

# Grace Bible Fellowship

AUGUST 2023

## YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

*I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for His name's sake.*

*1 John 2:12*

When you read the little letter of 1 John, it is hard to miss how much the apostle John cares about those to whom he is writing. He refers to them as "my little children" (2:1), "little children" (2:12, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21), "children" (2:13, 18), and "beloved" (2:7; 3:2, 21; 4:1, 7, 11). Through these terms of endearment, John draws his readers into his heart, giving them a reason to listen to him and put into practice what he says. Like a tender father, John displays his love to give us confidence and assurance in our walk of faith.

With such love for those who read his letter, we might think John would avoid difficult or uncomfortable topics. Yet, John repeatedly deals with sin in his letter to his little children. He warns us against saying we have no sin (1:8, 10), and he is writing so we may not sin (2:1). He knows we will sin (1:9, 2:1), but he also reassures us that Christ has dealt with our sin (1:7, 9; 2:2). All of this, and we have only scratched the surface of the first two chapters!

When we get to 1 John 2:12, John again mentions sin, but he does so to remind us of gospel realities that have impacted our lives. We must not forget the truth that our sins are forgiven. The forgiveness we possess through Jesus Christ is a source of encouragement and brings peace to our lives. It is as if John says to us, "Rest assured, your sins are forgiven." The way John has written this is also helpful. He puts "forgiven" in the perfect passive voice (a rare combination in New Testament Greek) to stress we took no part in securing our forgiveness. Christ did everything necessary to forgive us of our sins, and we did nothing to earn His forgiveness. It is Jesus' blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28). The only way the forgiveness of our sins is possible is through Christ's death on the cross.

In Christ, we enjoy the gospel reality of knowing our sins are forgiven, which leads to gospel transformation in our lives. It frees us to live for Him, love Him, and do God's will (2:17). At the same time, let us not overlook the last four words of our verse, "for His name's sake." John gives the reason why our sins are forgiven, to glorify Christ. We are

not forgiven for our name's sake but for His. Our forgiveness does not make much of us but exalts Christ's name and work. In our forgiven state, and as gospel transformation takes place in our lives, we are living testimonies to the glory of our Savior. Maybe that's why we frequently need to hear, "Your sins are forgiven." Not only do we receive assurance in our faith, but Christ is also continually magnified for His saving work in our lives. May He be glorified all the more as we enjoy the gospel reality of our forgiveness.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Tyler*

### **Men's Retreat at Williams Bay, WI**

The men's retreat will be October 6-7<sup>th</sup> this year. The cost is \$114 and all will be in standard rooms. Please sign up in the narthex by August 27<sup>th</sup>. We have to turn our numbers in the first on September and cannot add to our number after this. Please see Pastor Tyler with any questions. This year's topic is the Holy Spirit and Pastor Tyler will be one of the speakers.

### **Women's Ministry**

Ladies will gather on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am for a time of coffee, light breakfast, and a discussion of chapters 6 & 7 in the book, *Gentle & Lowly*. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to join us even if you have not in the past. Please see Amanda for a book or questions. Sign-up is in the narthex.

### **Men's Ministry**

We will gather for breakfast at 8am on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing chapters 5 & 6 in the book, *Made For Friendship*, and will wrap up around 10am. Please sign up in the narthex and join us (even if you have not before).

There are also study questions to help you prepare. If you are in need of a book or have other questions, please see Eric Bjerkas.

### **Summer Cook-Out!!!**

We are breaking out the grill! Sign up in the narthex and join us for a cook-out after the worship service on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to bring one of the needed sides, please sign up for that as well. All are welcome for this time of food, fellowship, and fun.

### **Upcoming at Grace...**

#### **August 5<sup>th</sup>**

Women's Coffee & Devotion  
@ 9-11AM (Chapt. 6&7)

#### **August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Prayer Service @5pm

#### **August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

#### **August 27<sup>th</sup>**

Church CookOut Fellowship Meal  
Following Worship Service

#### **Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>**

Men's Breakfast & Book  
Discussion @8-10AM

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**Admin. Office Hours Changes**

(Normal hours are Mon, Wed, Thurs 8-3)

#### **August 16<sup>th</sup>**

Administrative Office Closed

#### **August 21<sup>st</sup> – Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**

Administrative Office hours are  
Tuesday/Thursday 8-5.

#### **Sept. 4- Sept 12<sup>th</sup>**

Administrative Office closed for  
Amanda's vacation.

### Pastor's Suggested Reading...

**The Freedom of a Christian** by Martin Luther

**2000 Years of Christ's Power, Vol. 1** by Nick Needham

**The Duty of Self-Denial** by Thomas Watson

**The Shadow of Calvary** by Hugh Martin

**In Christ Alone** by Sinclair Ferguson

*(See past suggested reading on the bulletin board across from the offices)*

### Current Sermon Series:

*"The Church"*

### Next Sermon Series:

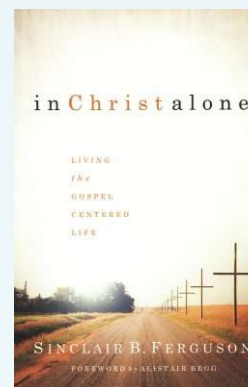
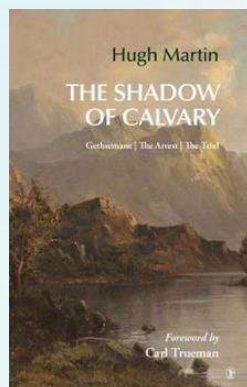
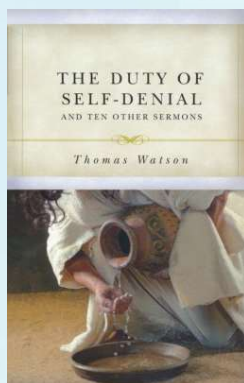
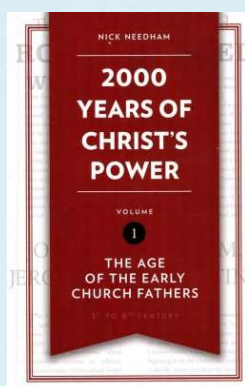
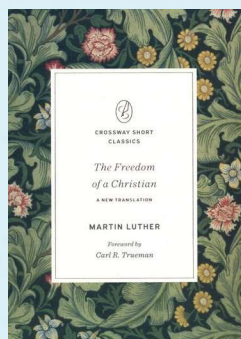
*Beginning in September*

*"The Book of John"*

### Wednesday Night Bible Study:

*Begins September 6<sup>th</sup>*

*"The Book of Revelation"*



Dear friends in Christ: Greetings from Campinas, Brazil!

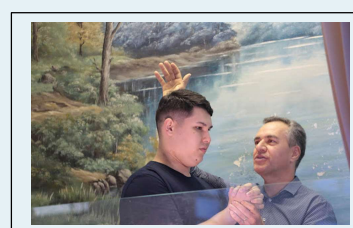
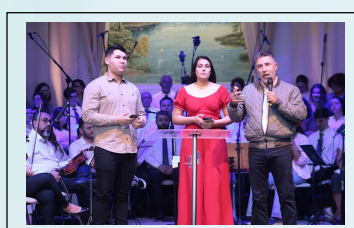
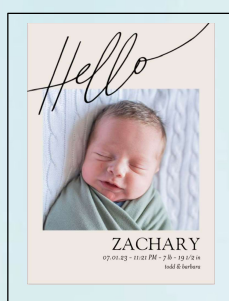
This month, Wanger and I celebrated our 43rd anniversary. We thank God for the privileges He has bestowed upon us! First, we have had the joy of raising and marrying 4 daughters who have given us 13 grandchildren. Secondly, we have had the privilege of planting and revitalizing many churches. Thirdly, we have had the privilege of investing the past 38 years of our lives promoting the doctrines of grace in Brazil, Portugal, and Mozambique.

As a very special anniversary gift, God gave us our 13th grandson! Barbara and Todd blessed us with their fourth child, Zachary! Beyond this wonderful gift, God gave us the blessing of celebrating our anniversary with our daughters Alice & Rebeca, who came to Brazil to visit us. After 12 years, we have the joy of hosting 6 precious grandchildren in our home in Brazil.

Another joyful experience we had this month was the baptism of 26 new believers. First, the believer gives their testimony and profession of faith, then they are baptized. Many visitors and unbelievers came to see the baptism of their friends or relatives. It is a wonderful opportunity to present the Gospel! We call this service the harvest day!

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support!

*Sillas & Wanger Campos*





# Worship Through Prayer

## **Our Ministry Volunteers**

### **Elders/Deacons**

Pastor Tyler, Eric, Jason, and Jeff

### **Ministry Volunteers**

Pastor Tyler & Alyssa, Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée,  
Dennis & Lori, John & Mary, Valerie, Dan &  
Christine, Aaron, Christian, Graeham, Matt &  
Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff & Jill, Yessie, Patty,  
Samantha, Kris, Kailee, Evangeline, Caleb, Lydia, &  
Marcos.

### **Sunday School Teachers**

Pastor Tyler Sultze, Jason Lafferty: Adult  
Amanda Lafferty: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Elder Eric Bjerkaas: Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

- † Pray for our church leadership (Pastor Tyler, Eric, Jason, and Jeff) as they continue to shepherd us. Pray the Lord would grant them wisdom, discernment, boldness, and patience. Pray that as these men make decisions regarding Grace, the wisdom of the Lord, through the work of the Holy Spirit, would give them clarity and peace.
- † Pray for our church. Pray that as the world would seek to persecute and divide the Church, that we would remain steadfast in suffering keep our eyes fixed on Christ. Pray we would continually be a place where the gospel is proclaimed with boldness and love. Pray we would remain faithful to reading, studying, and sharing the gospel. Pray we would be a place that encourages meaningful discipleship and spiritual growth among our brothers and sisters.
- † Pray for our missionary partners in the Gospel, Karl & Glynn Peterson, Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, and Sillas & Wanger Campos. Pray the Lord would sustain and guide them while He softens the hearts of those who hear the Word shared by them. Pray the Lord would open doors for them that have been closed before and that as they travel, the Lord would provide safety and rest.

- † Pray for John Lindenmeyer's health and strength in his daily walk with the Lord. Pray the Lord would sustain Mary as she cares for him in his pain.
- † Pray for those facing medical procedures and decisions. Pray for the Lord to provide wisdom and a clear path forward.
- † Pray for our upcoming Wednesday evening Bible study starting in September on the Book of Revelation. Pray the Lord would prepare Pastor to teach and those attending to prepare to dig in to the Word.
- † Pray for the single men and women in our church. Pray they would see the sufficiency of Christ and would earnestly seek His face in their times of loneliness or waiting.
- † Pray for our youth and young adults. Pray they would see the Lord is always worthy of their time and study.
- † Pray for our college-aged kids who are preparing to head off to college soon. Pray they would be convicted to seek Christ-honoring relationships and activities. Also pray for them to have boldness is stepping out a finding a college church home to connect with.
- † Pray for our parents and the challenges they face raising children of all ages. Pray the Lord would provide wisdom, grace, rest, and strength for them as they raise up and point their children to the Lord.
- † Continue praying for Yessie's uncle Max as he is still on the transplant list.
- † Pray for our Sunday school teachers as they continue to teach. Pray the Lord would sustain them as they prepare, pray, and teach each week.
- † Pray for our community and for us to have a heart that longs to share and spread the Gospel among the Illinois Valley. Pray for boldness as we continue to step out into the world, sharing the good news, and drawing others to the Truth of God's Word.
- † Pray for the ministries of Grace Bible Fellowship. Pray that they would remain Christ-focused and seek to glorify the Lord.

# August 2023

| Sunday                                                       | Monday                  | Tuesday                      | Wednesday               | Thursday             | Friday | Saturday                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                                              |                         | 1                            | 2                       | 3                    | 4      | 5                                       |
|                                                              |                         |                              |                         |                      |        | Women's<br>Coffee/<br>Devotion @<br>9am |
| 6                                                            | 7                       | 8                            | 9                       | 10                   | 11     | 12                                      |
| Sunday School @9am<br>Worship @10am                          |                         |                              |                         |                      |        |                                         |
| 13                                                           | 14                      | 15                           | 16                      | 17                   | 18     | 19                                      |
| Sunday School @9am<br>Worship @10am<br>Prayer Service @5pm   |                         | Board<br>Meeting @<br>6:30pm | Admin. Office<br>Closed |                      |        |                                         |
| 20                                                           | 21                      | 22                           | 23                      | 24                   | 25     | 26                                      |
| Sunday School @9am<br>Worship @10am                          | Admin. Office<br>Closed | Admin.<br>Office 8-5         | Admin. Office<br>Closed | Admin.<br>Office 8-5 |        |                                         |
| 27                                                           | 28                      | 29                           | 30                      | 31                   |        |                                         |
| Sunday School @9am<br>Worship @10am<br>Church Cook-Out @Noon | Admin. Office<br>Closed | Admin.<br>Office 8-5         | Admin. Office<br>Closed | Admin.<br>Office 8-5 |        |                                         |

## Happy Birthday

19<sup>th</sup> – Bennett Hays

21<sup>st</sup> – Mary Lindenmeyer

Dotty McKinney

24<sup>th</sup> – Patty Eichelkraut



## Happy Anniversary

13<sup>th</sup> – Dennis & Lori Brown

16<sup>th</sup> – Jeff & Jill Schenck

20<sup>th</sup> – Adam & Jill Sparks