

A monthly publication of Christian Church of Mountain Home in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and goodwill among His people, our friends.

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Jesus Christ

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Pakistan
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Central Christian College of the Bible
Ozark Christian College
Show-Me Christian Youth Home
Christ on Campus

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! What blessings come to your mind? If they are material and temporal in nature, there are days we are not so eager to praise God and give Him glory because things don't always go our way. An understanding of God's grace is needed to correct this.

The primary reason we should praise God is because of the spiritual blessings that flow from His hand of grace. These blessings are not subject to our feelings and, therefore, never change.

When you count your spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, worship will never again be considered obligatory and service will never be motivated by mere obedience. Your life will be characterized as a sacrifice of praise emanating from a grateful heart. Count your blessings in God's grace family, the church.

HE CHOSE US.

Paul certainly had good reason to rejoice in God's grace. He acknowledged that he was chief among sinners, the one untimely born (1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:8).

Despite the fact that we are not worthy of His favor, God loves us! He received us when we accepted Christ. He chose us when we chose Jesus.

He chose us not because we *are* holy, but so that we would *become* holy. But some Christians don't want to be holy—different and separated from the world. When they sing "Just As I Am," they are thinking they can come to Christ without changing. Someone correctly said that God loves us too much to leave us the way we are.

When we grasp the beauty and wonder of the fact that God, in grace, chose us, not on the basis of our goodness, but rather on the basis of our

faith in His Son, then we will want to become wholly devoted to Christ.

HE PREDESTINED US TO ADOPTION.

Kids will sometimes ask their parents if they were adopted. Parents have teased their children, asking, "If we'd had our choice, do you think we would have chosen you?" Well,

God's answer is, "Yes!" It was His good pleasure to choose us. The reason is pleases Him is because we are in Christ. The Father is eager to consider all of Jesus' brothers as joint heirs of promise. Read John 1:12.

Praise be to God, Who adopted us in love, according to His pleasure and will. God is not willing that any perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). When men repent, He is happy to accept them into His family. He is not only willing to save us—He takes great delight in it.

Our response to this ought to be an eagerness to honor the family name by displaying the family traits and characteristics. How gracious God is and how grateful we are to be included in this family.

HE REDEEMED US.

We were held captive by Satan on account of our disobedience to God. But Jesus paid the ransom necessary to set us free. The ransom price was His very life's blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

This redemption is the forgiveness of our sins. Not just the covering of our sins, the Bible says it is the washing away of our sins. This redemption price deposited at Calvary is applied to the sinner in the waters of baptism, where the Bible says our sins are washed away and the old man of sin is buried in the likeness of Jesus' death. *cont. on p. 3*

Count Your
BLESSINGS
in God's Grace Family
Ephesians 1:3-14
by Gene McCoy



Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online www.ccmhar.com

Birth

Augustus Jackson Terry

was born on
October 14.

Congratulations to
Barkley and Megan

Death

Harold "Bud" Parrish

departed this life on
October 13 at the age of
99 yrs., 8 mo.

Report

Both proposals presented to the congregation were approved on Sunday, October 14.

"I don't know what we would do without her," said one of our young adult men regarding a woman in our congregation upon whose faithful and energetic service we have depended over the last two decades. "Nor do I," began my response. "But we are going to find out one of these days, just as we did when we woke up one morning several years ago to the news that her husband had suddenly died in the night.

The conversation gravitated to the acknowledgement that our congregation has been depending upon the same leadership team for many years, some of whom are approaching a stage in life when they will not be able to carry the ball.

"So what are the prospects," I was asked, "that others will step up to take the lead when the current leaders are gone?" Searching unsuccessfully for an optimistic reply, I verbalized to him what I have been saying to others for several years. The prospects are not optimistic, so far as my human sight can see. God may send some dynamic servant leaders our way, as I pray He does. But we cannot afford to sit idly by waiting for Him to reward our indolence and negligence. Nor should we be content to do so! Even though we may benefit from new friends with leadership ability, our younger adults need to prepare for leadership roles.

This call to responsibility extends to both genders, as several of our ladies are aging right along with the men. Take a look around this Sunday and take note of all those upon whom we have relied who have exceeded the age of eighty years. Then note those who are approaching eighty years. Among those who are in their late sixties and early seventies are some whose physical strength and stamina have been adversely affected by health issues.

We are fortunate to have several young people in the congregation, too. It has been a challenge here, however, as I have learned it has been elsewhere, to

motivate the younger adults to prepare themselves for leadership roles.

It is critical to the long term health of this congregation that young adults take a conscious and proactive stance to prepare now for leadership. The congregation will not be served well if younger people wait until current leaders are rendered incapable by mental and physical limitations, especially those of a permanent nature due to death. Waking up to the news that our long-time leaders

have died is not the "wake-up call" we recommend. I issue a sobering wake-up call to our young adults today, pleading with them to take deliberate steps to prepare themselves for the eventual need of this congregation. The time is not then, but now. The responsible parties are not them but us.

Please consider a proactive approach to fulfilling your responsibility. Identify areas of service where you may lend your assistance. Offer to become an apprentice to one of the older adults currently serving in that capacity. Shadow that individual and progressively increase your level of participation until you reach proficiency—or at least adequacy.

Of extreme importance is the need for young adults to be involved in a formal Bible study group. The leaders for a healthy congregation in the years to come must be devoted students of the Word today. One can wake up dead, as the saying goes. But one cannot wake up one morning adequately prepared to lead the Lord's church. That demands the commitment of time and study.



"What do we do now?!"



FUSION
combining an
with **OLDER nucleus**
YOUNGER nucleus
to create an **EXPLOSION**
of energy

**Sunday evenings
Beginning Nov. 4**

Some may think His supply is not enough to atone for all their many sins or the depth of their depravity. But God's grace is inexhaustible! Romans 5:20 says that where sin abounded, God's grace abounds more and more! And He is happy to pour it out on us in abundance!

Our grateful response to full redemption must include our willing denial of self, the taking up of our cross daily to follow Him. He has freed us from slavery to sin to freedom in Him. We will gladly become His servants.

HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL.

It is important that we understand that this word "mystery" does not refer to something that is difficult to comprehend or figure out. It refers to something that has been hidden but is now being revealed. That something is the salvation of all men through the sacrifice of Jesus; that is, the bringing together of all men under the one Head, Who is Jesus. And that body in which all men are united under the authority of Christ is the church.

This administration was to be inaugurated in the fullness of time, or at just the right time. Paul identifies this time in Galatians 4:4 as the birth of the Christ child.

The primary focus of God's will is that everything would come together under the headship of Jesus. In Colossians 1:19-20 Paul writes, "For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in [Jesus], and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross."

Our grateful response to this wonderful grace is first to be reconciled to God in Christ, and then to be reconciled to all those who are a part of this family of grace. But we should also respond by cherishing and reading the revelation of God's will.

HE MADE US HIS HERITAGE.

Not only was it the purpose of God to make known the mystery of His will, but this purpose was also actually fulfilled in us (G.L. Reese).

Before Pentecost, or at least the conversion of Cornelius, God's heritage

was Israel alone. But all that God was to Israel He will be to His church today. God's plan from before the beginning was that His heritage would consist of all those who unite with Christ by faith.

Our response to this grace should be that we would praise His glorious grace. Peter wrote (Peter 2:9), "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

God's ultimate end in making us His heritage was not for our own benefit and privilege, as the Jews tended to think. It was for His benefit in that we are to glorify Him. Let us express our gratitude by being a people for whom God receives glory and praise.

HE SEALED US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

If you were the king, and you wanted to mark something as belonging to you, you would affix the royal seal to it. It is similar to a cattle brand. When affixed to a document, it gave it royal sanction or authority.

But Paul says it is also like the down payment on a house, in that the Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. He [the Holy Spirit] is the first installment of similar payments to be made in the future. (Kenny Boles).

This gift of the Holy Spirit is sometimes connected in Scripture with baptism (Acts 2:38-39; 5:32; 1 Cor. 12:13). But it is also connected with our faith (Acts 19:2; Gal. 3:2, 14; Eph. 1:13; 3:17). The conclusion is that baptism and faith go together. You can't have one without the other. Baptism is the sinner's expression of faith in the promises of God. And one result of that expression of faith is the awarding of the Holy Spirit to dwell within us as God's security deposit that He will give to us the full inheritance.

We should express our gratitude and praise to God for this gift of grace by displaying the fruit of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22-23). We have this relationship with God because of our position "in Christ."

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

- 4 Education Ministry Team
- 6 Willing Workers
- 6 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 7 Finance Ministry Team
- 11 Family Life Ministry Team
- 12 Elders
- 15 Property Ministry Team
- 15 Outreach Ministry Team
- 18 Missions Ministry Team

POSTPONED to Dec. 2

Gratitude

I am extremely grateful for my teachers, Gareth L. Reese and Jack W. Cottrell, to whom I am indebted for material contained in the lead article. Also to Kenny Boles, whose writings I have cited.

Although he is neither cited nor referenced in my writings, the influence of one preacher more than any other is reflected in the content and style of my writings. He has been my preacher from the day of my birth, who, along with my Mother, have molded my three siblings and me into vessels God has graciously used to convey the gospel of grace. We are forever grateful for our parents and other faithful teachers.



Ladies' Christmas Dinner Party
 Thursday, December 6
 6:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Tara Torrance Burghart
 Tara comes home to tell about her visit to Rapha House, a mission in Cambodia that rescues women from exploitation. A part of our congregation in her youth, Tara is now the children's minister at our sister congregation in Bella Vista, AR.

Ingathering
 Wed., Nov. 14
 6:30 p.m.

This annual worship service sponsored and planned by the **Benevolence Ministry Team** gives everyone the opportunity to testify to God's bountiful goodness.

The theme is giving. We give thanks to God for His blessings and share them with others through our monetary gifts. We give praise to God through our singing, the reading of pertinent Scriptures, personal testimonies of how God has blessed us.

Gather together to acknowledge the Lord's blessing, to give Him the glory He is due, and to share the bounty with others.

Holiday Dinner
 Sun., Dec. 9
 4:00 p.m.

Forward in Faith

Contact Rick & Jan Schmeski if you want to participate in the joy of victory in this capital campaign.

Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice



The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION

Matthew 28:19-20

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday Evening
 Sunday Morning
 5:30 Supper
 9:30 Worship
 6:30 Bible Classes
 11:00 Bible Classes

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