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"Telling the Truth"

A word from the pastor

Over the past few days I have found great joy as I reflect upon the recent GRBC Elder's Retreat for 2014. The Lord was present and I believe all the men were blessed. For those of you who may not be aware, the retreat is a labor intensive time where we study, pray, fellowship, and seek God's will for GRBC in our upcoming year of ministry.

The theme of our retreat was "Doing the Basics Well." It was a call upon us to remember the foundation upon which the church was established and the purpose on which the church must stay focused. This is vital in our day and age. More and more churches are simply getting too complicated and busy. We are always in danger of wanting to try new things to be relevant and cool for the next

generation; all done with the fear of not growing fast enough or big enough as a church. During our retreat, we were all reminded that the Lord has given us a calling as a church to do one task, "make disciples". As Elders, our role is to equip this congregation so that this task might be effectively accomplished. In order to accomplish this task, the basics we are called to hold firmly to are prayer and ministry of the Word. Friends, we were reminded that prayer and ministry of the word is hard work. But it is work we do out of an overflow of gratitude for the grace of God we have come to know in Christ Jesus.

So, on behalf of all the elders, we want to say thanks to all of you, the members of GRBC. Thanks because we were deeply reminded that we are called to work hard for a congregation of believers that we deeply love. It is an honor to serve you. Where we have fallen short in the past, please forgive us. For the mistakes we will make in the future, be gracious to us. We are looking forward to the coming year of ministry together. The goal of our leadership is "love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith in all of us. (I Timothy 1:5). We want to be an example of hard work and faithful living and ask that you all, with joy, come along with us. As we move forward, we want to hold on to our past and make sure we are all "doing the basics well."

-- Pastor Rick

Growing in Grace

Recently we walked through Psalm 30 during the Sunday morning sermon and saw that when trouble comes, we ought to complain—to a sovereign God whose character invites us to trust him. One obvious application to this truth is that we need to pursue a richer prayer life in which we constantly cry out to God. Prayer should be a normal and consistent practice in the life of a believer; Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to *pray without ceasing* (1 Thess. 5:17). But if we are honest with ourselves, I believe we are all likely to struggle to truly pray without ceasing; too often we're distracted with “life” and consumed with worry and anxiety instead of faithful prayer. Recently I have been considering my own need for increased prayerfulness; I yearn for growth in this area! I find great encouragement from passages such as Luke 11:1-13, where one of Jesus' disciples was concerned with learning how to pray. Jesus responds by presenting a model prayer, and by beautifully illustrating the willingness of God to hear and respond to the prayers of his children.

Jesus begins by describing a model prayer, commonly called the “Lord's Prayer,” in which God is recognized as “Father,” not simply as a far off deity. Jesus' relationship to God the Father was intimate, and he invites us to have the same familial closeness to God. This Father is the one whose name is great beyond comprehension, but who is close to those who know him. God's children look for his kingdom to come, and will participate in the blessing of God's righteous rule. We have practical needs, such as physical sustenance, and spiritual needs, such as forgiveness of sins. God delights in meeting both. God is sovereign in our lives and leads us in our journey of life; we should look to him for deliverance from both sinful temptation and various trials that would test us. This model prayer gives us a good framework on which to base our prayer life.

Jesus also demonstrates the utter delight God has in providing for his children, giving them good things. He begins by illustrating how even a friend would be annoyed by an after hours visit asking for a basic provision. He wouldn't be moved as quickly by love as he would be moved by persistence. If we were to “beat down the door” of a neighbor's home asking for bread, he would be likely to give it to us just to get us to go on our way. God invites us to “beat down the doors” of heaven as well. Jesus exhorts us to ask and receive, seek and find, and to knock and be opened to. If we have a need we should ask God for it! If we desire closer intimacy with God and knowledge of the truth, we should seek it from God! If we feel that God is far off and we can't get to him, we should keep knocking at his door and he will open it! But the beautiful reality with God, though, is that he doesn't respond to our needs because we annoy him with our persistence; he responds to us because he *delights* in us and our persistence. We fathers know how to give our children good things when they have a need—if my child asks for milk, I wouldn't give him window cleaner. Or if he asks for cereal, I wouldn't give him ashes. If we who are evil know how to give our children good gifts, how much more does our heavenly Father delight in giving us just what we need. So ask, and seek, and knock; take joy in the fact that God loves to hear our prayers and respond with just what we need!

-- Pastor Stephen

Special Events

Ladies' Tea

The Green Run Women's Ministry put on a lovely afternoon of tea and conversation at our spring Ladies' Tea. Ladies of all ages gathered for good food, fun games, and a discussion on the topic of discipleship. Our speaker panel gave insight into the value of walking together as believers. We were encouraged by stories of the powerful blessings that we can share with one another when we live in Christ-centered community and we were challenged by testimony of the difficulties caused by the absence of such community. The launch of the *Two Together* program gives women a chance to put the theme into practice as we seek to build relationships that strengthen our joy and proclaim His glory. Many thanks to the Women's Ministry team for the love and care they put into this event. For more information about *Two Together*, please see either Karen McSpadden or Sabrina Nemier. There are also information sheets at the Welcome Center counter.



Theological Reserve

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY! Imagine your favorite product is sitting before you on a shelf. How much would you be willing to pay for it? At what point does it become unobtainable? I was walking through the store and noticed there appeared to be red signs everywhere declaring sale after sale. Some items were drastically reduced whereas other items were marked down by a mere 9 cents. Seeing the latter, it was cause for a chuckle as I imagined consumers seeing a red sign and not even bothering to see how the store was "targeting" them as ignorant consumers. However, chuckling was replaced by awe as I walked through the toy aisle. There were red signs EVERYWHERE! For these products, they had removed the original yellow sticker and didn't mention the original price (or the savings) on the red one. All it mentioned was the sale price and the relatively short date range in which you could expect to receive such a deal. That was when I noticed a lone yellow sticker that had been overlooked by an employee. Imagine my shock when I saw it had the exact same price as annotated on the red tag! There was literally no sale on these items. The store had just slapped a boatload of sale tags on the toys while never even lowering the price. Perhaps even more astounding was the fact that the shelves were empty! I wondered if I was the only one left in the world who compared prices and did research before just blindly throwing my money away.

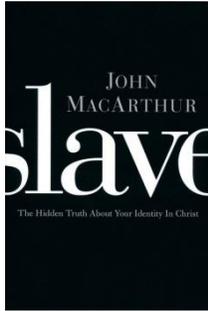
It was at this point that my browsing led me to the book section. It was a normal enough sight. Books marked a penny shy of the next whole dollar. Marketing tactics and product placement showed nothing out of the ordinary. However, lurking beneath the surface was something that would probably be missed by most. While there is no doubt the masses are willing to pay \$12.99 for the latest Joel Osteen book (the best seller list proves this fact), I believe this to be only a secondary problem. The question is not how much you are willing to pay for a paperback book. The question isn't even how much you are willing to pay for bad theology. No, the question is, "How much does bad theology really cost?" I dare say, if you were to find a biblically unsound "theology" book at a yard sale for 25 cents, you have overpaid. In fact, if you were to receive it as a free gift from a friend, you have still overpaid. The cost of bad theology isn't a broken wallet but, rather, a broken walk with Christ. Are you prepared to pay such a price?

Bad theology has sadly perpetuated itself within the Church. It uses Christian verbiage. It wears a friendly smile. It comes dressed in a fancy suit. It tells you that you can have more. It throws around Bible verses taken out of context. Even worse, it slanders the truth and brings destruction (**2 Peter 2:1-2**). The Greek word translated as destruction in this passage literally means final damnation with eternal misery in hell. Instead of following Osteen, Jakes, or Bell, I recommend you be an imitator of Christ (**1 Corinthians 11:1**) and remain in the Word (**John 15:7**).

Following any other "wisdom" costs way too much. How much are you prepared to pay?

In Christ,
Travis Rogers

Recommended Reading



Slave

by John MacArthur

Thomas Nelson (2010)

Reviewed by: Travis Rogers

Are you a slave or a free man? What if I were to tell you that there isn't any freedom apart from being a slave?

In this book, John MacArthur shows how an identity in Christ is more than just a casual serving relationship. It's more than just a buddy Jesus. To be truly free is to serve God as His slave. Whereas we were once slaves to sin, we are now slaves to Christ. The premise of the book revolves around one very simple Greek word: *doulos*. Without a proper understanding of this simple word, the foundational understanding of our identity can easily become distorted.

As you read through this book, you'll learn of the cultural implications of such a word. You'll learn of the history of slavery in the Bible and how the use of *doulos* was highly intentional. More so, you'll be taken through a journey from being dead in sin to being made alive and adopted as sons of God!

Quotables

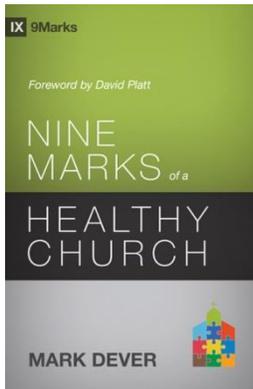
"Nonbiblical ministry, non-expository preaching, and non-doctrinal teaching usurp Christ's headship, silencing His voice to His sheep. That kind of devastating approach steals the mind of Christ away from the body of Christ, builds indifference toward His Word, and quenches the work of His Spirit. It removes protection from error and sin, eliminates transcendence and clarity, cripples worship, and sows seeds of compromise. It deflects the honor due to the true head of the church, and the Lord does not take kindly to those who would steal His glory." – *John MacArthur* (Slave, pg 75)

"God didn't just overlook sins. He's a good and just God, and His sentence of condemnation on our sins was executed on the cross of Christ." – *Mark Dever* (It is Well, pg 174)

"According to the plan of the holy God, nothing less than the blood of God's own Son could bring about reconciliation. Righteousness demanded it; love offered it." – *Andrew Murray* (The Power of the Blood of Christ, pg 45)

Off the Shelf

(GRBC bookstore notables)



Nine Marks of a Healthy Church
by **Mark Dever**
Crossway (2013)

You may have read books on this topic before—but not like this one. Instead of an instruction manual for church growth, this classic text offers tried and true principles for assessing the health of your church. Whether you're a pastor, a leader, or an involved member of your congregation, studying the nine marks of a healthy church will help you cultivate new life and well-being within your own church for God's glory.



Financial Review

We want to give glory to God for the faithful who help support the ministry here at GRBC. We believe the Lord has put this congregation in this community for the purpose of making much of His glory, even as we seek to expand His kingdom to the ends of the earth. We cannot accomplish our mission without your gospel-driven generosity.

Although our giving has been down over the last few months, we find more reason for hope than concern. We remember the words of Haggai 2:7-9-- *“I will fill this house with glory,” says the Lord of hosts. ‘The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the Lord of hosts. ‘The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘and in this place I will give peace,’ declares the Lord of hosts.”* Our confidence is in His power to accomplish His purposes for His glory and our joy.

What would we ask of you? First and foremost, continue to draw near to Christ through the gospel. Be amazed at what God has, is, and will do! Second, pray. Pray that God would continue to give this congregation a gospel-driven generosity to support our missions & ministry through the church budget. Finally, continue to do your part. Pray that God would give you the grace necessary to give and support the ministry of GRBC. Look for ways to continue to use what God has given you to build up this church and expand His kingdom.

Financial Secretary,
GRBC

Annual budget (2013-2014)-----\$265,594.44
Weekly Budgeted Needs-----\$5,107.59

<u>Monthly Giving for May/June, 2014</u>	
May 4 th -----	\$6,922.00
May 11 th -----	\$4,776.00
May 18 th -----	\$3,358.06
May 25 th -----	<u>\$4,810.00</u>
	\$19,866.06
June 1 st -----	\$8,333.36
June 8 th -----	\$3,561.42
June 15 th -----	\$5,030.38
June 22 nd -----	\$2,216.00
June 29 th -----	<u>\$2,511.00</u>
	\$21,652.16



Corporate Worship

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" (Psalm 122:1)

As we continue yet another year at GRBC, let us be reminded that we are here to worship a God who always makes good on His word. In Jesus Christ, God has promised us renewal, freedom from the hold of sin and eternal salvation.

Our main gathering for corporate worship happens on Sunday mornings. We are on an adjusted summer schedule now for our Sunday evening. Services will resume up in August. This service is a great way to book end the Lord's Day with worship and offers those who, for good reasons, cannot make the morning service an opportunity to worship with the church family. Our passion is to encounter the Great and Glorious God through Christ exalting, gospel centered singing, prayers, giving, and preaching. Our worship should inform the mind with biblical truth and inspire the heart to live for the glory of God.

If you have questions about our services, or would like to find out how you can serve in our worship gatherings, please contact Alyson for information about music ministry or one of the elders about helping with any other roles.

Sunday Morning Bible Fellowships

Biblical education is essential for the life of a healthy, growing congregation. In order for GRBC to better equip our congregation, we offer what we are calling Bible Fellowship Classes from 9-9:50am every Sunday Morning. These groups are intended to increase the opportunities we have to biblically educate people in every stage of life.

Children's Bible Fellowship Classes— All children (ages 2-3rd grade) are meeting upstairs and going through a study called, "Journey with Jesus". Christine Scott, our Children's Ministry summer intern, is leading this time for the kids.

Student Bible Fellowship Classes Students in 4th-12th grade will meet in the CORE room with Brian Tooley.

Adult Bible Fellowship Classes-- The schedule for Bible Fellowship classes has changed. All of the adult classes are meeting together in the Fellowship Hall @ 9:00am and are going through a study on the Nine Principles for Building a Healthy Church.

Community Groups

At **GRBC**, we seek to genuinely practice 'doing life together'. Our small groups are made up of 8-15 individuals who meet at various times throughout the week, with the primary purpose being the practice and pursuit of genuine Biblical friendship & fellowship. Here, we meet with our friends and neighbors to wrestle with and apply the truth of God's Word, to experience gospel grace, to care for one another and to serve our church and community. These groups also provide opportunity to care for one another's practical needs.

Doug & Katie Applegate's group meets on Thursday nights at 6:30pm. Ken & Nancy Butler's group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Quinton and Jackie Rowe's group meets at 11am each Wednesday. Fred and Mary Preston's group meets on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 1pm.

If you would like more information about any of our groups please contact the church office at 427-5087.

Important Dates

July 16

August 2-7

August 10

August 24

Financial Peace University (6:30 p.m.)

N.Y. Mission Trip

Budget Discussion (6:00 p.m.)

Annual Members' Meeting (6:00 p.m.)



BIRTHDAYS

Carlene Watson	7/2
Axton Watkins	7/4
Courtney Culbreath	7/4
Anitra Pregiato	7/4
Rob Nelson	7/5
George Winchell	7/9
CJ Nelson	7/11
David Veldkamp	7/15
Ruthie Dean	7/16
Sandra Kurtz	7/16
Theresa Jones	7/18
Sharon Winchell	7/20
Scottie Holley	7/24
Jubilee Kugler	7/24
Jason Esquivel	7/27
Kennedy Krause	8/3
Josh McSpadden	8/4
Levi Woody	8/8
Jayvian Thompson	8/8
Everett Lupton	8/9
Crystal Nelson	8/10
Kathy Whatley	8/11
Elijah Tooley	8/14
Sharon Elmore	8/17
Tara Krause	8/17
Mariska Baugus	8/18
Theresa Jones	8/18
John Nemier IV	8/19
Autumn Stairs	8/19
Laura Kugler	8/20
Gregory Benson	8/21
Ciara Jackson	8/22
Jill Nelson	8/27
Amiyah McCann	8/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Roy & Tommie Ammons	7/2
Marcial & Benita Padua	7/9
Gordon & Edith Miller	7/15
Everette & Joanna Lupton	7/17
Matt & Vickie Ammons	7/23
C.L. & Audrey Lawrence	8/2
Ken & Nancy Butler	8/6
David & Susan Applegate	8/13
Arthur & Crystal Felton	8/19
Howard & Louise Mullen	8/20
John & Sabrina Nemier	8/21
Frank & Katherine Fogle	8/29
Jeremiah & Laura Kugler	8/29
Vincent & Angela Adam	8/30

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Submit information to Travis Rogers by the second Sunday of the month preceding publication by e-mail, in person or at the church office. The editor reserves the right to edit for content or space. May the Father be glorified in every word.