

GRACE *and Truth*



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)

May, 2015



Equal With God

by Steve Agal

JOHN 5:17-30

Jesus was always at odds with the leaders of His day. Those Jewish leaders had, in our passage, two major problems with Him. He had healed on the Sab-

bath: "The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath." (John 5:15-16)

Also, He said in verses 17-18, "But Jesus answered them, 'My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.' Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God." Did He tell the truth? We will see six things by which He claimed to be and was, equal with God the Father.

First, in verse 19 we see He is equal in His **WORKS**. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.'"

Jesus was dependent upon the Father. He could do nothing of Himself. He saw the example in what the Father did, and in His equality, He did likewise. So they sought to kill Him.

Second, in verse 20 we see He is equal in **KNOWLEDGE**. "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."

So then He knows all that the Father knows because the Father, out of love for His Son, shows Him not only these things (healing the man in verses 5:1 to 15), but also greater works. All of this was a part of the demonstration that He is equal with God.

Third, in verses 21, 25, 28, and 29, He is equal in **GIVING LIFE (RESURRECTION)**. ²¹"For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. ²⁵Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of

the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

Certainly raising the dead would be convincing proof. Since the Father can raise the dead and the Jews had no doubt about that (except the Sadducees), then if Jesus could also, He is equal to the Father. Thus they are seeking to kill him.

Fourth, in verses 22 and 30, He is equal in **JUDGMENT**. ²²"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son. ³⁰I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

No doubt this fact was amazing to the Jews. Jesus had power to judge. The Father had given Him all judgment.

(Continued on page 4)



Some of our youth are working on funding summer trips to SpringHill Summer Camp and to South Dakota for a mission trip. A rummage sale will be held at the church May 22-23 and all proceeds will go toward their trips. Pictured above are (front row) Mariah Hitchell, Nora Bolin, Joylene Gayflor, (back row) Gabe Moreno, Isaac Abbey, Sam Handy and Devon Patterson. Please help support our youth by donating items and attending the sale!

Visit our website at www.indygrace.org

Fellowship Group Spotlight

LEGACY

After finishing up the Book of Hebrews, the Legacy will be studying the message based discussion questions listed in each week's bulletin insert. ***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. Joseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers but rose in power from slave to the second most powerful man in Egypt. He was known for his personal integrity and spiritual sensitivity. Our next OWLS luncheon is Sunday, June 14th at noon, right after the church service. Save the date! OWLS of all ages are welcome. Come and join us! ***The OWLS meet in room 112/113 at 9:00 a.m.***

WORD PROCESSORS

After finishing Colossians, the Word Processors will begin a study of 1 Peter. Peter wrote his epistle to comfort and strengthen the Christians who were under severe persecution. He speaks about the glory of their inheritance in heaven, and wrote his epistle to reinforce all of their instruction regarding living the Christian life. Peter exhorts every Christian to abstain from worldly pleasures and serve the living God. He encourages us to be strong in our faith. ***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 descend. God made a covenant with him and promised that he 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.***

Statistics, Donations, and Veterans



Bill Boone

by Bill Boone

For the first three months of 2015 we served an average of 63 families per week. Of the families who were served during the first quarter, 65 new families were helped. Our active families at the present time are about 1,000.

To qualify as active, the family would have had to be served at the pantry within the last two years.

Grocery spending is averaging \$1,984 per month. Food donations in the first quarter were 3,295 pounds. We are preparing for our biggest food drive of the year on May 9th. *Stamp Out Hunger* is a one day food collection by the Postal Carriers Union. It is conducted on the second Saturday in May each year. Last year we collected a total of just over 14,000 pounds of food from Beech Grove, Garfield Park and New Palestine post offices. If you would like to help us sort the donated food as it comes in, you can contact us at info@servantsheartofindy.org, or contact Linda Pea, Larry Cooney, or Bill Belcher at Grace. They will have more details on the shift times and location addresses.

Our furniture ministry continues to grow, reaching out to many families just getting started. Many of the families are

recently retired or disabled military veterans. These folks have a special place in my heart. It is amazing to me that they struggle so. When the needs of these families are revealed to us, God has supplied their needs in miraculous ways. I have taken several young people with me to our mission field and exposed them to conditions they have never seen before in person.

One of the veterans, who is a mom, was looking for a washer and dryer. When she came in, she saw that we also had mattresses. She told us that her son had been sleeping on the floor for five years. As she was picking out a mattress set, the guys were unloading a beautiful dining room suite out of the trailer. She commented how she had never had something so nice. I asked her if she would like to have it. Tears flowed down her face as she said, "Really?" She couldn't believe that she could have the dining room set! She told me that no one would help them – a disabled vet with three teenage boys. When I followed up with her the next day, she shared that her boys couldn't believe that strangers would help them, but we did.

That is what it is all about when you share the love of Jesus and serve the needs of families. It is such a humbling experience to be the hands and feet of Jesus on Indy's south side.



News From the Trca Family

by Ritch Trca

The Trca family are church planters in Ricany, a small town outside Prague in the Czech Republic. They are with EFCA ReachGlobal (www.efca.org/ministries/reachglobal).

During the past several months, I have been in discussion with EFCA ReachGlobal leadership, as they have encouraged me to consider a larger ministry role from my present role of leading the EFCA Prague City Team to leading and serving multiple city teams across Europe. Our ministry focus contexts will be:

- local church plant in Prague as an elder and within Outreach English Ministry among families and teens;
- Czech church planting networks to develop, empower, and release Czech nationals in new church plants;
- serving and leading EFCA ReachGlobal City Teams in church planting within Bosnia, Greece, Portugal, and Slovakia; and
- serving within Europe to equip and resource ReachGlobal and European church planter networks.

With two of our children attending university in the United States (Emily and Robert), one about to begin university (Rebeka), and two boys in high school (Alex and David), Susan stays busy:

- meeting regularly with a group of Czech pastors' wives for growth and development;
- partnering within a church plant for English Outreach among teens; and
- working with the Prague City Team of missionaries to reach Prague with the Gospel.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- for Susan and I to be continually connecting with and connecting to God's Spirit, living and ministering out of His pleasure for us and His love for those who don't

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



Robert, Emily, Alex, Rebeka, David, Susan and Ritch Trca

- yet know Him; and
- for Susan and I to trust and rest in God as we encourage, coach, and "give wings" to our adult children (Emily, Robert and Rebeka) in university and working in the United States and Europe, as well as with teenagers Alex and David still residing at home.

We are so grateful to you at Grace for your partnership in the Gospel ... in God's harvest fields in Indianapolis and here in Europe.

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.

News From the Children's Department

by Cristi DeHoff

The Children's Department wants to say a HUGE thank you to all of those who have responded to our staffing needs. We have almost all of our openings filled, and are incredibly grateful for that. If you are interested in helping and have not yet signed up, please contact Holly Phoenix or Cristi DeHoff at 859-8008.

We are in full swing now, planning Vacation Bible School and are already getting volunteers to help. We are hoping this year is larger than last, and will be advertising more prominently. If you have any questions about VBS, please contact Cristi DeHoff (cristi@indygrace.org or 859-8008), see the Children's Department bulletin board, or visit the Children's Ministry page on our website. Please be in prayer for guidance, momentum, and staffing for VBS, and ultimately being able to reach families in our church and community through it.

We also ask for continued prayer for adequate staffing of regular volunteers on Sunday mornings. Thank you so much for your prayer and support!

EQUAL WITH GOD (Continued from page 1)

That would have certainly made them quite angry. He was judging **them**.

Fifth, in verse 23, He is equal in **HONOR**: *“that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”*

Consider that! We give no honor to the Father if we do not honor Jesus. Often we hear people say, “I trust in God” but not necessarily Jesus. They are denying their only hope of salvation. 1 John 5:12: *“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”* Acts 4:12: *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* Therefore we honor the Father by honoring Jesus, that we might be saved. John 5:24: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*

Sixth, in verse 26, He is equal in **SELF-EXISTENCE**. *“For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.”*

Not only having life in Himself, but being the eternal existing one, He *“... made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”* (Philippians 2:7) The self-existent One, the eternally existent One, became like us! Why? So that He could die for sinners such as you and me.

Did Jesus claim to be God? Some would say He did not. I believe our passage shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that He did claim to be God. From the Jewish leader’s point of view He needed to be killed because He **did** claim to be equal with the Father. Our salvation depends on Him being equal with the Father, for if He did not die for our sins we must pay the penalty for our own sins. Matthew 28:18 says *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”*

Therefore we are told in John 3:36 *“He who believes (trusts) in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe (trust) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

“Some mothers are kissing mothers and some are scolding mothers, but it is love just the same, and most mothers kiss and scold together.”
 — Pearl S. Buck

“There is, somehow, a wonderful power about a mother’s voice when she talks to her children about Jesus and his love, which stamps itself upon the heart, and the heart is a far better place for the custody of truth than ever the brain can become.”
 — Charles Spurgeon

“Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.”
 — Anonymous



Our church work day was Saturday, April 18th from 8:30 a.m. until noon. The kitchen was reorganized, the front corner lot was cleaned, drywall was repaired, light bulbs were replaced, and general clean-up was accomplished. Pictured at left are Don Andry and Cyrus Amir pulling weeds. Thank you Brent Hendricks for organizing this event!



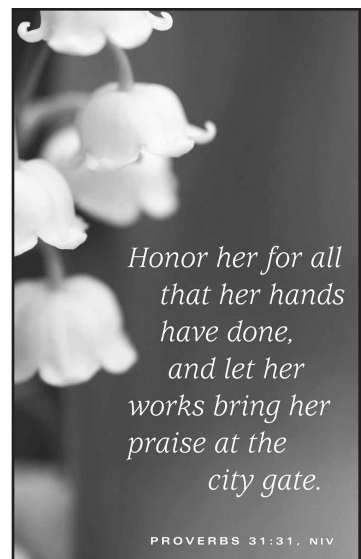
MAY

- 5/01 Nora Bolin
- 5/03 Evangeline Hillebrand
- 5/04 Cindy Bannon
- 5/04 Joylene Gayflor
- 5/07 Vickie Hovenstine
- 5/13 Jennifer Wilkerson
- 5/14 Lamar Young
- 5/14 Donald Russell
- 5/19 Shelli Engle
- 5/20 Natalie Lawlis
- 5/23 Chuck Bridwell
- 5/24 Angel Hillebrand
- 5/25 Todd Albertson
- 5/26 Cristi DeHoff
- 5/31 Chloe Campbell
- 5/31 Josh Georgen

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/04 Chuck & Wendi Bridwell
- 5/11 Dale & Bonnie Harris
- 5/13 Stephen & Kayce Scott
- 5/14 Don & Vickie Hovenstine

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.
 — Abe Lincoln



Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.