

GRACE *and Truth*

GRACE†

Grace Evangelical Church
5905 East Southport Road
Indianapolis, IN 46237
317-859-8008
www.indygrace.org

For the law was given through Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

April, 2015



Wise Decision Making

by Rick M. Storm, M.D.
Elder, Grace Evangelical Church

Every day we are required to make decisions. Our Christian faith obliges us to be wise and discerning as we live day to day. Have you considered how many decisions you make each day, each week and each month? You may consider that some are little or minor decisions, but the outcome of these decisions may still significantly impact your testimony, while other decisions may be deemed major or seemingly larger than life that could change the course of your entire life. Also, how you make these decisions may reveal a pattern of your dependence upon God and your relationship with Him.

"A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel."

– Proverbs 1:5

"The wise in heart are called discerning, And pleasant words promote instruction."

– Proverbs 16:21, NLT

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom."

– James 3:13

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

– Ephesians 5:15-17

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?"

– 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

So how are you doing? Have your decisions, major or minor, been honoring to God? Are you self-centered or God-focused in your decision making process? These are certainly weighty considerations, as we desire to be pleasing to our God and draw near to Him. As the apostle Paul

told the church at Rome, "Do your decisions/actions pursue the goal of peace and edification of one another?" And to the church at Colossae we further received the following admonition: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

What process, method, technique or approach do you use for decision-making? Are you impulsive and spontaneous or are you considered and cautious when finalizing a decision? Or do you use a combination of these approaches? Does the teaching of Scripture always, usually or sometimes impact your day-to-day decisions? These questions are certainly thought provoking for the writer of this article and hopefully they will stimulate you to desire to be even more pleasing to your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling to-

(Continued on page 2)



Visit our website at www.indygrace.org

WISE DECISION MAKING *(Continued from page 1)*

gether, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”
– Hebrews 10:24-25

Godly wisdom is taught throughout the pages of Scripture and we are commanded to be wise. So what are some principles that we can use while we seek to make God-honoring decisions as we function as His ambassadors to the world? The following principles from the Book of Proverbs may be helpful.

PRINCIPLE #1: Be sure you have all the facts.

“He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.” – Proverbs 18:13, NKJV

“Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes.” – Proverbs 19:2, NLT

“Get the truth and never sell it; Also get wisdom, discipline, and good judgment.” – Proverbs 23:23, NLT

PRINCIPLE #2: With facts in hand, honestly consider the consequences (not with your head in the sand, but with your eyes on the Word of God).

“It is pleasant to see dreams come true, But fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them.” – Proverbs 13:19, NLT

“The naive believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps.” – Proverbs 14:15, NASB95

“The prudent understand where they are going, But fools deceive themselves.” – Proverbs 14:8, NLT

“People ruin their lives by their own foolishness, And then are angry at the LORD.” – Proverbs 19:3, NLT

“A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.” – Proverbs 22:3, NLT

PRINCIPLE #3: Wise planning is an exercise of faith, not an absence of it.

“Wise people think before they act; Fools don’t – and even brag about their foolishness.” – Proverbs 13:16, NLT

“The wise have wealth and luxury, But fools spend whatever they get.” – Proverbs 21:20, NLT

“A house is built by wisdom, And becomes strong through good sense.” – Proverbs 24:3

“Through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables.” – Proverbs 24:4, NLT

“A man’s heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.” – Proverbs 16:9, NKJV

It is not sin to plan. It is foolish not to. We are not to trust our plans, but we are to plan our trust.

PRINCIPLE #4: When in doubt, seek counsel.

“Plans go wrong for lack of advice; Many advisers bring success.” – Proverbs 15:22, NLT

PRINCIPLE #5: Stay away from easy answers to complex questions. Christians are gluttons for get-rich-quick schemes or super-simple solutions in the name of faith.

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, But hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

“Wealth created by a lying tongue Is a vanishing mist and deadly.” – Proverbs 21:5-6

PRINCIPLE #6: Once you have reached what you feel is God’s decision, relax! Don’t look over your shoulder. Your planning was to prepare you for His sovereignty.

“All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, But motives are weighed by the LORD.” – Proverbs 16:2

“We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God’s hands.” – Proverbs 16:2, TLB

“The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.” – Proverbs 16:33

“You can make many plans, But the Lord’s purpose will prevail.” – Proverbs 19:21

“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the LORD.” – Proverbs 21:31

“Go ahead and prepare for the conflict, but victory comes from God.” – Proverbs 21:31, TLB

SO OUR JOB IS TO:

1. Get the facts.
2. Consider the consequences.
3. Plan wisely.
4. Confirm by counsel if considered necessary for the decision at hand.
5. Shun answers and quick solutions that may adversely impact our desired godly testimony.

God’s plan is to take our decisions and use it His way, in His time, and for His glory while in the process of transforming us into the image of His Son, Jesus.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” – 2 Corinthians 3:17

As members of Grace Evangelical Church we make decisions each week that impact the spiritual vitality of our congregation. These include:

- how we serve, employing and using our spiritual gifts and talents;
- how we stimulate others to love and good deeds by being faithful stewards of the resources that God has given us; and
- how we faithfully pray for one another in our service to God.

These decisions should be continuous and progressing in all of us.

The elders of Grace Evangelical Church are currently presenting a senior pastor candidate to the congregation for consideration and a vote. Your part in this

(Continued on page 3)

Fellowship Group Spotlight

LEGACY

Rich Witmer is teaching from the Book of Hebrews. The author of Hebrews is unknown but tells of the way Jesus went through suffering into glory, making a way for others to follow. As high priest, Christ offered himself as the atoning sacrifice, bringing others into a new covenant relationship with God. Believers are therefore called to persevere in faith, knowing that God will be faithful. **The Legacy Fellowship Group meets in the café at 9:00 a.m.**

OWLS

Steve Agal is teaching from Genesis, chapters 37-50 on the life of Joseph, son of Jacob. Our OWLS Fellowship Group had the spring luncheon on Sunday, March 15th with a guest speaker from the Franciscan Senior Health and Wellness. She had lots of good information for folks 55 and older. OWLS of all ages are welcome. Come and join us! **The OWLS meet in room 112/113 at 9:00 a.m.**

WORD PROCESSORS

The Word Processors are studying the Book of Colossians. Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians to correct the false teachings and practices that had arisen in the church, showing them that true doctrine and practice are found in the Lord Jesus Christ. **The Word Processors meet in Room 109/110 at 9:00 a.m.**

REFUGE

Mike Lawlis is conducting a study of the patriarchs. He began with Abraham and will continue with Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. The biblical patriarchs are the line of men God used to establish the nation of Israel. Perhaps the most well-known of the biblical patriarchs is Abraham, because from him all Israelites are descended. God made a covenant with him, promising that Abraham would be "the father of many nations." (Genesis 17:4) The Refuge has a time of fellowship which includes sharing praises and prayer requests. **The Refuge class meets in room 115 at 9:00 a.m.**

YOUTH GROUP (Grades 6-12)

On Sunday mornings, the Youth Group is studying the series called *The God Who Saves*, the most recent installment in the *The Gospel Project*, in which the truth of human sin and the beauty of God's salvation will be examined. On Sunday evenings, the "Anchors Away" program is taught by Elijah Smith. This is a college level course that explains the various world views with a focus on the biblical world view. Parents are welcome to monitor the class. The cost for the material is \$20. Brady New is teaching the Book of Acts on Wednesday nights. The youth will also be challenged to memorize John 1:1-18 this spring. **The Youth Group meets in Room 117 at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and Sunday and Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.**

WISE DECISION MAKING

(Continued from page 2)

decision will be important for the future ministry of Grace. Please continue praying that God will use all of us in making God-honoring decisions for Grace. May God bless you as you seek to be pleasing to Him.

"Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

"So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight.

"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him." – 2 Corinthians 5:5-9

GRACE AND TRUTH Newsletter Editors:

Jennifer Wilkerson
and Janet Simpson newsletter@indygrace.org

Grace Evangelical Church Office Staff:

Gabe Doerksen, Pastor of Worship & Arts gabe@indygrace.org
Steve Agal, Ministry Staff steve@indygrace.org
Dick Witmer, Pastor to Seniors, Emeritus dick@indygrace.org
Donna Huff, Financial Secretary donna@indygrace.org
Keli Handy, Secretary keli@indygrace.org

Introducing Our New Early Childhood Director

Holly Phoenix has been attending Grace for the past three years. During that time, she has been working with the little ones on Wednesday nights, and helping and teaching on Sunday mornings in the Children's Department.

Holly graduated with a teaching degree from Indiana University in 2006. After teaching in the public schools for a couple of years, she made the switch to ABA therapy (Applied Behavior Analysis). She works with children with autism and other special needs in their homes and at school.

Holly is married to Adam, a long-time member of Grace. They have a ten year old daughter, Ava, and are expecting a baby in August.

Holly is really excited about becoming the new Early Childhood Director and looks forward to continuing to work with and getting to know you and your children.

We welcome Holly to our staff here at Grace!



HOLLY PHOENIX

Turning Point for James

Kristen and James have served in an eastern country where disclosure of their last name could jeopardize their freedom to evangelize and disciple. They opened a restaurant to serve as a platform for ministry and to enable them to have a legitimate, long-standing presence in their community. James was recently diagnosed with lung cancer and the family returned to the United States for treatment. Kristen contacted us recently with the following good news.

HELLO DEAR FRIENDS ...

We have had quite the past few days. James caught the flu which has given him some really high fevers ... but was diagnosed as a "normal" flu (and not some wacky stuff from Asia) when the County Health Department came to our house ... which then meant that James was not able to see his oncologist to get the results from his CT. The oncologist basically said, "You can't come here. You're too sick."

So today, while we waited at the urgent care clinic, the oncologist called us to tell us the results, which left me completely stunned. **James does not have cancer!**

According to his oncologist, his scan looks, "Amazing, beautiful, really great, definitely different, unbelievable ... nothing is worse, and everything is better." The largish mass that was remaining on the last scan is shrinking. There are a few remaining sections of inflamed lungs, but hugely decreased. The oncologist even used the word "gone" more than once to describe tumors, inflammation, etc. He said "unbelievable" a couple of times! I was just shocked because I thought for sure he was calling to say James had cancer. The doctor said he was very happy to disappoint me with the news. James does not need any further scans for another four to six months.

We will be following up with a pulmonologist and surgeon in the next few days to see what can be done about his symptoms. This will also include a GI doctor looking at his esophagus. Please pray that we have clear leading and direction as we continue to pursue James' total healing.

In the meantime feel free to join us in shouting the news from the rooftops!

We know this news doesn't mark the end of this whole journey ... but we are thankful for the part you all played in praying for us, encouraging us, and keeping us focused on the goodness of God. Please keep it up until James is totally healthy.

Lots of love and sincere thanks,
Kristen

The budget of the Missions Committee operates solely from designated giving, and not from the general offering. In order to support the Grace Evangelical Missions outreach, you need to mark your offering envelope with the specific amount you wish to go to MISSIONS. God has richly blessed our church and the missions giving has always been very good. Please join with us in making certain that you designate a portion of your giving to MISSIONS. Let's see where the Lord leads us and how we can expand the outreach of Grace Evangelical Church.



Michaela, Kristen, Caroline, Lydia and James

Birthdays & Anniversaries

APRIL

- 4/03 Christina Wilson
- 4/04 Larry Cooney
- 4/04 Kyle Black
- 4/04 Shelby Lambrecht
- 4/06 DeAndre Hill
- 4/07 Cody Ball
- 4/07 Logan Ball
- 4/07 Collin Ball
- 4/10 David Spence
- 4/11 Cheryl McCabe
- 4/11 Barb Andry
- 4/14 Sam Young
- 4/15 Jamie Spence
- 4/17 Chelsea Engle
- 4/18 Kevin Via
- 4/20 Zach DeHoff
- 4/20 Tricia Sparks
- 4/21 Levi Campbell
- 4/24 David Moore
- 4/25 Grace Graham
- 4/26 Mary Nine

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/10 Allen & Tricia Sparks

The following is a quote from one of our own youth, David Spence:

"Hi! I want you to look around you ... what do you see? Friends, family, moms, dads, brother, sister: God's creations. Take a break and praise!"

News From the Children's Department

by Cristi DeHoff

The Children's Department is in full swing! We are preparing for promotions at the end of the summer, and of course ... Vacation Bible School!

We have our new trimester coming up at the end of April and are in need of adult teachers, helpers, and substitute teachers, both hours, in various areas. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Holly (holly@indygrace.org) or Cristi (cristi@indygrace.org).

We will keep you up to date on VBS, what we need

and where we need help. The Children's Department is excited about including Noah's Ark, as well as families from the community. We are planning to promote VBS more this year than ever before!

Please keep us in your prayers for the following:

- volunteers to staff our Sunday morning needs;
- smooth planning and plenty of adult volunteers for VBS;
- and that VBS and all we do is impacting children and families for Christ.