



Grace Bible Fellowship

OCTOBER 2023

Repent & Return

“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”

Revelation 2:4-5

As we go through the Book of Revelation on Wednesday evenings, we are currently studying the seven letters to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3. These are letters written by the glorious Christ to His beloved church, with truths that apply to these historical churches and the church throughout the ages. We must listen to these letters to be instructed, encouraged, exhorted, and corrected by them. They come to us with the weight of Christ's authority as the head of His church. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

Five of the seven churches receive correction. Both the first church (Ephesus) and the last church (Laodicea) are in grave spiritual danger. Ephesus, in particular, has abandoned the love they had at first. As a community of Christ, they have left their love for Christ. Their zeal and passion for Him have become frigid and cold. Jesus calls upon them to remember from where they have fallen, repent, and do the works they did at the first. Here is the blueprint for their course correction. All is not lost, yet. There is still an opportunity for them to recognize their sin, turn from their sin, and return to the Lord through doing those works they did when their love for Him was strong. If they do not do this, they face judgment.

Jesus warns the Ephesian church of the judgment they face when He says, “If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.” Christ will not come to them with blessing but restitution for the grievous sin they committed against Him. By removing their lampstand, He would remove their witness from the world. They would no longer be considered a true church. Once a pillar and buttress of the truth, those who guarded the gospel of Jesus Christ would be no more. But this is only part of the judgment.

In Revelation 1:13 and 2:1, we read that Jesus is the One in the midst of the lampstands and is ceaselessly walking among them. It is supposed to be a comforting reminder to the church of Christ's constant presence with His church.

and His compassionate care for them. For the church in Ephesus, the removal of their lampstand meant the removal of the presence of Christ. There would be no comfort for them because Christ would not be in their midst. What a horrifying thought such a warning would be to any true church. But how even more horrifying when the “church” does not even notice the presence of Christ is absent from among them? The Ephesian church could have continued in their toil, patient endurance, and discernment of false apostles (Rev. 2:2), thinking they were faithful. All the while, their unrepentant, cold, hard, loveless hearts meant that Christ was no longer present with them.

The call for the church to repent still stands. Let us make sure that we have not abandoned the love we had at first. May we continually go back to the works we did at first when our love for the Lord was strong and our passion to make Him known burned hot, for His presence in our midst must never be missed.

*In Christ,
Pastor Tyler*

Upcoming at Grace...

October 6-7th
Men's Retreat at
Williams Bay, Wisconsin

October 15th
Prayer Service @5pm

October 17th
Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

October 22nd
Missions Giving Sunday
(Karl & Glynn Peterson)
Karl will preach this day.

October 28th
Fall Clean-Up 9am-Noon

October 29th
Reformation Sunday

Every Wednesday
Bible Study For All Ages @ 6:30pm

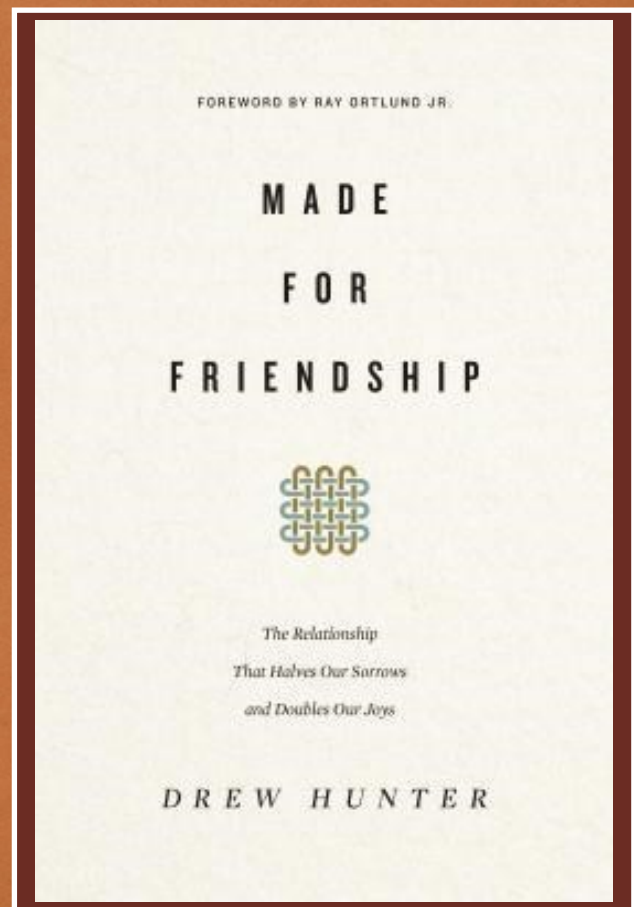
November 4th
Men's Breakfast 8-10am

November 5th
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Set Clocks Back

November 6th
Partial Carpet Cleaning @ 8:30am

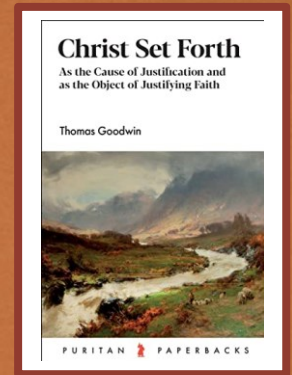
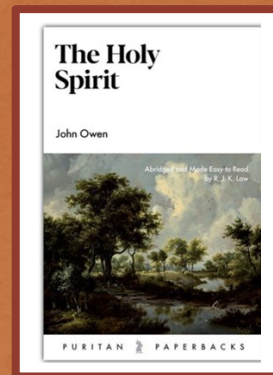
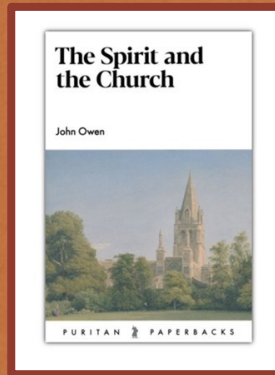
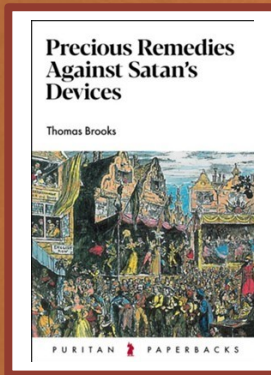
Men's Ministry

We will gather for breakfast at 8am on Saturday, November 4th. We will be discussing chapters 5 & 6 in the book, *Made For Friendship*, and will wrap up around 10am. If you are in need of a book or have other questions, please see Eric Bjerkaas. Sign up is in the narthex.



Pastor's Suggested Reading...

- 1) Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices** by Thomas Brooks
- 2) The Spirit and the Church** by John Owen
- 3) The Holy Spirit** by John Owen
- 4) Christ Set Forth** by Thomas Goodwin



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Men's & Women's Study **The Book of Revelation**

October 4th

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

November 22 – No Bible Study
(Happy Thanksgiving)

November 29

December 6

Winter Break Until January 31st

Children's Bible Study **Gym (PreK-6th)**

Unit 1: Trust & Obey God

- Rahab, Deborah, Esther, & a Widow

Unit 2: God's Plan for Families

- Isaac/Rebekah, Abram, Moses, Ruth, & Paul

Unit 3: A Powerful God

- The Israelites, Jonah, Daniel, & David

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,
Kris, Kailee, Evangeline, Caleb, Lydia, & Marcos.

Sunday School Teachers

Pastor Tyler Sultze: Adult

Amanda Lafferty/Yessie Castro-Yanez: 3rd – 8th grade

Elder Eric Bjerkaas: Pre-K – 2nd 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 for the Peterson's as they join us for worship on the 22nd.
- ✚ Praise the Lord for the healing He did in Jennifer Detwiler's dad, Mike. He is now home and continuing to improve daily.

- ✚ 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 Amanda Lafferty as she continues the healing process from spinal surgery and begins PT on Octo. 16th.
- ✚ Pray for Kailee, Arianna, and Aliyah Keighin as they adjust to their new lives together as a family of three.
- ✚ Pray for Don & Angie Faux as they continue to press on, trusting the Lord, to care for Don's headaches and sustain them through this trial.
- ✚ Pray for our Wednesday evening Bible study on the Book of Revelation. Pray the Lord would prepare both Pastor and those who will attend.
- ✚ 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 have headed off to college. Pray they would be convicted to seek Christ-honoring relationships and activities.
- ✚ 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 the ministries of Grace Bible Fellowship. Pray that they would remain Christ-focused and seek to glorify the Lord.

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am			Bible Study @6:30pm		Men's Retreat Lake Geneva, WI	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am			Bible Study @6:30pm			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am Prayer Service @5pm		Board Mtg. @ 6:30pm	Bible Study @6:30pm			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am (Karl Peterson) Missions Giving			Bible Study @6:30pm			Fall Church Clean-Up 9am-Noon
29	30	31				4
Sunday School @9am Worship @10am Reformation Sunday						Men's Breakfast & Book Discussion @ 8am

Happy Birthday

8th – Jason Lafferty

9th – Hannah Bjerkaas

10th – Joyce McCullough

11th – Chris Miskanis

22nd – Arianna Keighin

Celebrating God's Good Gifts