

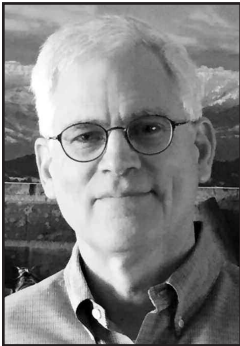
GRACE *and Truth*

GRACE†

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

March, 2016



The Final Frontier (and it's not space!)

by Rich Witmer

"It is in our relationships with Christ and each other that we realize we are not alone in our struggles."

I don't know about you, but I believe that I have a reasonable amount of "will-power" (or "won't-power" as my grandmother referred to it when trying to refrain from unhealthy food choices). I can make myself work out on a regular schedule, I'm punctual, and don't really have too much difficulty regulating my diet. Although it took me until I was into my 40s, I have a consistent personal devotion time, and even have an accountability group.

But ... can we talk? Although all of the previously mentioned activities might show a somewhat disciplined lifestyle, there is at least one factor that ties them all together – they involve my physical body.

What about my mind? It is always "on" ... always receiving new information to sort through. The real heart of the matter is that while I may be able to exercise will power and self-control in where I go and what I do physically, my thoughts are a different matter. For one thing, other people don't know my thoughts. Secondly, I cannot escape my thoughts. My mind goes where I do – it's always with me, along with the non-stop narrative that we can all relate to. From fear ... to jealousy ... to anxiety ... to pride ... to lust ... to anger, it's all in there. When I honestly consider (look at) my mind I realize that for many of us, the mind is indeed the last frontier to conquer. At times, it seems that the more I try to control it, the more that I am left feeling like a failure.

Hopeless? A losing battle? Not even close. Isaiah tells us that God "will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3) Very similar is Paul's letter to the Philippians: "... and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep (literally, guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

So, how do we appropriate this peace that is promised to believers?

- Pray – Daily time spent in prayer expressing thanks, prayer in petition for others, and prayer for ourselves.

These things can only draw us closer to Christ and make us more like Him. Be in consistent prayer for strength in setting your thoughts straight. "Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5)

- Study of Scripture – Devoting time to Bible study is critical in ensuring that we are not "conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" with the result that we "will be able to prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2) Never forget that our adversary, the devil, is on the prowl against us, so we must remain firm in our faith.
- Remember – it is very helpful to look back and see all of the ways that God has shown his faithfulness to us. The problem is that for many of us, we stay too busy to notice. In Exodus 13:3, Moses had to remind the Children of Israel to remember: "Then Moses said unto the people, 'Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage, for by strength of hand the'"
(Continued on page 4)



We need teachers and assistants! The Children's Department is looking for volunteers who would like to spend an hour once a week, or just once a month, helping us teach our children about Jesus. If interested, contact Holly Phoenix, 859-8008. Pictured above are first and second graders Brooks Scott, Evan Doerksen, Jacob Wiksten, Wes Steenburg and Tristin DeHoff.

Visit our website at www.indygrace.org

Second Quarter Sunday Classes

The following classes are still in the planning stages and will start Sunday, April 3rd. They are subject to change and room numbers will be assigned at a later date.

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

Written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome, the apostle summarizes the gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone and describes the nature and role of the church in God's eternal plan. **Taught by Ron Dodson and Michael Huff.**

THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW

Centuries ago, God left His mark on a people and their land. Today, Israel's heritage offers Christians the promise of His enduring faithfulness. This class is based on a DVD series from **Focus on the Family**, recorded on site in Israel where "faith lessons" are taught from the various biblical sites. **Taught by Steve Agal.**

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MONEY

As the title suggests, this class will examine the biblical principles of money, stewardship, and financial responsibility. Individuals who participate in this class will gain a greater

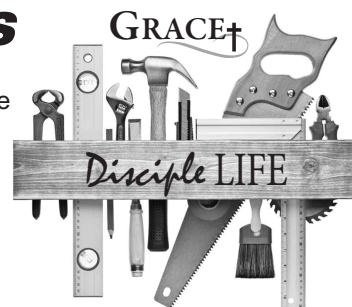
knowledge of what the Bible says about how they are to earn, save and spend the monetary resources the Lord provides them. **Taught by Kyle Black.**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

This class will include a biblical study of what the spiritual gifts are, how they have manifested themselves in the past, present and future, and will include an inventory for each participant to discover his/her own spiritual gifts. The hope of this class is for participants to better serve the kingdom of God by having a growing knowledge of how God has gifted them. **Taught by Doug Decker.**

DISCIPLELIFE: CHILDREN'S WING

Remember you can always serve in the children's wing during a DiscipleLIFE quarter. This is a great way to serve the church body while also giving a break to those regular teachers in the children's wing to attend an adult DiscipleLIFE class themselves. Please contact Holly Phoenix or Cristi DeHoff.



Volunteers and Opportunities at Pantry

by Bill Boone

It was fantastic to see a new group of folks come from Grace and serve at Servant's Heart on the third Saturday of the month! Danny Young and Elijah Smith have been coming for several months now and were joined this last Saturday by Lamar, Joyce and Max Young, Maria Via, and Gabe, Kari Jo, Mackenzie and Evan Doerksen. Little Evan really took to stocking the groceries! It is our prayer that the Grace group will grow and work into a regular crew. Grace members Linda Pea and Larry Cooney are currently serving on our board of directors.

Recently, we have had a couple of clients create some grief for us. One turned us into the Board of Health and the other sent a nasty email to our information account. I shared with our teams that when things like this happen I draw strength from a couple of my favorite verses. James 1:2 says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds." Galatians 6:9-10 says, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

The devil doesn't like it when we are serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. I share this with you all because when you come and serve alongside us there will be some clients who can get under your skin and some that we question whether they really need our help. I tell our volunteers that God has sent them to us for a reason and we must share an unconditional love with them. This is when Christ's light has to shine from us the brightest.

As I finish this article, I want to just share two wonderful opportunities that we had to touch two families in a special way. A few weeks ago we had someone donate a big screen projection TV. We had written it on the white board as a Super

Bowl special. A new family came on the second Thursday night and asked to see it. I inquired what else they needed and the young man shared that he was a disabled vet who had served four tours in the Middle East. He, his wife and four children had been homeless and living in their truck. Recently they had acquired a home but had nothing to furnish it. That family not only left with food and clothes but with a TV, two sets of mattresses and a table and chairs. As they were loading up the second truck load, I told them that we pray over families and the furniture that God had provided for them. This young family was very grateful!

The second family came in late yesterday. This family tragically lost their home this week to a fire. We offered them whatever they needed, but since they are being put up in a motel at the moment, clothes were the priority. They had located a temporary home but didn't have possession of it yet. I had gotten a call from Hayes and Sons on Friday about a truck load of furniture. God knew that we were going to see that family on Saturday. This is what truly amazes me about our ministry! It is such a blessing to not dwell on Satan's attacks but rejoice when God lets His light shine through us.

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.



Leadership Spotlight

Each month over the next year, we will be featuring one elder and one deacon, talking about their duties, what led up to their serving here at Grace, their hobbies, family, etc. Our goal is for you to come to know our leaders a little better.



MIKE MONFREDA, DEACON

Mike and Mary Monfreda have been members of Grace for 17 years and will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary on March 28 of this year. Mike manages to be everywhere at once when he's at Grace. You may have noticed him – he's the one in shorts, Hawaiian shirt and

flip flops (even in winter). Mike is serving his second term as a deacon and Mary is serving her first term as a deaconess.

The couple practices a daily devotional and is currently reading through a commentary by Warren Wiersbe. Praying together in the mornings before heading off to work is another daily routine for them.

Mike and Mary are empty nesters but have three grown children, Dawn, Kevin and Anthony. Dawn (married to Jack Calvert) works as a nurse for IU Health and has two children, Brynne and Alric. Kevin joined the Air Force in 2001 and has been stationed in the United States, South Korea, Germany, and England, with short tours including Iraq and Afghanistan. Anthony is a manager at Hardee's Restaurant.

The Monfredas have diverse recreational interests: play-

ing cards, going on vacations together, sending gag gifts, taking funny family pictures, whitewater rafting and skydiving (yes, skydiving!) They also find time to enjoy the beauty and sounds of nature during walks in the woods.

They both love to garden. "We try to co-op with families from Grace because it is so much more fun gardening as a group. The biggest of our tomatoes measured six inches across!"

Currently serving as the vice chairman of the deacon board, Mike's responsibilities include interior maintenance of the church and overseeing the benevolent fund.

Mike and Mary pursue professional careers. Mike has owned a plumbing company since 1999 and does light commercial, residential and remodeling plumbing. Mary has been employed as an x-ray technologist at IU Health for 14 years.

Finishing the remodeling project on their Acton home is one of their goals. They also help their son Kevin buy and fix up houses for resale. Mike enjoys fixing things and says, "I like to be creative in trying to make things work together."

Mike and Mary would like to make a plea for more volunteers at Grace. "The best way to help is to attend our work days in the spring and fall. There are a lot of maintenance projects and the board of deacons can't do them all. If you have a specific skill set that can be used in maintaining the building, please let us know."

KYLE BLACK, ELDER

Kyle and Liz Black met at work right here in Indy. Liz told Kyle that she was from Auburn, Indiana and was surprised that Kyle knew where that was. Kyle is from Fort Wayne which is near Auburn. As it turns out, both Kyle and Liz's families live about a half hour apart. This makes for nice holidays because they can easily visit both families!

The couple's only son, Daniel, was born last year. "We tried for two to three years to get pregnant and have praised God for this blessing ever since. Daniel is full of life and is almost always smiling," Kyle says.

Liz and Kyle have "drunk the Kool-aid" of triathlon racing. Kyle says, "We both just enjoy competing against ourselves and use it as a great way to stay healthy." They enjoy destination runs (wrapping a vacation around either a mini-marathon or triathlon.) "It's a great way to see new cities."

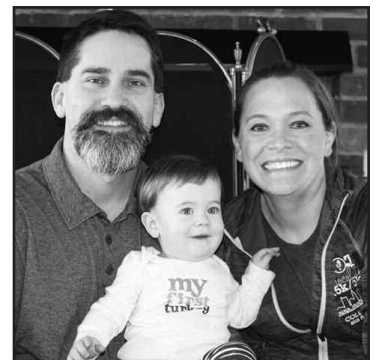
In addition to triathlons, Kyle is an avid woodworker. He says, "Any time I can get in the garage to take large pieces of wood and make them smaller, I do." Liz has a gift for digital scrapbooking, putting memories on photo album books that many think are professionally done.

Reading through devotional books on various topics is part of their Friday night "date night," although these have been few and far between since the family has grown!

Kyle currently serves on the Grace Elder Board in the position of HR chairman. According to Kyle, "It's been a challenge, but a good challenge." He enjoys being spiritually sharpened by the other elders and growing in the knowledge

of God. Liz has begun helping out in the nursery and supporting young mothers by helping with baby and wedding showers. Kyle began coming to Grace around 2004 and Liz has attended since 2007. They both became members in 2008.

Kyle has worked for St. Francis as an exercise physiologist since 2002. He says, "If you need a stress test or some sort of cardiac testing, come see me." Liz works as a nurse practitioner at Our Health, a primary care physician practice in downtown Indianapolis which serves business employees and their families.



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Modesty at Church

by Jennifer Wilkerson

"In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."

– 1 Timothy 2:9-10

These verses, written by Paul many years ago, are still just as relevant today. In what ways do their principles need to be applied to modern women?

"... not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."

Known as the "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13 applies not just to romantic love but to our relationships with others in general. Verses 4 and 5 say: *"... love does not parade itself, is not puffed up, ... does not seek its own..."*

This verses instruct us on what motives for our dress should be. Are we dressing to call attention to ourselves, to show off to others, or to boast about our wardrobe? If we are allowing the Lord to transform us into godly women than our good works will shine more brightly than the outward appearance.

"... women adorn themselves in modest apparel ..."

Matthew 5:28 deals with the topic of men's response to women's dress: *"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*

Psalm 119:10: *"With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!"*

If their hearts are battling against lust, men are being not only tempted to sin but distracted from worship, unable to focus on it with their whole heart! Church must be a safe haven and retreat from the world, not yet another battlefield!

This brings us to the topic of weddings. A man recently said to me, "Women who reveal cleavage and wear strapless dresses have bought into the world's fashion and are more interested in fleshly things than spiritual things."

Let's look at some wedding symbolism ...

First (and most importantly) is God's design. Ephesians 5:26-27 describes: *"... that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*

Secondly, tradition:

"The conventional white dress is said to be a sign of purity and high virtues."¹

Consider the terms "holy," "without blemish," "purity," and "virtue." Are these portrayed in a bride who is not modest, regardless of her motives? A good article on this topic is <http://www.crosswalk.com/spirituallife/women/11577435/>.

Are women who dress modestly automatically godlier than those who don't? Should they be proud of their modesty? No! Obedience to God's commands and a concern for fellow believers should be the only motive, and pride grieves the Lord (Proverbs 16:18: *"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."*)

... with propriety and moderation....

Propriety is defined in one dictionary as "appropriate to the purpose or circumstances; suitability"² For example, swimsuits are appropriate for swimming, old stained clothing for gardening, nightclothes for sleeping, etc. We dress up for a wedding, which is a "holy service of worship".³ Why not show God the same respect in a church service?

Ladies of all ages, we have a crucial, God-given responsibility to glorify Him by protecting our brothers in Christ and being an example to each other! Are we willing to apply His principles?

¹ "Wedding Symbolism," True Bride

² Dictionary.com

³ "Wedding Modesty: Has It Gone Out of Style?," Carolyn Mahaney

THE FINAL FRONTIER (Continued from page 1)

Lord brought you out from this place." Or, consider David, who at one point was convinced (in his mind) that Saul would destroy him. This despite the fact that he could not point to one previous instance in which the Lord forsook him. So too, with us. Make a regular practice of looking back at how the Lord has been faithful; it will change your perspective as you move forward through your life.

- Pursue relationships with other Christians – C.S. Lewis said *"Friendship is born at the moment when one man says to another 'What! You too? I thought that I was the only one ...'"* Do you ever think you are the only one? (You're not!) Or that you will never get better? (You will!) Or that God is mad at you? (He's not!) It is in our relationships with Christ and each other that we realize we are not alone in our struggles. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful; who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13)

So, while we certainly acknowledge that we can struggle with our thoughts, we also can, as Charles Spurgeon reminds us, rest in the assurance that *"He who has been with us in six troubles will not forsake us in the seventh ... let us not reason contrary to evidence."*

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8)



MARCH

- 3/05 Melinda Moore
- 3/06 Larry Hartman
- 3/06 Sam Smith
- 3/06 Brooks Scott
- 3/08 Geri Weile
- 3/10 Betty Christopher
- 3/12 Victor Gayflor
- 3/14 Beverly West
- 3/15 Keli Handy
- 3/16 Wes Steenburg
- 3/19 Carolyn Raber
- 3/19 Elijah Smith
- 3/22 Kristen Steenburg
- 3/23 Victoria Fox
- 3/25 Olivia Raymann
- 3/26 Valerie Smith

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/25 Jim & Ann Bumb
- 3/28 Mike & Mary Monfreda