



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:

There are three things we need to know and remember:

1. We need revival.
2. We need to continue to be the salt and light of the world.
3. God is sovereign and is still on the throne!

Let me give you my proposition right at the beginning: "God's people following God's plan receive God's promises." When we do what God says we will enjoy His promises. We are blessed when we do things God's way.

When we consider 2 Chronicles 7:14, we find a verse that is often quoted in reference to the need for revival in America. Without a doubt it is the best known and most loved verse in all of Chronicles - it may be the only verse we know from this book! However, as we consider it we must keep the context in mind so that we interpret it and apply it accurately. The second book of Chronicles records the construction of the temple under the direction of King Solomon. In chapter 6, Solomon knelt down before God's people, spread his hands out toward heaven, and broke out into an amazing prayer of dedication.

That had to be some kind of prayer! Can you imagine what that must have been like to have fire come down from heaven and the glory of the Lord filling the temple? Oh, that we would learn to pray like this! I love how the priests couldn't even get in the temple because God's glory filled it up - they were out of a job because God showed up in a mighty way.

After offering a sacrifice, Solomon and all the people dedicated the temple to God. Everyone stood up, the priests took their positions, and the Levites gathered their instruments and played from their heart. After celebrating and praising God for over two weeks, 2 Chronicles 7:10 says that the people went back to their homes joyful and glad in heart.

Later that night, after everyone had left, the Lord appeared to Solomon to tell him that his prayers had been heard. That's

the immediate context for 7:14 - "and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

If we follow His plan, then we will receive His promises. We read whom He is addressing: "My people who are called by My name." As we've already established, this passage is addressed to the nation of Israel. God wants to make sure that they will act like His people, even after they get settled into their routine. The temple is important, but God is concerned that His people live out what they know to be true.

Contrary to how we may view ourselves as Americans, we are not God's chosen nation. Only Israel is. Even though this verse is addressed to Israel, God says that believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are now, "My people who are called by My name." 1 Peter 2:9 refers to God's people this way: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

We belong to God and should therefore start living like those who are His. The God of heaven lays the responsibility for revival at our feet because we are His people who are called by His name.

Revival is a biblical concept. God knows that His people can lose their first love, that we can get soft in our spirituality, and that we can even get numb toward what we know is important. The psalmist, in Psalm 85:6 makes a request for revival: "Wilt Thou not Thyself revive us again, that Thy people may in rejoice Thee?" We need revival on a regular basis or we will lose our joy and spiritual intensity. Isaiah 57:15 teaches us that it is God's desire "to revive the heart of the contrite."

Some of us have grown a bit cold in our walk with God. We have some history with Him, but our present relationship with

Worship

MARCH 2018

John 4:23 - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."

Him may not be very close. Many of us need renewal or revival so that we can once again stand in awe of God's deeds, and rejoice in Him.

Who is revival for? According to 2 Chronicles 7:14, it's for those who belong to God through conversion and for those who bear His name through commitment. Alexander the Great once found out that one of his soldiers that carried the name of Alexander had proven to be a coward. He called the man to appear before him and told him to either live up to the name or change it. Fellow Christian, let's live up to our name!

Revival is not something to schedule in a church, and it's not for lost people. Biblical revival happens to God's people who determine to follow God's plan so that they can receive God's promises.

God says, "I'll be responsible and do certain things, if you will be responsible and do certain things." Once we are revived and awakened, the overflow will spill into the lives of others.

What are those things that we are responsible to do? How do we follow God's plan? This verse gives us 4 conditions to follow.

1. Humility. The first condition is to humble ourselves. We aren't to wait for someone else to give us humility, God says that we are to attack pride and be humble. God wants you to see yourself as He does - no more and no less. "He is God and we are not." He is in charge, not me.

2. Prayer. After humbling ourselves, we are commanded to pray. This seems a little easier than the first one because we all know how to ask God for things. This verse reminds us to pray as Jesus taught His disciples to pray: Begin with the greatness of God and then focus on our needs.

3. Seek God's face. The third condition is to "seek God's face." The idea of seeking implies a desire for something of great value. It's like the woman who searched for her lost coin or the shepherd with 100 sheep who, having lost one, left the 99 and went searching for the one who had wandered off. When you seek something of value, you rearrange your schedule and priorities until you find it.

4. Turn from our wicked ways. This is the true test of biblical repentance. Are we willing to turn away from sin and turn toward God? This is where our "wills" must engage and take action. The order here is significant. As we humble ourselves and pray and seek God with all that we have, our hunger will be satisfied by the sight of God's face and we will no longer want to hold on to those things that grieve our holy God.

Just as God's people in the Old Testament often turned their backs on God, so too we have that same tendency. They were prone to follow idols and so are we. We need to recognize that anything in our lives which keeps us from being all that God desires for us is a "wicked way" in God's sight. Stephen Olford refers to this aspect as "holiness in prayer." He goes on to say "to have defilement in our hands, to have dissension in

our spirits, and to have doubting in our hearts is to cancel out all effectiveness in prayer."

"Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Revive us again! Amen."

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Gladfelter
Rita Brewer

Carol Sarver
Russ Hearton
Wanda Buttrey

THE GREAT GBC SANDWICH SALE TO SUPPORT MISSION TRIPS/PROJECTS

Enjoy a Stuffed Sub or Pretzel Sandwich

for only \$4.50 (wow, what a bargain!)—
a variety of meats and
cheeses available

Orders Due: Sunday,
March 11

Pick Up: Wednesday,
March 21

Order forms are in your Mailbox
Extra Forms available at Downstairs Usher Stand and
Upstairs table in back of sanctuary



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

gracebaptistyork@comcast.net
www.gracebaptistyork.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

6TH ANNUAL MEN'S RESURRECTION BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 3
9:00 a.m.

New Menu for Buffet Breakfast
Time of Worship and Praise
Loir McDaniel, Guest Speaker
Free Will Offering Will Be Taken
Sign-up Sheets are at Both Church Entrances

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Living Loved
NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

Saturday, March 10
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

All ladies ages 16 years and up are welcome!



**quarterly
business
meeting** connect.
inform.
share.
learn.
enjoy.

**Sunday, March 11
6:30 p.m.**

**Married Couple's Dessert
Saturday, March 17
6:00 p.m.**

Enjoy the evening with your spouse and some fun teaching by Jay and Laura Laffoon as we enjoy their DVD, "Making the Most of a Messy Marriage." Marriage can be messy. Some messes are big and some are little, but the bottom line is we all have messy marriages. True to who they are, Jay and Laura

give you a hilarious look into their messy marriage. In session #1, the Laffoon's give you the four actions needed to "Make the Most of Your Messy Marriage". In session #2, they detail the steps you can take to live FREE in your marriage.

As a result of watching this DVD you will:

- Understand how men and women think differently
- Learn to exercise emotional self-control
- Develop a satisfying sex life
- Unlock the simple secret to celebration in your marriage

Babysitting will be provided by Against the Flow teens beginning at 5:45 p.m. Deadline to sign up on sheets at church entrances is Wednesday, March 14. Cost is \$10 per couple. Please make checks payable to "Grace Baptist Church." Payment can be placed in Pastor Steve's mailbox.

Sunday, March 18 6:30 p.m.



MEN'S RETREAT

AT NEW LIFE BIBLE CAMP

March 23 – 25

Enjoy Delicious Food, a Comfortable Bed, Extra Activities and especially Speaker, Joe Henriques—"From Struggle to Significance" (*How to Use Your Problems for Good*)

Sign up by March 15 for the best price:

\$59 for Friday and Saturday or

\$69 if staying until Sunday

Sign-up Sheet is at Downstairs Entrance

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN/TEENS WHO ARE EARNING POINTS TO ATTEND HIGH POINT CAMP THIS SUMMER

Junior camp for grades 3-7 is July 16 - 20

Teen camp for grades 7-12 is July 23 - 28

Early registration is **now until March 30**—register Tier 3

Register your child on line at: hpcamp.org

Print an extra copy of the registration and amount paid and put in Julie Shaeffer's mailbox

Reminder: GBC reimburses parents based on the early registration fee

"GET OUT OF DODGE"

Marshall Dillon, Gunsmoke

In order to help keep the TV town of Dodge, Kansas, free of hombres, television U.S. Marshall Matt Dillon, would tell the bad guys to "Get out of Dodge!" Dodge had enough sin going on each day. It did not need any additional help from people with evil intent.

In my former life as a Baltimore City fire fighter/ EMT, we would always desire to "get out of Dodge", which meant to find a quiet place and escape the daily mess that we had to deal with.

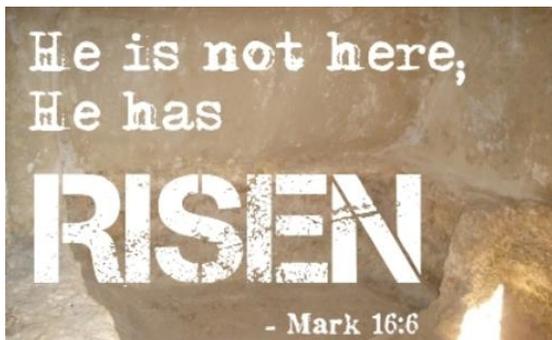
How often do we allow ourselves to dwell in the world of sin and evil, instead of seeking forgiveness and desiring His will to guide us?

Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first"

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

MARCH 30

7:00 P.M.



Celebrate our Risen Savior Easter Sunday - April 1

7:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service
Outdoors under the Pavilion - Weather Permitting

Breakfast - Sign-up sheets will be posted soon

Children's Easter Egg Hunt (Bring your own basket)
Plastic eggs are available at both church entrances for you to fill and return by March 25

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

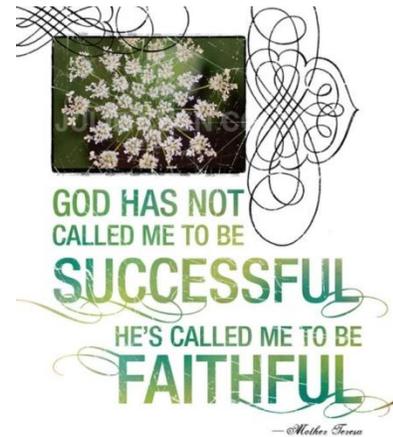
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service with Communion and Cantata—*"The Lamb—Redemption's Price is Paid"*
Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed! The living God has poured out precious blood to reclaim us, His people. This blueprint is the heart of the Gospel.

He could have come in all His splendor,
Greater than the eye had ever seen.
He could have come in robes of scarlet, and all the world
would see that He is King.

He could have ridden on a white horse as a warrior and
conquered every land. But he knew that if redemption's
price were paid, it would take a Lamb!

It took a Lamb to die on a rugged cross.
Only blood could pay the cost.
Nothing less could take away my sin.

No Evening Service / Activities on Easter Sunday



Are you FAITHFUL
To God
To your family
To your church
To your employer
To yourself

