

# GRACE TODAY

— Vol. 22 No. 52 —

**December 30, 2018**

**John MacArthur**  
PASTOR-TEACHER

**Clayton Erb** / Minister of Music

**Welcome** to the Lord's day  
worship service at Grace Church.

We are truly blessed to be here  
this morning as we open God's  
Word together, sing His praises,  
and enjoy a time of fellowship  
in His presence.

Be sure to take advantage of  
the many fellowship and ministry  
opportunities available to  
our church family today and  
throughout the week.



**8:30 & 10:30\* am**

*Sonata I: 3rd Movement* • Bach • Stephen Sturz, Organist

Hymn 159 *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* • Congregation

Hymn 155 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* • Bach • Worship Choir

*Fairest Lord Jesus* • Trad./Maddux-Rice • Instrumental Praise

Hymn 143 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* • Congregation

*Jesus, King of Angels* • Ortega/Marsh • James Phillipp

**AUSTIN DUNCAN PREACHING**

*If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee* • Bach • Organ Postlude

**6:00 pm**

*Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery* • Papa-Boswell-Bleeker  
Instrumental Prelude

**Songs of Praise** • Congregation

Hymn 184 *Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery* • Offertory

MESSAGE: **PRECIOUS UNITY**

Phil Johnson • Psalm 133

**Postlude**

\* Interpreting for the deaf is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service. Arabic and Korean translation for the 10:30 a.m. service is available at [gracechurch.org/live](http://gracechurch.org/live). A limited number of headsets are available at the front desk for simultaneous translation.

**Anthem****Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring**

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,  
Holy wisdom, Love most bright,  
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring  
Soar to uncreated Light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned  
With the fire of life impassioned,  
Striving still to Truth unknown,  
Soaring, singing 'round Thy throne.

Music by J.S. Bach (BWV 147, 1716); words by Robert Bridges (c. 1906)

To maintain a worshipful atmosphere in the services, please do not applaud after musical numbers.

## Campus Ministries

**THE WELCOME CENTER** hosts a reception for visitors following each Sunday-morning service. Enjoy refreshments and find helpful people with answers to any questions you have about our church. You'll also receive one of Pastor MacArthur's books as a thank you for being with us today.

**THE MEMBER CENTER** has information about membership and baptism. It is located on the north side of the Heritage Building, across from the Welcome Center.

Next Membership Class • January 6  
101 • 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. • T375

**THE PRAYER ROOM** is staffed with counselors, ready to offer pastoral care. It is open after every service, and is adjacent to the Worship Center.

## Generations of Grace Children's Sunday School

The following lesson was taught **today** in Sunday School (Preschool through Juniors)



- MESSAGE **Review Sunday**  
PASSAGE **Genesis 18:10–15; 19:1–29**  
PRINCIPLE God must always be trusted and obeyed.  
FEATURED HYMN "My Hope Is in the Lord" (*Hymns of Grace* No. 213)  
ASK YOUR CHILD How did God fulfill his promises?  
APPLY By trusting God with everything in our lives.  
THIS WEEK As a family read Genesis 18:10–15; 19:1–29.  
NEXT WEEK Genesis 21:1–14

## On GraceWalk

- **Fundamentals of the Faith**
- **Local Outreach**

## On the Patio

- **Spanish Ministry**  
(by the Chapel)

## Bookstore

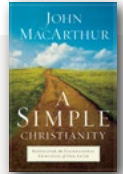
The Bookstore is open after each service and during the week. It is located on the south side of the Worship Center.

### READING FOR THE NEW YEAR

#### A SIMPLE CHRISTIANITY

*Rediscover the Foundational Principles of Your Faith*

BY JOHN MACARTHUR



This practical tool will help you restore the fire and conviction of your first love for Christ by helping you better understand His character, His glory, and His love for you.

**Available today for 25% off retail**

## Grace to You

**RADIO** [gty.org/radio](http://gty.org/radio)

- **The Great Commission**
- **"Bible Questions and Answers"**
- **The Gospel According to Jesus**

• KKLA 99.5 FM LOS ANGELES M–F 6:30 am & 7:30 pm  
• KDAR 98.3 FM OXNARD-VENTURA M–F 2:00 & 10:00 am; Sun 2:00 am

**TELEVISION** [gty.org/television](http://gty.org/television)

**"Testimonies to the Incarnation"**

• NRBTV CHANNEL 378 ON DIRECTV Sunday 6:30 pm

**ONLINE** [gty.org](http://gty.org)

- John MacArthur's sermons: audio, video, and transcripts
- Resource library: blog, devotionals, articles, Q&As, and more
- Mobile apps: "The Study Bible" and "Grace to You Sermons"

*Adapted from the Generations of Grace Family Devotional, available at the bookstore.*

# The Believer's Ambition

*Ambition* is a word we don't often hear in the context of the church. The world's spin on the concept is decidedly self-focused, frequently serving as nothing more than a thin veil for pride and covetousness. But in spite of the way the word is used and abused in secular circles, Christians are meant to live lives of ambition.

Specifically, God's people ought to have the kind of ambition the apostle Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 4:1–5. He writes, "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God...The one who examines me is the Lord...[And] each man's praise will come to him from God."

Paul's ambition was simple and direct: He wanted to be pleasing to the Lord. For

believers, there is no higher purpose to our lives than glorifying and pleasing our heavenly Father.

But if you're going to please Him, you first have to know *what* pleases Him. The believer's ambition isn't merely a vague, ignorant desire to make God happy. It starts with Scripture, and the revelation of His will for our lives. God's Word gives us abundant insight into what pleases the Lord. And through our faithful study of the Word, the Holy Spirit develops convictions that guide our behavior and, increasingly, become the passion and the driving desire of our hearts.

The kind of ambition Paul described is not a fleeting pursuit—it's not a resolution to

halfheartedly resurrect for the first month or two of each calendar year. Pleasing God is the goal we need to strive for every moment of every single day.

Worldly ambition puts the emphasis on what man wants to achieve and accumulate for himself. But James's epistle reminds us of the futility of such pursuits.

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow, we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.’ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.’ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.” —James 4:13–15

God's people know that “the right thing to do” is to set aside those selfish, temporal goals and yield to the will of the Lord—to devote our

lives to pleasing Him, rather than pleasing ourselves.

I don't know what the Lord has for my future—none of us do. But I know what He has for my present, and what He wants from my life. And I know what pleases Him because I know what He has declared in His Word.

Moreover, I know that one day I will stand before the Lord and give an account for what I did with my life. And I will receive an eternal reward for service rendered to Him—not out of a desire to elevate myself, but from a heart intent on pleasing Him.

As you think about your life, think in those simple terms. What does God want from you? How can you please Him with every thought, word, and deed? And in light of the knowledge that you will one day stand before Him, how should you live today?

**JOHN MACARTHUR**  
FROM “THE BELIEVER'S AMBITION,” 2014.

**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:10**

## Logos Institute Classes

### OT History II

January 7–February 11 (Mondays) • 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Michael Wurtz • Cost: \$50

### TH 303 Anthropology, Hamartiology, Angelology

January 8–February 12 (Tuesdays) • 7:00–9:00 p.m.  
Instructor: Chris Burnett • Cost: \$50

### Pauline Epistles and Acts—Part 2

January 10–March 14 (Thursdays)  
7:00–9:00 p.m. • Instructor: Paul Twiss • Cost: \$50

### Discipleship Counseling 2

January 16–April 10 (Wednesdays) • 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Instructors: Bill Shannon, George Sanders, Johnathan Tucker • Cost: \$75

For more information or to register, visit [gracechurch.org/logos](http://gracechurch.org/logos).

## Holiday Schedule

The Grace Church campus (including Steeple House and the bookstore) will be closed for the holidays December 31, 2018, and January 1, 2019. For questions about a specific ministry, please contact your ministry leader.

## Retirement Home Ministry

**Sundays, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**

On Sunday afternoons, teams of volunteers visit two assisted-living facilities in Northridge. They provide a worship service with songs, Scripture reading, exhortation, and a short sermon. This is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and minister to the fainthearted. For more information call 818-909-5721.

## Grace Around the World

### The **Mastrolonardo** Family

Frank & Susan, Eric, Alex

Serving in **Prison Ministry**



### Prayer / Praise

- Pray for wisdom and discernment as we minister in the prisons.
- Pray for protection from spiritual attacks.

For more information visit [gracechurch.org/mastrolonardo](http://gracechurch.org/mastrolonardo).

## Faith Promise

Remember, your Faith Promise giving is a great way to support our missionaries throughout the year.

## Local Outreach Spotlight

### Help Needed

The Open Arms Pregnancy Clinic has an urgent need for a part-time client services assistant and an OB/GYN or family practice physician. For more information, call Debi at 818-626-9404 or email [debi@openarmspregnancy.com](mailto:debi@openarmspregnancy.com).

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## Joyful Givers

### 2018 Tax Information

All contributions for calendar year 2018 must be received by the church no later than our December 30 offering or postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. The church campus will be closed for the holidays December 31, 2018, and January 1, 2019. Contributions received or postmarked after Monday, December 31, 2018, will be recorded in 2019. The elders, pastors, and church staff thank each of you for faithfully and sacrificially giving to the Lord.

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## STM 2019

If you'd like to serve on a team, provide financial support, or learn more about this year's opportunities, visit [gracechurch.org/stm](http://gracechurch.org/stm).

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## Junior High Winter Camp

**January 4–6 • Thousand Pines Christian Camp**

For details or to register, visit [gracechurch.org/xchange](http://gracechurch.org/xchange).

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## Job Opportunity

**Nursery Workers.** Children's Ministry currently has several part-time openings (4–20 hours/week) for nursery workers. Hours are primarily Sundays and Wednesdays. Must be able to exhibit love to parents, children, staff and desire to serve through humility, patience, and joy. Prior work experience in childcare is preferred, and applicants must be able to successfully pass a background check. Applicants for employment must be, if employed, biblically qualified as a deacon or deaconess and a member of Grace Church. For more information or to request an application, contact HR at [HR@gracechurch.org](mailto:HR@gracechurch.org) or 818-909-5672.

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## Grace Church Connection

Keep current with what's new around Grace Church each month. To subscribe to our monthly email update, visit [gracechurch.org/news](http://gracechurch.org/news).

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## High School Winter Camp

**January 19–21 • Forest Home**

For details or to register, visit [gracechurch.org/oneighty](http://gracechurch.org/oneighty).

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## Premarital/Marriage Seminar

A prerequisite for engaged couples desiring to get married at Grace Church, this seminar is also helpful for those who are purposefully dating, as well as married couples interested in God's plan for a successful marriage.

**Part 1 Friday, January 4, 7:00–9:00 p.m. • Saturday, January 5, 9:00 a.m.–noon**

**Part 2 Friday, February 15, 7:00–9:00 p.m. • Saturday, February 16, 9:00 a.m.–noon**

**Instructors: Bill Shannon, George Sanders, Tom Leman • T371–372**

**\$35 for church members or TMS/TMC students; \$65 for non-members**

For more information or to register, visit [gracechurch.org/premarital](http://gracechurch.org/premarital) or call 818-909-5537.

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## Sojourners Women's Fellowship

**Thursday, January 17 • 9:30–11:30 a.m. • T270s**

**Speaker: Marge Stamper • Topic: "Being a Good Listener"**

Childcare for children pre-K and younger by reservation. All women are welcome. Call 818-887-9717 for more information.

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**8:30 a.m.**

**Anchored** (All ages) T360s  
Pastors: Carl Hargrove,  
Bill Shannon

**Children's Sunday School**  
Visit the Welcome Center  
for room locations.  
Pastor: Ace Davis

**Cornerstone** (All ages) T370s  
Pastors: Nathan Busenitz,  
Hohn Cho, Mark Tatlock,  
Harry Walls

**Developmentally Disabled**  
CC 130E; Pastor: Rick McLean

**GraceLife** (All ages)  
Family Center  
Pastors: Phil Johnson,  
Mike Riccardi

**Junior High** (Grades 7–8)  
T70s (Basement)  
Pastor: Jay Lennington

**Spanish Adult Sunday  
School** H221-222  
Teachers: Josiah Grauman,  
José Soria, Santiago Armel,  
Eduardo Izquierdo

**Spanish Worship Service**  
Chapel • Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,  
Michael Mahoney,  
Josiah Grauman

**Steadfast** (All ages) T260s  
Pastor: Brian Biedebach

**10:30 a.m.**

**Children's Sunday School**  
*Special needs class available*  
Visit the Welcome Center  
for room locations.  
Pastor: Ace Davis

**Crossroads**  
(College & young adults)  
Family Center  
Pastor: Austin Duncan

**Developmentally Disabled**  
CC 130E; Pastor: Rick McLean

**High School** (Grades 9–12)  
T70s (Basement)  
Pastor: Josh Petras

**Joint Heirs** (All ages) T260s  
Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street

**Mainstream** (All ages) T360s  
Pastors: Rich Gregory,  
Carlos Chung

**Sojourners** (All ages) T370s  
Pastors: William Varner,  
Joe Zhakevich

**Spanish Adult Sunday  
School** H221–222  
Teachers: Rubén Pidal,  
José Alcívar, José Martínez,  
Josué Pineda

**Spanish Worship Service**  
Chapel • Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,  
Michael Mahoney, Josiah Grauman

**12:30 p.m.**

**Neighborhood Outreach**  
H223–224

**5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Night Prayer Group**  
T385

**6:00 p.m.**

**Adventure Club**  
Family Center (Grades 4–6)  
Chapel (Grades 1–3)  
T270s (Ages 3–5)

Visit our website at [GRACECHURCH.ORG](http://GRACECHURCH.ORG)

**Fridays 7:30 p.m.**

**The Guild** (Single adults)  
T360s  
Pastor: Don Carr

**Mondays 9:00 a.m.**

**Monday Morning Prayer Group**  
Welcome Center

**Building Abbreviation Key**  
T = Tower  
H = Heritage  
CC = Children's Center

**MINISTRY DIRECTORY**

**Administration**  
818-909-5500

**Children**  
818-909-5631

**Logos Institute**  
818-909-5500

**Membership**  
818-909-5644

**Men**  
818-909-5537

**Outreach**  
818-909-5700

**Pastoral Care &  
Counseling**  
818-909-5537

**Prayer**  
818-909-5519

**Spanish**  
818-909-5722

**Special Ministries**  
818-909-5519

**Student**  
818-909-5593

**Women**  
818-909-5521

**GRACE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**13248 Roscoe Blvd.  
Sun Valley, CA 91352**

*Our mission is to glorify God  
and extend His kingdom by  
living and proclaiming  
His truth in the world.*

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