



Amazing and Abounding Grace

Are you enjoying forgiveness right now? Have you had to apologize to someone recently, and sought forgiveness? Forgiveness is not just needed by terrible sinners, but by ordinary sinners like us.

John Newton was a slave trader, and considered himself an unworthy sinner. He wrote “Amazing Grace . . . that saved a wretch like me.” It takes amazing grace to save us from our life of sin.

Paul was a persecutor before his salvation, a blasphemer and a murderer. His testimony in I Timothy 1:15 was that he was chief of sinners. He too rejoiced in God’s amazing grace that saved us from sin. King Ahab in I Kings 21:25-29 was so bad that it says “there was no other man like Ahab who set himself to do evil . . .,” but when he repented, God gave him forgiveness and delayed the punishment.

But the discussion of amazing grace - that it took to save us, doesn’t reassure us when we sin now. We don’t lose our salvation, but is there grace to forgive us as believers? We relate well to amazing grace that saved us from pre-conversion life. Is God’s grace still amazing for us and His forgiveness today? Is our sin no less grievous? Does I John 1:9 seem just too simple to deal with sin today? Abraham Lincoln was involved in a political primary with William Steward, Solomon Chase, and Edward Bates. It was a hotly debated primary in the Republican party with each of these candidates taking pot shots at Lincoln. All of this was not with the other party, but within his own party. Lincoln became President and in a display of grace, appointed these political rivals to positions in his cabinet. He forgave them of their criticism, and honored them with positions in his administration.

This is what Christ did for us. We are in “His party.” We are His children, and He forgives us with abounding grace. No matter what our sin, He forgives us. His grace is no less amazing in July 2010 than it was when He saved you 50 years ago. In fact, that grace abounds today. He’ll forgive you today as He did when He saved your soul. He does not relegate us to some far off meaningless existence in His Kingdom, away from His presence, unable to serve Him. He puts us into



July 2010 Nuggets

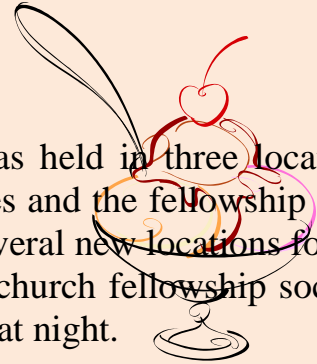
First Baptist Church XLV No 539

positions of service right here, right now knowing full well you will need more grace. In some respects, it's not the amazing grace that's so amazing; it's the abounding grace that is so amazing. The forgiveness you'll need and receive today is truly amazing.

Romans 5:20 “. . . where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” Let's be thankful as we pray today not only for the amazing grace that reigns through righteousness unto eternal life (5:21), but also for His abounding grace you will need and receive today.

Second Sunday Sundaes - July 18th

The first in our summer series of fellowships was held in three locations following the Evening Service on June 13th. The sundaes and the fellowship were great. Our next in the series will be on July 18th, with several new locations for the sundaes. There is a place for everyone. Join the after-church fellowship socials. The teens are scheduled for participation in the service that night.



Farewell to the Ashleys

Willard and Mildred Ashley are moving to Ohio to be nearer their son. We held a fellowship time between the morning Sunday School hour and Worship Service. We presented them a check to help them with their moving expenses. Pray for them as they move and adjust to their new apartment.

July 4th



Bob Flatt will speak during the Morning Service on our nation's birthday. There will be no Evening Service. April Briggs will bring a patriotic mini-musical during the service as well.



Singspiration - July 11th

Our first Singspiration is scheduled for July 11th at 6:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Maine. The church van will leave at 5:30 p.m. if you need a ride. We have enjoyed the yearly Singspirations with our two sister churches and anticipate a great time of singing and fellowship again this year.

Women Who Worship



His Large Hand

"Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfieth the desire of every living thing" (Psalm 145:16).

You were small, and a person of large size stood before you with his hand behind his back. "Now, I am going to hold out my hand, and you may pick your favorite piece of candy." And so you waited for that large hand to be extended, and when it was, you selected with wide-eyed delight that treat that would satisfy your little tummy!

Our Lord has a large, beneficent heart toward His creatures. He also has a large hand in which He holds good gifts to give to His children. Psalm 145:16 says of God, "You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." Trees and flowers, animals and people: God cares for all and meets their needs in proper season. The Lord Jesus Christ is Creator and Sustainer of all creation every moment for He IS the Lord of Life (John 1:4).

But for believers, who should look to Him for every need, His blessed hand is extended to us at all times. There we find held out to us all we need for life and godliness, all we long for to satisfy the deepest desires of spirit and soul. Love, joy, peace, indeed, all the fruit of the Spirit can be found in His hand. Mercy, grace, guidance, and purpose are provided to meet our daily needs. Comfort, care, and compassion are there for us in abundance. The quantity is unlimited and the taking



July 2010 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLV No 539

is unrestricted. He will never scold us for taking too much or withhold from us that which will meet the needs of His beloved.

Yes, He opens His hand and offers to satisfy. But how do we take of His offer? Like all of God's gifts, we take hold by faith. But are we looking into His hand to find what satisfies, or are we looking somewhere else? Do you delight in what He holds out to you, or are there other things that fill your heart? As we "taste and see" the delights of His love, His joy, His peace, His grace—all the sweetness of what He is—we will find ourselves deeply satisfied. His smile of approval will shine down upon us as we take all we need. He came that we should have abundant life, His Life, and He holds it out to us in His large and open Hand. Come and take; taste and see!

© Dorothy Davis

Pastor's Desk

Pastor is going to miss the country's birthday party this year. He says he and the Mrs. have to attend a family reunion in Missouri. I kind of think family reunions are important. You get to see people you haven't seen in a while, maybe years. I think we ought to hold a reunion at church on Sunday mornings. There is a lot of people we haven't seen in awhile, some for years. We are a family, you know. Pastor says we're brothers and sisters and we have weekly reunions held each Sunday. I guess some of the Spiegel clan won't be making it again this year to their reunion, and I guess the First Baptist clan won't all be here on July 4th. Maybe we should have a cookout and do fireworks and all the family will get there Sunday mornings. Pastor says he'll be back for the reunion on July 11th. Are you going to be there?





In Tune With

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."
[2 Timothy 3:16, 17]



Growing up, I would ask, "Do I have to eat the Lima Beans?" I was even heard to say, "Brussels sprouts, again!" Dad always remarked, "Eat'em there good for you." Now I'm an adult my perspective has changed. Vegetables I did not like because of the way they looked, I've found don't taste as bad as they looked. Other vegetables I learned to acquire a taste for and even like them. There are still some, like lima beans and Brussels sprouts, for which I never have acquired a taste, but eat because they are good for me. What I do like is a salad bar. When I go to the salad bar, I don't take everything offered only my favorite foods.

When it comes to scripture many Christians are salad bar Christians. They only eat (read & study) passages or subjects they like never learning to acquire a taste for all scripture. Paul tells Timothy "all scripture...is profitable." It is profitable because it helps produce maturity in us. It enables us to meet the demands placed upon us every day. It is capable, complete and proficient. All scripture is profitable because all scripture is inspired - God's inerrant recorded revelation of truth [the Bible] is the final authority of faith and practice. The Bible is an indispensable tool in teaching and preaching. The following foods are necessary for our spiritual development.

First, we have the Broccoli of Doctrine. What we believe is rooted in the teaching of God's word. God's Word is to be the only source of what we believe. Broccoli has never been one of my favorite foods but I do find it necessary to eat for health reasons. Doctrine sometimes can be difficult to swallow because it goes against our natural thinking and sometimes to make it more palatable, we tend to mix it with error so that people will find it acceptable. Paul warned us about this in 2 Tim. 4:3.



July 2010 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLV No 539

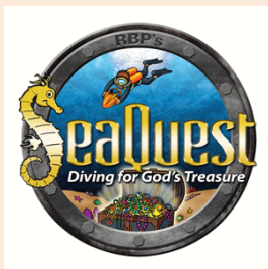
Secondly, we find the Brussels Sprouts of Reproof. Brussels sprouts are almost impossible for me to eat. That's why I associated them with reproof. No one really likes reproof but it is necessary because through it we learn what we are doing wrong in light of the objective standard of Scripture. Reproof reminds us we cannot do as we please by exposing sin, false doctrine and false teachers.

Thirdly, we come to the Lima Beans of Correction. In correction, we are shown how to change what we are doing wrong - attitude, actions. It's hard enough to swallow doing something wrong let alone be told to change our ways but there cannot be any spiritual maturity with out change. Correction directs us to the right path, the straight path. It restores to a right standing.

Finally there is the Okra of instruction. Here we mean the necessary training towards righteousness. We have to get rid of the attitude that says no one is going to tell me what to do, let alone God and let go of the set jaw, the closed mouth and clenched fist that represent our unwillingness to learn.

The first step toward maturity is learning to feed on the whole counsel of God. It's good for you and once you begin to feed on the whole counsel of God you will find the taste isn't as bad as you thought it would be. As salad bar Christians, we will never mature until we learn to feed on the whole counsel of God. The option is instability that immaturity produces. (Eph 4:11ff). By picking and choosing what we want from God's word, we miss many of the good things God has planned for us. Daily visits to the salad bar are not good for us but occasionally a visit is all right! That's the way I see it. Write me at hopetriumphant@frontiernet.net and let me know how you see it.

VBS - July 12-16



Our Vacation Bible School will get underway on Sunday Morning at 9:30 a.m. We are kicking off this year's program during the Sunday School Hour because there is no service here Sunday night (Singspiration at Maine). Boys and girls ages two through 6th grade should come and be registered. We will be learning the songs and meeting the characters involved in



July 2010 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLV No 539

this year's program. Our theme is "Sea Quest - Diving for God's Treasures." We're planning a great time of singing, Bible lessons, and puppets. There will be game time and craft time and of course refreshments. Everyone is invited to the closing program on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.



"... And a special word of thanks to those of you who helped with our Vacation Bible School."

Quarterly Business Meeting

July 21st at 6:45 p.m.

All-Church Picnic

at

Strong's Pond

July 30th at 6:00 p.m.

* Meat provided, but bring your table service, dish to share, and lawn chair.