruit, Kool-Aid/Tang, chili no beans, canned chicken, Pop Tarts/breakfast bars, Pine Sol, toilet paper, paper towels, sunscreen, Off, dish washing soap and liquid laundry soap.



Outreach Groups

Group 1

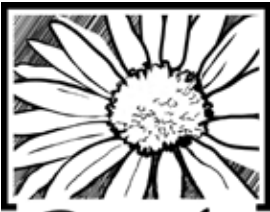
Chock & Mary Aldridge
Ron & Peggy Jones
Ray & Tomi Harness
James & Tammy Gravelle
Ronnie Byrd
Steve Mann
Scott & Tina Saner
Jaccie Pirtle

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



Remember Our Sick

Bo Fore is recovering from having a kidney removed. **Mary Ann Ashley** is having additional testing done this week. Please continue to remember: • Sharon Ryan's mother, **Mary Griffith** • Scott Saner's mother, **Mary** • **Marie Williams** • **Frank Pennington** • **Sue Mann** • Harold & Martha Dillard's daughter **Carole Grammer** • Gloria Clark's father, **KLMurphey** • Lovell & Mary Hughes' son-in-law, **David Eddie** • Sam Attencio's grandfather, **Mel Attencio** • **Rebecca Stafford** • **Jerry Beavers** • **Kent Barker**, the nephew of Jean Carey • **Marty Stinson** • **Ruby Meece**, James' mother • Norma Perkins' friend, **Jerry Lover** • **Ruth Parker** • Ben Tomlinson's mother **Nita** • **Dorthea Phillips** • **Madeline Minyard** • **Jerry & Glenda Vinson** • **Glen Elmore** • **Harry Phipps** • **Nelda Hamilton**, Norma Perkins' sister • Larry Ryan's mother, **Lorraine** • **Judy Grammer** • Peggy Jones' sister, **Mary Warner** • **Tabitha Ray-Barton** • **Pat Ballard's mother** • **Jamie Feroli** • **Jamie Feroli's mother, JoAnn Watson, and grandmother** • and those shut in/nursing home members.

Today at noon we will gather for a fellowship meal. If you are visiting with us, we would love to have you as our guest. There is always an abundance of food and we'd like to get you know you better!



Study the Bible with us

Thursday class Thursdays through April 2nd at 7 pm Ben and Kevin will teach a fundamentals class, "Have You Ever Wondered Why the churches of Christ Teach...?" This class has been advertised in local newspapers and is designed to bring people from the community as well as build up our members. Please help this class be a success.

Camp forms Camp forms have been distributed in the upper school age classes. Additional forms are available in the office. Please get these completed and turned into the office as soon as possible. Our elders are offering to pay the registration fees for all our campers.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

March

- 1 Cap & Teen Stewart '47
- 5 Melody Smith
- 9 Bill Stewart
- 10 Christy Murray
- 11 Madeline Minyard
Justin Mann
W.O. Clark
- 13 Pat Ballard
- 14 James Gravelle
- 15 Toni Mann
Fred & Maxine Bellomy '49
- 16 Lexie Wallace
- 17 Lara Austin
- 21 Martin Dotson
Robert & Pam Schumacher
- 23 Anthony Tipton
- 26 Steve Mann
- 27 Liz Aldridge
- 28 Ronnie & Geri Byrd '75
Oneda Claypool
Jacob Johnson
- 30 Caleb Willis
Harold & Martha Dillard '74

April

- 8 Glenda Vinson
- 9 Martha Dillard
April Dotson
Jerry & Lois Beavers
- 10 Brent Castleman
Kristin Vaughn
Michael Tipton
Brent & Gypsy Castleman '92

