



# Grace Bible Fellowship

JULY 2023

## ***The Enduring Love of the Lord***

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you." Jeremiah 31:3b*

Do you ever wonder how you will be able to persevere through this life? Are there times when it is difficult to grasp how you will endure the obstacles you face? In those moments, verses like Jeremiah 31:3 resonate in our hearts and provide comfort and hope.

The Lord called Jeremiah to be His prophet in a tumultuous part of Judah's history. The Babylonian empire was on the rise, and they deported God's people, destroyed the temple, and made it so Jeremiah would eventually be carried to Egypt. His task, however, was to relay God's message and call for repentance as God's people faced judgment. While Jeremiah is often known as the "weeping prophet," he also has portions in his book which tell of great hope the people can have for the future.

In Jeremiah 31, the Lord begins by relaying the past tribulation the people experienced. "The people who survived the sword" (31:2) served as a reminder of those who didn't survive the sword but died because of their sin. God's judgment fell justly on the people who rebelled against Him and refused to repent. The ones kept alive are said to have lived in the wilderness, away from their home and out of the Promised Land. The Lord uses Exodus imagery of the wilderness to describe the hardship of the survivors. The good news, however, is they "found grace in the wilderness" (31:2). How did they find grace? "When Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away" (31:2b-3a). They found grace in the presence of the gracious Lord, who appeared to them from far away. When they *sought* rest, they *found* grace in the appearance of the Lord. The only way they could make it through the wilderness was with the grace of the Lord sustaining, strengthening, and providing for them.

In light of this good news, the Lord speaks directly to His people. "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (31:3b). While He appeared to the people "from far away," He communicated closeness, nearness, and affection.



He loved them with gracious love. It wasn't because of anything they had done to deserve or earn His love. He loved them because of His good pleasure to keep His precious promises (Deut. 7:7-8). The Lord loved in a personal (I have loved) and an enduring (everlasting love) way. This direct communication of His love to His people serves as the ground for the assurance of His continued faithfulness to them. What is the guarantee of His faithfulness? It is His everlasting love. The Lord would not fail or forsake them because His love cannot be thwarted, slowed, or stopped.

How are you going to go on? Is it not by the same everlasting love which assures you of God's continued faithfulness in whatever you face? Hear these words again from our Lord today, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." You can know this everlasting love because it is displayed in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). His love saves, sanctifies, sustains, and supports you so you live for Him. Whatever you are enduring, dear Christian, God loves you, and nothing will separate you from His love.

*"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Tyler*

### **Men's Ministry**

We will gather for breakfast at 8am on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be discussing chapters 3 & 4 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 Bjerkaas.

### **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 will start in July.

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

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**

Offices Closed

**July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Prayer Service @5pm

**July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Semi-Annual Meeting @ 6:30pm

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

Women's Coffee & Devotion @ 9-11AM

**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



Dear praying friends,

The semester just ended at the Bible Institute of South Africa. I teach three online courses to students from across southern Africa.

The men and women in my evangelism class were “required” to go out and share their faith and write about that experience based on all they had learned during the semester. One of my favorite parts of the semester is reading those reports. One student led his own father to the Lord as part of this assignment!

Another student wrote about sharing the gospel with an elderly African woman in Cape Town who attends church and who also visits the witch doctor. The student asked, “Why do you both attend church and visit the witchdoctor? The woman replied, “You see, my child, I have a lot of challenges. I pray to Jesus, but Jesus takes a very long time to reply to my prayers, but the witchdoctor answers my prayer quickly.” How would you respond to this woman?

Our local church here southeast of Denver hosts our annual Vacation Bible School next week. I coordinate the teaching sessions – a great opportunity to teach the gospel and train new teachers.

Glynn and I travel to Africa for most of July. It’s wonderful traveling with my wife this time! We’ll be in Cape Town where I’ll teach a missiology course at the Bible Institute of South Africa. And then to Maputo, Mozambique to coordinate and preach at our annual church leaders’ conference with Brazilian book publisher Editora Fiel.

Our son Cole married the wonderful Shoshanna last Saturday. It was such a great celebration for this young and godly couple.

Thanks for your prayers for us and our work.

Karl & Glynn Peterson



Dear friends in Christ: Greetings from Brazil!

This month, we did an evangelistic outreach in the poor neighborhood of São Marcos. The Lord blessed this events and 65 kids and some of their parents showed up. The gospel was shared and good contacts were stablished. As result of this event, a few kids and one family began attending our regular services. Pray for their salvation!

Also this month, we received an interesting invitation to speak about **the doctrines of grace** in an Assembly of God youth rally. Here in Brazil, this denomination is known by their Arminian profession of faith and practice. However, there is a growing interest for reformed theology among their young people. Some of these leaders have attended Fiel's Bible Conferences, and they eagerly desire to share what they have learned with their churches. Praised be the Lord!

Last Saturday, God gave us the opportunity to speak to these pastors on the subject of "**The wisdom and grace to deal with difficult church members.**" Some of my points were:

- *Seek the wisdom and grace to take care of yourselves first (Acts 20:28). Sometimes, we (pastors) are not easy to deal with.*
- *Seek the wisdom and grace to remember that we are not mere volunteers, but servants commissioned by God to do the ministry (Act 20:24)!*
- *Seek the wisdom and grace to learn that criticism and opposition is inevitable (1 Pt.2:21-23)!*
- *Seek the wisdom and grace to get rid of any root of bitterness (Heb.12:15)!*

Thank you for your prayers!

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, Jill Sparks, Evangeline,  
Caleb, Lydia, & Marcos.

### **Sunday School Teachers**

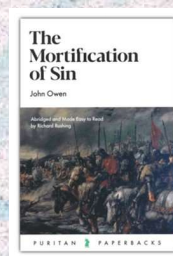
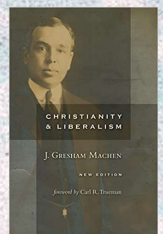
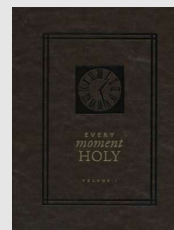
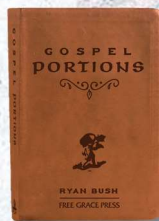
Pastor Tyler Sultze, Jason Lafferty: Adult  
Amanda Lafferty: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Elder Eric Bjerkaas: Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

- † Pray for 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 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 that they would see the Lord is always worthy of their time and study.
- † 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 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 for Deacon nominees as they pray about and contemplate this calling. Pray the Lord would make clear who is fit to hold this office within the church here at Grace Bible Fellowship and that He would raise up these men to serve.
- † 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.

## **Pastor's Suggested Reading**

- ***Gospel Portions*** by Ryan Bush
- ***Every Moment Holy, Vol. 1*** by Douglas Kaine McKelvey
- ***Christianity & Liberalism*** by J. Gresham Machen
- ***The Mortification of Sin*** by John Owen
- ***The First and the Last*** by Melvin Tinker





# JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am		Church Offices Closed				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am Prayer Service @5pm						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am		Board Meeting @ 6:30pm				Men's Breakfast & Book Discussion @ 8-10am
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am			Semi- Annual Meeting @ 6:30pm			
30	31					
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am						

## Happy Birthday

8<sup>th</sup> – Aubrey Schenck

13<sup>th</sup> – Brad Eichelkraut

Don Forgý

14<sup>th</sup> – Alyssa Sultze

17<sup>th</sup> – Christine Kleinau

21<sup>st</sup> – Caleb Bjerkaas

22<sup>nd</sup> – Mark Wallin

27<sup>th</sup> – Christian Sultze

## Happy Belated June Birthday

29<sup>th</sup> – Don Faux

## Happy Anniversary

16<sup>th</sup> – Chris & Robena Miskanis

24<sup>th</sup> – Matt & Rebekah Hays

## Happy Belated June Anniversary

3<sup>rd</sup> – Don & Angie Faux