

A Life for His Glory

by Dan Jenkins

When Paul was speaking to the church in Ephesus, he said, "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Eph. 1:6). All that God has done in choosing, predestinating and adopting Christians is to the praise of the glory of his grace. You see, with God, there is no mistake or accident about those who are in Christ and are a part of his grace. And so, when it comes to our lives, while our friends may speak differently about our Christianity, you should know that you are the right answer, that is, you are the one who stands in this spot of history, in Christ, knowing that God had you in mind when he began the foundations of the world. And, without you, without your being a Christian, there would be something missing to the glory of God, something missing from the world, something that is irreplaceable and precious. You.

As we continue to understand God throughout our lives by his word, we know that our lives count and that God's love surrounds us. And while we may make the wrong choices in life, our feeling may

override what we know is best, we may even go after things we want instead of what God wants for you, God extends his grace. He offers us the chance to rework our life, allowing us to repent, giving us the opportunity to erase the mistakes we have made because he loves us so very much.

Therefore, we must always strive to be in the right. We should keep in mind that asking God to forgive



us, is not only a privilege for Christians, but that, we know Jesus paid the price of sin for us with His life upon the cross. Our life counts with God. So, feel free to speak to God and add to your faith joy

and allow that joy to multiply in your life because you matter to God. Your life counts with him.

Comfortable Christians

by Brad Harrub

Just how much do we value feeling comfortable? I believe the preaching over the last 15-25 years reveals that modern Christians in the New Testament church want sound preaching, as long as it doesn't force us out of our comfort zones. We want to be able to sit back and listen to a well-prepared preacher from padded pews or chairs, and then slip right back into our normal walks of life afterwards. The take home message: "Don't convict me too much and don't weigh your lesson down with too much application. Because then you've gone from preaching to meddlin."

So what happens when a family truly engages in the Culture War? Or what happens when someone begins to really carry out the great commission? Having traveled all across the country I have had the pleasure of meeting individuals who "get it." I have spoken to Christians who desire more than comfortable Christianity. They understand the gravity of the situation, and they are doing whatever they can to ensure the spiritual well-being of their children/grandchildren, all the while looking for ways to reach out to the lost around them.

The problem is these individuals often make "comfortable" Christians in their own home congregations feel very uncomfortable—and this discomfort often results in an internal battle. Maybe it's because these zealous Christians desire to study the Bible deeper and spend less time on fluffy topics. Or maybe it's because they won't allow their children to participate in certain worldly activities. Or maybe it's because they are constantly pointing out additional ways the congregation could outreach. Or maybe it's because they are tired of all the "internal" programs.

Whatever it is, these individuals often stand out—like a fish trying to go upstream against the current, when all the other fish are swimming downstream. Their existence among comfortable Christians causes friction. These zealous Christians honestly desire to be Holy, and so their entire lives focus on how to be more Christ-like and how to share the good news. Yet, they are surrounded by people who are comfortable right where they are—people who believe they have checked all the right boxes, and therefore they don't want someone constantly reminding them they could be doing more or could be shaping their own lives better.

Many older Christians view these zealous Christians in a critical fashion. Rather than support the quest of those who want to be more Holy, comfortable Christians end up tearing them down and question how they are raising their children. After all, they believe if it was good enough for them, then it ought to be good enough for everyone. (These are the same comfortable Christians who totally ignore the real statistics of how many of our children we are retaining in the church.) And sadly, these zealous Christians wake up and discover one of their toughest battles is actually in their own congregations.

I have seen it all over—people who earnestly desire focus their entire lives on Christ who have been basically ostracized by those who have grown comfortable in the pew. Some of these "comfortable" Christians describe themselves as pillars in the congregation, and yet they stopped growing spiritually years ago. For those of you who are zealous and looking for more ways to follow after Christ, let this be an encouragement to you. Do not grow weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9). Keep on teaching your children His ways. Keep on distancing yourself from the darkness of the world. Keep on looking for ways to tell people about Christ. Don't be satisfied with the "norm."

For those who are comfortable—might I suggest you consider your ways (Haggai 1:5,7) and examine yourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5)? Have you ever considered what your discouragement is ultimately doing to His kingdom? Might I suggest that comfortable preaching has duped you into thinking you are a pretty good person. And maybe you are when compared to the world. But you are not so "good" when compared to a holy God (Isaiah 64:6). Stop using the world as your standard. Repent from trying to dim the light of those who seek to serve Him more faithfully. Tame your tongue and look at the fruit (Matthew 7) that a comfortable life produces, versus one who is truly committed to Christ. Stop trying to silence those in your congregation who desire a closer relationship with Him and look for ways to relight your own fire. Stop warring against brothers and sisters in Christ and go after the real adversary! The reality is we are on the same team—isn't it time we started acting like it?!

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
In Search of the Lord's Way
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Sharon Mahoney received a good report from her tests. No cancer. Thank you all for your prayers.

Our Love & Sympathy are extended to Connie Benishek at the passing of her mother, Violet Davis.

Continue to Remember: James Ainsworth, Gayle Garner, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Barbara Shore, Patty Williams, Meagan Gould

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Important Dates:

- Youth Mission Trip - July 16-20
- Boys' Leadership Initiative - July 29-31
- Summer Youth Series (Here!) - August 2

Birthdays This Week

- June 27 - Joe Glass, Jimmy Horn
- June 29 - Bryan Bearden
- June 30 - Sandra Brunson
- July 1 - Wanda Horner
- July 2 - Carolyn Milton

Next Week's Adult Class

Jesus Blesses Children
(Mat. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)

Announcements

5th Sunday Format Today! Please, stay for a meal and fellowship together followed immediately by our second service led by the young men.

Registration is Now Open Online for the Boys' Leadership Initiative. Please, register. All of the information is available online with the form.

Mission Trip Assignments are due soon! See Cory for more information.

Summer Youth Series this Tuesday hosted by the Grandview congregation. We will leave at 5:30 PM.

Vacation Bible School is coming up July 11-13. The theme is Cast Away and will delve into the life of Peter. If you'd like to help, see Justin Williams.

We Need Cookies for VBS. Sign up sheet is at the back of the auditorium. Please, indicate how many you'll be bringing.

There are still a few spots available for our yearly ladies retreat at Summers Mill in Belton. The dates are September 23-24. Cost for the room and meals is \$65, and the t-shirt (optional, but always cute) will be \$12. See Lanette Stewart, Vicki Ivy, Lee Owens or Julie Dilbeck to sign up.

Annual Fourth of July Celebration hosted by the Roughton family is coming up Monday, July 4 at 7:30 PM at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Hot dogs, trimmings and drinks will be provided. If you would like to bring something, chips and desserts are always welcome. Bring a lawn chair and bug spray for your comfort. A bounce house will be available for the kids.

Records for June 19, 2016

Bible Class	170
AM Worship.....	256
PM Worship.....	121
Wednesday	165
Contribution	\$8,822.90

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	David Baumgartner
Opening Prayer	Hank Jett
Communion Leader	David Shastid
Communion Servers	
Luke Baumgartner	Tyler Baumgartner
Tanner Bearden	Wade Braly
Joe Glass	Ken Green
Wade Hall	Caleb Jackson
Andy Parrish	Wayne Prater
Thomas Saunders	David Shastid
Bronny Watson	
Closing Prayer	Paul Ross
Nursery	Martha Olsen, Emily Roughton
Security	Terry Barrett, Mark Blaylock, Buck Murphy
PM Song Leader	Young Men
PM Opening Prayer	Young Men
PM Closing Prayer	Young Men
Wed. Song Leader	Justin Williams
Wed. Summer Series Speaker	Jered Hyatt
June Contact Elder	Percell Milton - 903.673.1819