



# GRACE

# HAPPENINGS

## **A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:**

In one of his sermons titled “What About the Foundation?” Ravi Zacharias tells this story:

A few weeks ago, I did a lectureship at Ohio State University. As I was being driven to the lecture, we passed the new Wexner Art Center. The driver said, “This is a new art building for the university. It is a fascinating building designed in the post-modernist view of reality.” The building has no pattern. Staircases go nowhere. Pillars support nothing. The architect designed the building to reflect life. It went nowhere and was mindless and senseless. I turned to the man describing it and asked, “Did they do the same thing with the foundation?” He laughed.

You can’t do that with a foundation. You can get away with the infrastructure. You can get away with random thoughts that sound good in defense of a world view that ultimately doesn’t make sense. Once you start tampering with the foundations, you begin to see the serious effects. Yet the foundations are in jeopardy; the foundations of our culture do not provide coherent sets of answers any more.

I think something like this was on John’s mind when he wrote a letter to a lady in a book we know as 2 John.

This is the purpose of John’s letter: He feared that the foundations of this woman’s ministry were in danger and he needed to tell her—QUICK.

The identity of this lady is not known. Some believe the term “elect lady” refers to a church and her “children” referred to are the church’s members. Others believe the letter was written to an individual Christian and her family. This may be the case, but which view you take is not particularly pertinent since the fundamental message of the book is not affected with either view.

Although this is a pretty boilerplate introduction commonly found in New Testament letters, there’s one thing that stands out: John’s usage of the words love and truth in verses 1 and

3 that serves as a backdrop for the rest of the letter. Apparently this woman or church allowed just about anyone in her home in the name of Christian hospitality. This created a dangerous spiritual situation that John felt he needed to address by pointing to balance love with a regard for truth.



Verses 4-6 can be summed up as exhortations about three “walks.”

To “walk” in New Testament terms means to live one’s life in a certain way in

accordance with biblical principles.

John exhorts her to walk, or to live her life, in accordance with, three key principles:

- First, walk in TRUTH in verse 4.

In this verse John commends her children for walking in truth. That is, they were continuing to believe and live out the fundamental truths upon which Christianity is based. These fundamental truths are centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

It’s a reminder that most people are not genuinely all bad. Even if they’re disobedient or deficient in one area of their Christian lives, they often shine in others. Why should we focus in on just the negative? Being an encourager involves focusing on good things in a person’s life even if we must give warnings or rebuke.

- The second walk John talks about is found in verse 5 where John talks about Jesus’s command for believers to walk in LOVE.

November 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!"

He says that he's not giving a new commandment here, but reminding her of one given from the beginning: that we love one another. He was referring to the new commandment Jesus gave in the upper room after eating the Passover meal with the apostles, just before going to the cross. The love believers had for one another was to be the distinguishing mark of Christ's disciples. Walking in love wasn't her problem. Her problem was integrating this command with the first command.

- Third, Paul exhorts her to walk in OBEDIENCE in verse 6.

The proof of our love is our obedience to Jesus. So John recalls Jesus' command about keeping His commandments to remind this woman that walking in Christ's commandments involved walking in BOTH truth and love, not one at the exclusion of the other.

Now there's a reason for this triple emphasis in John's exhortations: He's about to warn her and give her specific instructions and I believe he's laying the groundwork for his subsequent comments because they revolve around these themes of walking obediently in both truth and love in balance.

This woman was apparently not being discerning, and thus was threatening what they had built up in her family and/or the church that met in her home. And this explains John's "three walks" statements in verses 4-6. This lady was apparently long on walking in love but short on walking in truth. But John says BOTH are important and must be held in balance. Only then are we truly walking in Christ's commandments.

So John is saying in effect, "Elect lady, get the balance right or you'll be in disobedience of Christ's commandments, and you could lose everything you and we have worked so hard to accomplish for the Lord's sake."

What can we learn from 2 John?

- First, the commands to abide in truth, love and obedience, of course, stand out.

Christianity is built upon propositional truths that must be believed in order to claim the name of Christ. We must continue in them and live them out in our lives. But also, body life within the church of God is built on the command to love one another as Christ loved us. We're to live in obedience to BOTH of those commands.

- Second application: remember the need to balance love with truth.

Paul talks about "speaking the truth in love" in Ephesians 4:15 so that the Ephesians would grow up in Christ in all things. How important it is to balance the sometimes difficult truths of God's Word with a spirit of love. But 2 John comes from the other direction and reminds us to balance love with truth. – If manifesting certain loving behaviors aids and abets error or evil, John says, "No. Don't do that. Abide in truth and love in harmony and balance, lest the foundations be destroyed."

## FOR WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL?

Thanks to Linda and Steve Kimball for responding to the request in October Grace Happenings to share your thankfulness:

"We are thankful for the salvation provided by our belief in Jesus. Our home, food and clothing. Our children. Our Pastors who preach the Word. Our friends. All those who help at church. Our health is good for our age."

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit, 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 Hearton  
Roland Brooks

Carol Sarver  
John Gay  
Nina Johnson  
Gerry Gladfelter  
Wanda Buttrey



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

## MEMORIES OF THE WOMEN'S RETREAT

23 women attended the 2017 Women's Retreat on the beautiful grounds of Camp Hebron. During our free time many ladies enjoyed the nightly campfire, horseback riding, kayaking and paddle boats on the beautiful lake, and hiking on the various trails. Some great stories and wonderful memories were certainly made while enjoying these activities!

"Uninvited" was the retreat theme and through digging into God's Word during 6 different sessions we discovered:

- how to live loved when feeling left out, lonely and less than;
- how to bring God's fullness, and not our emptiness, into our everyday situations;
- how to live with attention, prevention and intention;
- that we are not set aside, we are set apart;
- remembering God's promises and resting in them will help us remember God's presence and;
- the oil is coming (through life's "pressing" times), and where there is oil, there is the potential for light.



Before we left we presented our "Altar to the LORD" as a testimonial to what God had done, and will continue to do, in our lives through this transforming weekend, and we look forward to our quarterly "Living Loved" get-togethers to continue our study and foster accountability in the areas of our lives God is transforming. The first "Living Loved - The Journey

Continues" Women's Bible Study will be held at GBC on January 20 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

We hope and pray more ladies will be able to join us next year for this fun, spiritually enriching event! Stay tuned for next year's details!

~Jayne Warner

## COMMUNION AND BAPTISM SERVICE

Sunday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Pastor Steve if desiring to be baptized

**WE NEED  
YOU**  
to make our new  
family directory  
complete

Pictures will be taken of new families since the last album was completed and those who missed having their pictures taken and those with changes in their families (new baby, etc.)

Sundays, November 12  
and November 19

Between 8:15 Service and  
Sunday School and

following the 10:45 Service  
In the Secretary Office



Approximately 45 DELTA PIONEER CLUB students have been very busy and creative during the last several months working on the ARTIST Skill Award, BALL GAMES Award and BIBLE Award. Awards will be presented to the children Wednesday, November 1, at the beginning of the regular Pioneer Club meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Thanks to Valerie Hacker for assisting the children in their artistic work. The students invite you to view their creations which are on display in the lower level hallways leading to the youth room. Stop by the GRAFFITI BOARD and write your own idea of something you can learn about GOD by contemplating His creation (Romans 1:20).

Next unit will be very busy for the children while working on the CHEF Skill Award, PLAYING TOGETHER GAMES Award and BIBLE Award. If students attend regularly they will be assured of receiving the awards. If a child must miss an evening he/she can make up the work.

### GET YOUR SANDWICHES/SUBS

Enjoy a wonderful Sub or Pretzel Sandwich  
for only \$4.50

Orders Due: Sunday, November 5  
Pick Up: Wednesday, November 15

These monthly sales support Mission Trips/Projects  
Order forms are in your Mailbox  
Extra Forms available at Usher Stands

## GRATITUDE VS. INGRATITUDE

In Scripture the idea of giving thanks is not a suggestion or recommendation; it is a command. It carries the same weight as "love your neighbor" and "give to the poor". More than a hundred times the Bible commands us to be thankful.

Had Adam and Eve chosen gratitude, would the world be different? They had their very own produce section! "But there could be more. . ." suggested the devil.

If you choose gratitude, will your world be different? Or are you listening to that voice suggesting, "Don't you want more?" More money, more praise, more time, more. . .

The cure for ingratitude? Look up! Look what God has done! The Son of Man has come. You have a Savior, forgiving sin. Victory that no one can take!

*Gratitude is a dialysis of sorts.*

*It flushes the self-pity out of our systems.*

## THANK YOU LORD SUNDAY

Sunday, November 19

Regular morning services and Sunday School will be held  
A luncheon will follow the 10:45 service  
Meat and beverage will be provided  
Bring a side dish **and** dessert to share  
Sign-up sheets are at entrances to church

Goal for the special offering is \$19,000  
which will be used for missions, Christmas gifts for GBC's  
missionaries and project money for upcoming mission trips

Food items will be collected to provide Thanksgiving Baskets  
to those in need. Give Paul Buser names of those who would  
benefit by receiving a basket. Place your food items to fill the  
baskets in the back of the sanctuary.

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 21  
7:00 p.m.

Plan to attend and invite your neighbors and friends to come  
along for a time of Praise and Worship

## SAYING THANK YOU

In an average day and being the semi-polite wonderful person  
that I am, I probably say "thank you" as often as I say "excuse  
me", "aren't you nice", "what a lovely dress" and one that is  
often difficult, "you look great!".

I say "thank you" to strangers, wait staff, family and even to  
the tax collector. "Thank you" kind of rolls off of my tongue  
without too much thought.

Today I walked into a Spiritual Door (sometimes they hurt  
more than a real door) and I thoughtfully replied to my  
Heavenly Father, "Thank you Lord". It dawned on me that I  
say "thank you" to others more than I do to GOD. Even  
though I truly appreciate the kindness of others, I neglect to  
appreciate the continual kindness of The King of Kings.

Psalms 92: 1 - "It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing  
praises to Your Name O Most High."

He loves it when we do that!

~Anonymous GBC Member

## YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Start with the letter "A" and go through the alphabet to "Z"  
listing at least one thing you are thankful for that begins with  
each letter.

A – animals, apples, automobiles making traveling better than  
riding a donkey, anger control, anxiety solutions.

B – better day today than yesterday, bubble baths, bottomless  
coffee, boatload full of God's grace and mercy.

Now it's your turn to show how thankful you are starting with  
"A" and going through "Z".

A Children's  
Musical  
by Kathie Hill  
and Melody  
Morris



Presented by Grace Notes Children's Choir  
Sunday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m.

Kathie Hill has done Christmas fore-wards and now,  
backwards! Instead of ending with the nativity, *Christmas in  
Reverse* starts at the manger then "rewinds" to give details on  
the events leading to the first Christmas. Teaming with co-  
writer, Melody Morris, Kathie provides a plethora of  
orchestral settings for this Broadway-styled musical. And  
long before the characters gather back at the manger, you will  
be touched (for the first or umpteenth time) by God's reason  
for sending Jesus in songs like You Chose Me, Waiting for  
Christmas and Come and Worship Jesus.

Kathie's Note: This musical will surprise you. It seems so  
simple, but the impact is so great. People love the emphasis  
on the manger and the fact that it is "Christmasy" from  
beginning to end. "Come and Worship Jesus" should be in  
every hymn book!

