



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE –

God can and does use many different things to teach us. I had one of those “different” times of teaching on a Monday afternoon several weeks ago.

I had the opportunity to steal away for a few hours on a Monday afternoon to do a little deer hunting. I arrived at the property where I was hunting and pulled out all of the items needed to head into the woods: my heavy hunting coat, my tree stand, my backpack and my rifle. I loaded my rifle, started the fifteen minute walk to my spot and after jumping three deer on the way in, arrived at the tree I was going to climb to hunt. I attached my stand to the tree, unloaded my rifle and attached it to a line to pull it up, attached my backpack and heavy coat to another line to pull them up and got ready to step into my stand to begin climbing. That’s when it hit me—I did not grab my safety harness when I was getting everything ready to come into the woods.



Let me digress for a moment to share my view on safety harnesses while hunting. **DON’T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!** I had never hunted without a safety harness and had

threatened to no longer hunt with a family member several years ago unless he used a safety harness. I had even promised Jayne I would never hunt without a safety harness.

It’s an amazing thing how quickly we can justify things to ourselves. I could go back to my vehicle and get my harness, but that would cost me about thirty minutes of time and I only had a couple of hours to hunt. I just chased three deer out of where I was setting up and there was a good chance they may circle back around and I needed to be ready if that happened. And the list goes on and on.

I made the decision to climb and hunt without my safety harness and told myself I would be careful. I prayed that God

would protect me and He did. I made the climb up safely, hunted from the tree safely and climbed back down, again, safely. But, while I hunted, God was teaching me.

My lesson from the tree stand on a Monday evening focused on the way I often treat temptation and sin in my life. God showed me that I often deal with temptation and sin the same way I dealt with forgetting my safety harness that afternoon. I justify it. I excuse it. I say, “This one time won’t hurt.”

Family, as believers, we are assured of heaven when our life here on this earth is over, so Romans 6:23 is taken care of in our lives. That verse tells us the wages of sin is death. What is this death? It is eternal separation from God, a Christ-less eternity. If we know Christ as our Savior, that penalty has been taken care of and we will spend a Christ-filled eternity in an amazing place called heaven. Does that mean that there is no longer a consequence for our sins? Certainly not!

When I hunted without a safety harness, I was going to be OK as long as I didn’t fall. I didn’t fall so disaster was avoided. The same doesn’t hold true for sin in our lives. Family, for us as believers, the wages of sin are disastrous!

No, your sins won’t result in a loss of salvation, but they will result in pain, hurt, grief, broken relationships (with God and with others) and they will every time! I “got away” (in a manner of speaking) with one Monday evening as God protected me in my foolishness. We don’t ever “get away” with one when it comes to sin because sin damages, hurts, ruins and destroys, and again it does these things every time!

As we obey the command from Jesus to “Follow me,” may we be mindful of the sin that so easily entangles us and let’s stop justifying and making excuses and call it what it is and turn away from it and turn to God!

My story didn’t end when I stepped onto the ground safely that Monday evening. I had broken a promise I made to Jayne and I knew I needed to tell her and I did. She was

February 2017

Here am I. Send me!

Isaiah 6:8 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

disappointed I had done what I had did, but she was thankful I was honest with her and certainly thankful I wasn't laying in the woods somewhere having fallen out of a tree. I also had a plan in place for this to never happen again which I was able to share with her as well.

Family, each of us deals with temptation and sin every day. Proclaim Scripture when dealing with temptation and keep your list short as you confess your sins to the Lord who is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), make a meal and deliver it or stay and eat with them, pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the directory or put cards of encouragement in the box above the mailboxes in the library and they will be delivered on a regular basis.

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Kline
Russ Hearnton
Jack Goeke

Carol Sarver
John Gay
Nina Johnson
Gerry Gladfelder
Wanda Buttrey

PURCHASE SUBS OR PRETZEL SANDWICHES

**Help Support Mission Projects/Trips
(Honduras Trip this Summer)
Orders Due Sunday, February 5
Pick up or have delivered on
Wednesday, February 15**

**Additional order sheets are available on the
table in back of the sanctuary and the
downstairs usher stand**

**If you don't want to purchase a sandwich,
envelopes are available on sanctuary table and
usher stand downstairs to make a donation**

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP GROUP MEETINGS

The 12 GBC individuals (Kim Wagaman, Mackenzie Wagaman, Cassidy Wagaman, Cindy Vanada, Gina Chaney, Amy Gehly, Craig Folk, Anika Folk, Ryan McCaffery, Janeth Buser, Regina Kahler, Jensica Isiminger) traveling to Honduras this summer have been busy preparing for their trip by completing paperwork, meeting with Paul Hutton, discussing their jobs while in Honduras and anxiously awaiting to meet the group from Garden Spot Village who will travel with them. Be in prayer for this group and all their preparations.

To provide financial support, donations can be placed in the offering and must be marked "2017 Honduras Mission Trip". Include the name of the individual person who you want to support or it can be split among the group.

Following are the dates of future planning meetings:

Sunday, February 12 at 4:30
Thursday, March 9 at 7:00
Sunday, April 9 at 4:30
Thursday, May 11 at 7:00
Sunday, June 11 at 4:30

SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON

**Sunday, February 5
Luncheon following
the 10:45 Service**

Bring a crockpot of your
favorite soup and dessert to share

Beverage will be provided

A short devotion will follow the luncheon

No evening service/activities

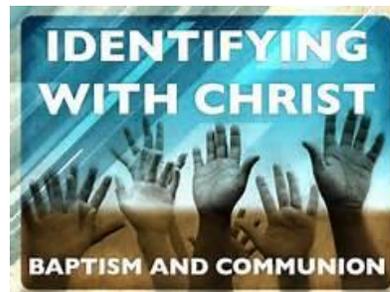


"Single's Appreciation Dinner" ***Friday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m.***

All singles beginning with high school graduates to age 100 are invited! You will be served dinner by our Pastors, their wives and Deacons. There is no cost for your special evening. Sign up by February 12. Sign-up sheets are at both entrances to church.

Let's show our love to our singles by honoring them with door prizes!

Please consider donating a gift card (\$10-\$25) to be used as a door prize. Gift cards may be to restaurants, coffee shops, oil change services, spas/salons, etc. Please place the gift card in an envelope and put it in Pastor Steve's mailbox by February 15 for distribution that evening. Thank you in advance for blessing our singles of GBC!



Sunday, February 19
6:30 p.m.

Let Pastor Steve know
by a note in his
mailbox or email if
desiring to be baptized
at this time

Grace Baptist Church
3920 East Prospect Road
York, PA 17406
(717) 755-0091

gracebaptistnyork@comcast.net
www.gracebaptistnyork.com

Sunday: 8:15 Contemporary Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Traditional Worship
6:30 Against the Flow Youth
6:30 Evening Worship Service
Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for
Adults / Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner Senior Pastor
Rev. Jon Barrett Assistant Pastor

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A group of diligent students just completed studying the book of Acts during a Monday night Bible study at church. This was a continuation of a Sunday School class. They decided to keep learning the Bible together! On the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 you're welcome to join the group to study the book of *Romans*.

A Few Words From
Pastor Jon:



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” – Ephesians 1:3

I don't know about you but I constantly get comfortable and conservative in my relationship with Christ. I easily get wooed by the comforts of this world and can easily start my day and “leave God in the dust” so to speak. I take Him for granted when I wake up. I go down stairs half asleep, and since I am one of the few human beings who don't drink coffee I reach for a cup and fill it with ice water to help wake myself up. My feet hit the warm floor and before I know it, I catch myself: *I haven't even given my precious Lord and Savior one thought yet.* Not a thank you for the day, not a thank you for the clothes on my back, not a thank you for the indoor plumbing that I have, not a thank you for the roof over my head, or for the fresh water that eludes so many in the world.

I repent of the sin of complacency and ingratitude towards Him because these material items that I find comfort in are not

guaranteed. We see all through the world that most others do not have the luxuries that we have. My own comfort and safety should not be something that I hold on to so tightly to where I neglect “the Vine.” God is working on me in this area, but I make it a slower process sometimes. I want to encourage you every morning and in the weeks to come in a “counter cultural” way. You probably may not have heard this before—but I encourage you to “not get too comfortable” and I encourage you to “hold ever so lightly to the things of this world. “ Rather, I encourage you to **hold tightly to Christ** and so loosely to everything else. We are to find our comfort IN CHRIST, not from the things of this world. We have to be careful not to put ANYTHING in that high and mighty place reserved for Christ only.

When Paul was encouraging the church at Ephesus in Ephesians 1:3, he was reminding them of something that defies human understanding. As believers, they (and we) have been given (by grace!) every spiritual blessing **in Christ!** This means, that He has provided to us via the Holy Spirit the same power that rose Jesus from the grave! That is ASTOUNDING to think about.

But, this power via the Holy Spirit is not for our selfish ambitions. This power is given to us to glorify Christ, to grow in Him. He said He would provide everything we need if we ask in His Name. This means anything we ask to accomplish the mission of glorifying Him in a lost world that so desperately needs Him. It does not mean He would give us the selfish desires of our hearts. It also does not mean He would give us things “our way” or on “our terms.” It is amazing to think that if our heart is right with Him, He promised us these incredible spiritual blessings in Christ in order to glorify Him and make much of Him through our relationship with Him, and through His power in this world.

Like the opening of this devotion, I bet your situation is not that different than mine. We get caught up in the comforts of this life and we do not think we “need Him.” We want to follow Him on our terms, not His (an oxymoron in itself). In our culture of self-sufficiency, self-confidence, self-worth, we must counteract that with acknowledging Christ-sufficiency, Christ-confidence, and Christ-worth. It is counter cultural indeed, especially in the universal Church tragically, but in Christ through the spiritual blessings He has given to us, through the Holy Spirit we can be reminded that we live to glorify Him, not our selves. We live to give up all to Him for what is better (He Himself!), not for our own comfort and safety.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has given us such an amazing purpose in Him. This world could not possibly offer us anything greater than living to glorify our Master and King. Yes, Christianity means being saved from sin, but it goes SO much deeper than that. We never stop there. That's where a lot of Christians get stuck. God has given us the mission through our Lord Jesus Christ to know Him ever so deeply, and make His Name known to every corner of the earth. It's all about glorifying Him, not ourselves.

Upcoming youth event:

Against the Flow will be attending the Winter Retreat at High Point Camp on February 24-26.

Youth Project Completed!!



Four *Action Packs* are in these boxes ready to be shipped from the York Post Office to Voice of the Martyrs in Oklahoma. From there they "smuggle" the items into Iraq to Christian families/refugees (adults and children) who were kicked out of their towns by ISIS with barely the shirts on their backs, leaving them destitute. Against the Flow youth filled the *Action Packs* with blankets, jackets, light sweaters, socks, solid-color T-shirts, bed sheets, bars of soap, scarves, gloves and winter hats. A picture of the youth group, along with a short note of love and encouragement, were included.

COME TO THE CROSS AND REMEMBER EASTER CANTATA

Practice just started and will continue most Sunday afternoons at 5:00 (except for February 5, practice is 2:30). It's not too late to join. Non-speaking/singing parts are available, as well as someone to build a cross and work on props. See Brenda Apple or Helen Etner for a practice CD. The cantata will be presented on Easter Sunday during the 10:45 a.m. service.

HERE AM I. SEND ME

On the other side of the world
She stands on the ocean shore
Gazing at the heavens she wonders
Is there something more
Never been told the name of Jesus
She turns and walks away
What a shame

Just across the street in your hometown
Leaving from his nine to five
Gazing down the road he wonders
Is this all there is to life
Never been told the name of Jesus
He continues on his way
What a shame

Whom shall I send
Who will go for me
To the ends of the earth

Who will rise up for the King
Here am I send me
Here am I send me

Whether foreign land or neighbors
Everyone's the same
Searching for the answers
That lie within your name
I want to proclaim the love of Jesus
In all I do and say
Unashamed

Whom shall I send
Who will go for me
To the ends of the earth
Who will rise up for the King
Here am I send me
Here am I send me

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news
Proclaiming peace and your salvation

Songwriter: Curtis Mayfield

