

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us . . .”

John 1:14

All are welcome at the manger.

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

Looking Ahead –

- *Tonight will be our last SNBF for this year.*
- *Our next SNBF will be Jan. 10, 2016, when we will continue our study of the book of Titus.*
- *And then after Titus*

“Are You Living a Changed Life?”

Titus 2:11-15

December 6, 2015

Titus 2:11-15

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12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

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14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

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John 1:14,17

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Grace

1. *Grace* is God acting freely, according to His own nature of love, with no promises or obligations to fulfill.
2. *Grace*, therefore, is uncaused in those who receive it; its cause lies wholly in the giver - God.
3. *Grace* has no debts to pay or fulfilled conditions on man's part to wait for, it can act toward whom and how it pleases. It can and does often place the worst deservers in the highest favors.
4. *Grace* cannot act where there is ability; *Grace* does not help - it is absolute, IT DOES ALL!!
5. There is no cause in the person why *Grace* should be shown - the person must be brought from trying to give cause to God for His *Grace*.
6. The discovery by a person that He is truly the object of *Grace* should produce utmost humility.
7. Therefore the flesh has no place in the plan of *Grace*. This is why *Grace* is hated and rejected by the proud natural mind of man.

8. ***Grace*** in simple terms is God's unmerited favor and supernatural enablement and empowerment for salvation and for daily sanctification.
9. ***Grace*** is everything for nothing to those who don't deserve anything.
10. ***Grace*** is what every man needs, what none can earn and what God alone can and does freely give.

The grace of God, in Scripture, is described as...

Glorious (Eph 1:6)

Abundant (Acts 4:33)

Rich (Eph 1:7)

Manifold (many-sided) (1Pe 4:10)

Sufficient (always enough, always adequate - there is never a shortage) (2Cor 12:9)

We begin **by grace through faith** (Eph 2:8, 9),

We run daily **by grace through faith** (Col 2:6 with 2Co 5:7, Hab 2:4, Ro 1:17, Heb 10:38)

We finish **by grace through faith** (Rev 22:21).

The difference between grace, mercy, and peace:

- **Grace** is for the worthless. It is God giving me what I don't deserve.
- **Mercy** is for the helpless. God withholding from me what I do deserve.
- **Peace** is for the restless. The assurance that whatever happens to me will work out for God's glory (Ps 84:11)

- Dr. Donald Hubbard



He Giveth More Grace

He giveth more **grace** when the burdens grow greater;
He sendeth more **grace** when the labours increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done:
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

**His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power has no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.**

--Annie Johnson Flint

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“When the believing sinner accepts the work of divine grace which sent Christ to Calvary for his redemption, he matriculates (enrolls as a member) in the school of grace. Grace becomes his teacher to train, educate, and instruct him. “

- Lehman Strauss

“deny” – to refuse, to reject

Matt 16:24

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

Rom 8:12,13

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh —

13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

2 Cor 5:15

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Grace is never a license to sin -

“While sin is an occasion for grace,
grace is never to be an occasion for sin”.

-Bob Deffinbaugh

The fact that we are saved by **grace** does not give us an excuse to sin but it does give us a reason to obey.

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“Ungodliness” - means lack of reverence toward God. In the NT it describes those living without regard for God. They conduct themselves in such a way as to effectively deny God's existence and right as Supreme Ruler and Authority.

Rom 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

“Ungodliness is failing to give God His due place in our hearts and lives. It is disregarding His precepts and commands. It is having preference for the creature, loving pleasure more than holiness; being unconcerned whether my conduct pleases or displeases the Lord. There are many forms of ungodliness besides that of open infidelity and the grosser crimes of wickedness. We are guilty of ungodliness when we are prayerless. We are guilty of ungodliness when we look to and lean upon the creature; or when we fail to see God's hand in providence—ascribing our blessings to "luck" or "chance." We are guilty of ungodliness when we grumble at the weather.”

- A W Pink

“Worldly desires” -

1. Are passions for the pleasures and pursuits of this present passing world.
2. Are motivated by an anti-God mind-set.
3. They originate in the flesh and refuse to submit to God.
4. They are strong attractions that are fed by the corrupt, decaying world system and drive for passing pleasure.

“Worldly desires are those affections and appetites which dominate and regulate the man of the world. It is the heart craving worldly objects, pleasures, honors, riches. It is an undue absorption with those things which serve only a temporary purpose and use. Worldly lusts cause the things of Heaven to be crowded out by the interests and concerns of earth.”

- A W Pink

“I looked for the church and I found it in the world; I looked for the world and I found it in the church.”

- Horatius Bonar

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- **“sensibly”** – means using good judgment, self-controlled, self restrained.

“There is a form of self-control that says 'yes' to what we should do as well as that which says 'no' to what we shouldn't do.”

- **Jerry Bridges**

- **“righteously”** - means being in accordance with what God requires, manifesting right conduct, waking morally upright outwardly or in a right way which is in accordance with what God requires.
i.e. whatever God says about how to live = "righteous".
- **"godly"** means to live so as to render to God the reverence and worship associated with a holy life. It is to have reverence for God, and a life of holiness in the world. To live godly is to live with a reverent awareness of God's sovereignty over every aspect of one's life, with the determination to honor him in all our conduct.

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righteously and godly in the present age,

Gal 1:4,5

4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present
evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,
5 to whom be the glory forevermore.

Rom 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing
of your mind,

2 Cor 4:4

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving
so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,

Eph 2:1,2

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now
working in the sons of disobedience.

2 Tim 4:10

10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to
Thessalonica;

Titus 2:11	Past Tense	“the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation”	Justification: One time event
Titus 2:12	Present Tense	“instructing us”	Sanctification: A lifelong process

"Show me your redeemed life, and I might be inclined to believe in your redeemer." -

- **Heinrich Heine**

19th century German philosopher

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Phil 3:20

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:13

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:11-12

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,

"I never preach a sermon without thinking that possibly the Lord may come before I preach another."

- Dwight L. Moody

"I never begin my work in the morning without thinking that perhaps He may interrupt my work and begin his own. I am not looking for death, I am looking for Him."

- G. Campbell Morgan

“It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me.”

Fanny Crosby
1820-1915



“Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

- **Fanny Crosby**

“Blessed Assurance”

Titus 2:11	Past Tense	“the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation”	Justification: One time event
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Titus 2:13	Future Tense	“looking for the Blessed Hope”**	Glorification: One time event

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Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child and forever I am.

Refrain

Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am.

- Fanny Crosby

Acts 9:36

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, to everyone you can, as long as you ever can--do all the good you can."

- John Wesley

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2 Tim 3:16

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Tim 4:2

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Titus 1:12,13

12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

13 This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,

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Application

1. Are you spending your life in the nursery of complacency, or are you spending your life in the classroom of spiritual growth?
2. What “earthly cargo” of ungodliness and worldliness do you need to let go to make you more effective in your service for the Master?
3. The manger in Bethlehem is to be celebrated, not because a baby was born, but because of the lives that would be redeemed and changed. Are you living a changed life?

*We wish You a
Merry Christmas
and a
Blessed New Year*

