

Got Grace?

By Allen Webster, *House to House Heart to Heart*

... After all these years, is there still “bread enough” on God’s table of grace? Isaiah issued this invitation twenty-seven centuries ago: “Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7). It still stands. God offers “abundant grace” (2 Cor. 4:15) and “abundant mercy” (1 Pet. 1:3, Titus 3:5-6), yea “exceeding abundant” (1 Tim. 1:14). He is able “to save them to the uttermost” that come to Him (Heb. 7:25). Peter said, “an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom . . .” (2 Pet. 1:11) Paul concluded: “Where sin abounded, grace doth much more abound” (Rom. 5:20).

Let’s put this “plenteous grace” to the test in a real world of really bad sinners. Did God live up to His promises?

The publicans and sinners were acknowledged (by others) and admitted (by themselves) as notorious transgressors of God’s Law. Yet when they came to Jesus, they always found “grace enough and to spare” (Luke 15:1-2). More than any other group.

Take the cases of the **sinful woman** whose reputation (quite literally) followed her (Luke 7:36-50) and the woman who got caught in bed with someone not her husband (John 8:2-11). Would grace cover such scandal? Yes! Both found that Jesus had grace enough to cover their fleshly—but forsaken—sins.

What about a **traitor**—one of the inner circle who forsook the Lord “with his eyes open,” even after he had been warned (Matt. 26:34)? Peter was all these; he denied his Master three times the night the Friend of Sinners most needed a friend. He cursed and swore that he did not even know “the man” (Matt. 26:72). Could grace cover such a high-handed misdemeanor? Yes. Jesus forgave Peter. But surely he was on probation; certainly he was counted second-rate . . . damaged goods. No, less than two months later, Jesus tapped him to be the keynote speaker at the greatest revival of all times (Acts 2). He featured him as the key character of the first half of Acts of Apostles, used him to write two Scripture books, and placed him as an elder in a local congregation (1 Pet. 5:1-2).

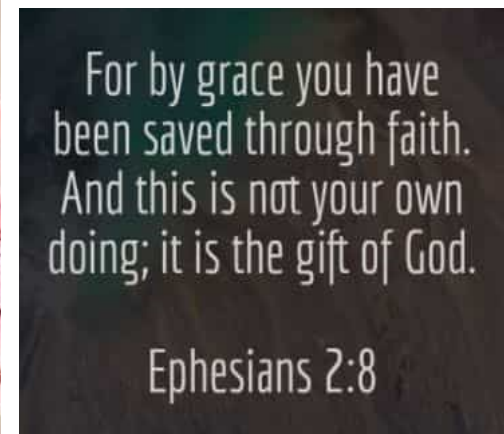
Those on **whose hands God saw crimson stains** that matched His Son’s blood-type were told: “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .” (Acts 2:38). Three thousand washed their hands “in the fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel’s veins” that very day (2:41, Zech. 13:1), and many others took Him up on His offer in coming weeks (Acts 2:47). It would be hard to imagine a case today that would equal that of the Pentecost sinners.

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Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Clifford Lansdown has the flu.
- ◆ Prayers for the thousands of people in southern California who have lost homes, schools, churches, and businesses to the wildfires.
- ◆ Sympathy goes to Peggy and Doyle Johnson after the death of Doyle’s Aunt Wanda Schul in Wichita. She was like a grandmother.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to the family of Gavaughna Smith, sister of Delores, Evalee, Arlene, and Doris. She died Wednesday.
- ◆ Sympathy also goes to the friends and family of Guavana Sims. She and her family were members here for many years before moving to Mtn. Home. Her funeral is 10:30 Saturday at Clinkingbeard’s.
- ◆ These people are taking ongoing treatments for cancer: Tiffany Pleasant takes chemo every two weeks; Amy Myers takes chemo every week; Don Luna takes chemo once a month. Jim Kirkland takes an immuno-therapy treatment every two weeks.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene Butler, Larry Butler, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger.
- ◆ Those in area nursing homes and the home bound.

The adult Bible class on Sunday mornings at 9:30 has just started a study in Revelation. Come join us to learn more about this book.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
1-4	Aleta Collins	1-1	Spencer and Sandra Wade
1-7	Bill Collins	1-10	Matt and Rose Burton
1-9	Bonnie Luna	Birthdays	
1-10	Marty Jones	1-25	Melinda Walrath
1-11	Rose Burton	1-25	Jean Blisard
1-12	Sue Hambelton	1-28	Sangchun Moyers
1-19	Brooke Hambelton	1-29	Sarah Hossman
1-19	Laramie Pleasant	1-30	Waylon Strong
1-24	Frances McGinnis		

Jessica Smith will be serving smash burgers and dessert for fellowship supper Wednesday night before Bible classes.

(continued from inside)

No one has gotten up from God's table still needing a snack of grace. Is your case a difficult one? Have your sins been shocking and frequent? Are your spiritual diseases strange and complex? Consider He who made the earth, stretched out the heavens like a tent to dwell in, has no bound to His strength, nor limit to His might." In six thousand years, He has never failed at anything—will His first failure be saving you? Will you prove too strong for omnipotence, boggle the omniscient mind, or be unlovable for omni-benevolence? If He made you (Gen. 1:28), He can remake you (2 Cor. 5:17). If He claims you (2 Cor. 6:18), He can cleanse you (Acts 22:16). "His hand is not shortened that it cannot save . . ." (Isaiah 59:1).

January Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

1-5 Don Luna
1-12 John Abraham
1-19 Mark Lane
1-26 David Stevens

Communion & Closing Prayer

Tinker Langston
Paul Wade
Titus Smith
Don Reynolds

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: John & Melinda Abraham

The Family News

January 12, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: **Law and Grace**

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#114, *His Grace Reaches Me*; #517, *Heaven Came Down*

#382, *Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?* Communion Service

#129, *Amazing Grace*

Sermon and Invitation

#902, *Nothing but the Blood*

#453, *Love Lifted Me*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us