

# Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XXIV

December 2003

Number 4

## “Do You Understand the Grace of God?”

Selected Excerpts

The theme of this year's lectureship is well known by the readers of the Harvesters, and those who visit our Web Site. However, new things are forthcoming for the lectureship.

We were limited to about 25 listeners on the website at any given time in the past. It will be broadcast live again this year, but with an unlimited access capability.

Plans are underway to offer a CD of the lectures from 2000 through 2004. This material will be placed in a format that will enable you to find topics, and author in a PC with CD-Rom. It will enable you to locate sections as you have need, and you will be able to copy and paste this material into your own materials. We only request that you give credit to the source of the material you use. Each CD will load automatically when placed in the CD drive of a computer.

We plan to have each lesson on audio CD so that it may be played in the CD player in your automobile. If you do not have a CD player, but do have a

tape player, you can purchase for about \$50.00 a CD player that

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**We are placing a few excerpts from this volume to show you how it may be useful to you.**

**We plan to have each lesson on audio CD so that it may be played in the CD players in your automobile. If you do not have a CD player, but do have a tape player, you may purchase, for about \$50.00, a CD player that will have an adapter to let you play the CD's just as you would a tape player. Likewise, you can listen to the CD's with this player while walking or in the privacy of your own home.**

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will have an adapter to let you play the CD's just as you would a tape player. Likewise, you can listen to the CD's with this player while walking or in the privacy of your own home. This year's hard copy of the book will contain a copy of the printed text on CD. We are placing a few excerpts from this volume to show you how it may be useful to you, and provide a few comments that should encourage any student of the Bible to want to listen to the lecture and to read and reread the research done by

each writer or speaker. I am using a prepublication version of the CD and am taking the following quotes from it and citing each author to show the contribution made to this study by these writers.

**E. Claude Gardner,**

“Briefly, there are three facts about grace that are evident. First, grace is taught in the Bible extensively. All who will go to heaven will do so only by the grace of God. Second, the church and preachers of yesterday and today believed and taught the subject of grace. Other synonymous names were also used such as mercy, love, and clemency. Grace was *not* discovered in our generation, as some have averred. It is true that some have discovered in the last quarter of the twentieth century unbiblical grace, which is a revision of Calvinism. . . . Third, wherever truth is taught, error will arise to oppose it.”

**Billy Lambert,**

“The blessings enjoyed “in Christ” are almost as numberless as the stars of heaven. What are some of those ‘spiritual blessings’? First, there is no condemnation. ‘There

is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit' (Rom. 8:1). Second, the reality of being a new creature, or creation. 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new' (2 Cor. 5:17). Third, there is salvation. 'Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory' (2 Tim. 2:10). These three passages should be sufficient evidence to show that 'spiritual blessings' such as freedom from condemnation, being a new creature, and salvation are found only 'in Christ.'"

**Steve Atnip**, "God's grace is sufficient to save the souls of people, to bring them through life's great struggles, and to help them persevere on to eternal glory. Life's struggles should always be viewed as an opportunity for God's grace to create strength out of weakness. Let us always remember that the assistance proffered by God to humanity is fully sufficient to accomplish his purposes. People, however, may frustrate that great grace by stubbornly opposing the will of God by their own will. Grace is not sufficient to save people apart from their own will. Neither is grace sufficient to help a person persevere to eternal life if that person does not will to imbibe of God's grace as it instructs him or her in the word of God."

### Editorial Comments

Index items are presented to demonstrate that our people have persistently taught on the grace of God. To state that we have neither understood nor emphasized grace is to manifest an ignorance of this important concept, or it is a malicious misrepresentation of the facts. We have cited the Millennial Harbinger articles on grace beginning in 1850 through 1869.

The index of articles from the *Gospel Advocate* through 1988 was provided by brother Neil Anderson, Gospel Advocate Company, February 7, 2003. I have rearranged them by date of publication for this appendix. We are grateful to brother Anderson for providing this index, and trust it will be of help to those wanting information on where and when our brethren have addressed the subject of grace. From the years 1989 to July 2003, I have consulted the index of the December issue of the *Gospel Advocate* each year for articles relating to the subject.

**Hugo McCord**, "True it is that 'the law was given through Moses,' while 'grace...came through Jesus Christ' (Jn. 1:17). However, it is a misinterpretation to conclude that there was no grace in the Old Testament (Cain was spared the death penalty, Gen. 4:12; 9:6, and David also, 2 Sam. 12:13; Lev. 20:10), and that there is no law in the New Testament: 'Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ' (Gal. 6:2)."

**V. P. Black**, "Sin is the worse thing known to man.

Every pain, sickness, death, and sorrow is the result of sin. Sin promises the real thing and cheats with the shadow. Sin promises silk, but gives shroud. Sin promises liberty, but gives slavery. Sin promises hope, but gives despair. Sin promises happiness, but gives sorrow. Sin promises peace, but gives death. Sin is as treacherous as Absalom who would do us obeisance and steal our hearts from God. Sin is as hypocritical as Judas who would betray us to death with a kiss. Sin is as deceptive as left handed Ehud who would extend his right hand in fellowship, and with his left hand, plunge a dagger through the stomach. Sin is the eldest born of hell, for it was the sin that made him the devil. Any person that can believe that sin does not carry with it individual and national calamity is as foolish as the person who could believe that a spider's web would keep a huge boulder from rolling down a mountain side."

*If you are not here in January, we will miss you.*  
Editor.

## *The Harvesters*

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## “Do You Understand the Grace of God?”

29th Annual Lectureship — January 19-22, 2004

Jackie M. Stearsman, Director



Maurice Davis



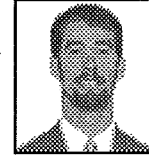
Ted Wheeler

**Monday**

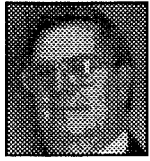
9:00 Who Taught You Grace? Maurice Davis  
 9:40 How Are We Saved by the Grace of God? V.P. Black  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 Grace and Longsuffering Scott Gerhardt  
 11:30 LUNCH

**Wednesday**

9:00 What Does Grace Teach? Bill Greer  
 9:40 Grace and Hebrews Timothy Kidwell  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 Grace and Ephesians Jimmy Clark  
 11:30 LUNCH



Terry W. Frizzell



Gary Summers

**Forum: Grace, Law, Faith, and Works**

1:30 Do You Understand Grace & Law? Brian R. Kenyon  
 2:00 Do You Understand Grace & Faith? Gene Burgett  
 2:30 Do You Understand Grace & Works? Ted Wheeler  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Forum Questions and Answers  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Grace and Noah Christopher Lowe  
 7:45 Grace and Human Nature Billy Lambert

**Forum: Misrepresenting Grace**

1:30 Is Grace Irresistible? Terry W. Frizzell  
 2:00 Is Grace for the Elect Only? J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.  
 2:30 Is Baptism a Sign of an Inward Grace? Steve Atnip  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Forum Questions and Answers  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Grace, Jonah, & the Elder Brother Daniel Stearsman  
 7:45 For What is Grace Sufficient? Steve Atnip



E. Claude Gardner



Chris Steele

**Tuesday**

9:00 Excluded from Grace Billy Lambert  
 9:40 When I See the Cross V.P. Black  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 *Grace Centered Magazine: A Critique* Terry M. Hightower  
 11:30 LUNCH

**Thursday**

9:00 Grace and the Life of Peter Greg Littleton  
 9:40 Hearing & Reading Erroneous Views E. Claude Gardner  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 *Putting Amazing Back in Grace: A Review* Gary Summers  
 11:30 LUNCH



Justin Gerhardt



Daniel Stearsman

**Forum: Corrupting Grace**

1:30 Receiving the Grace of God in Vain Tommy Blewett  
 2:00 Turning Grace into Lasciviousness British Carlton  
 2:30 Does Grace Overlook Sin? Chris Steele  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Forum Questions and Answers  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Grace and the Conversion of Saul Justin Gerhardt  
 7:45 Grace and the Nature of God Jimmy Clark

**Forum: Projecting Grace**

1:30 How Do We Speak with Grace? Timothy Kidwell  
 2:00 How Do We Abound in Grace? Acie Sanders  
 2:30 God Desires Mercy and Sacrifice Gary Summers  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Forum Questions and Answers  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Songs of Grace Nathan Kidwell  
 7:45 How May Grace Motivate Us? Dan Winkler



Scott Gerhardt



Acie Sanders



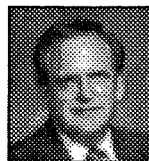
Bill Greer



Christopher Lowe



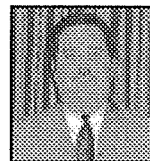
Greg Littleton



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## Gene Burgett Report

As I write this report I realize I am drawing near the end of my first year as Director of Public Relations for the Florida School of Preaching. Many people have been so very helpful to me throughout the year. Many of the alumni have provided valuable opportunities for me to speak. Many have offered helpful suggestions and ideas regarding how I may make brethren aware of the need for preachers of the gospel, and of the role the Florida School of Preaching plays in training men to preach. And, the board of directors have been very patient with me as I have felt my way along in this work. I want to thank everyone for their kindness.

October 26-28, I preached in a meeting at the church of Christ in Alachua, Florida. Preaching a meeting is always an honor, but there is something special about holding a meeting with congregation of which you are a member. My family and I placed membership with the Alachua church in January of this year. The people have welcomed us in a most wonderful way. How much fruit will be born from the meeting still remains to be seen as Bible studies associated with the effort continue as of this writing.

When I am requested to hold a meeting for a congregation, it has become my habit to utilize the Sunday lessons as an opportunity to preach on topics especially relevant to the church. Most especially I like to address the need for evangelism, deeper fellowship within the congregation, and the danger of turning away from the New Testament pattern to either the right hand or to the left. I also declare the need for gospel

preachers and the work of the Florida School of Preaching in training preachers. The lessons throughout the week are devoted to subjects most relevant to those that have never put on Christ in baptism.

November ushers in two major holiday seasons and setting up appointments to speak is sometimes more problematic. November 16, I will be with the church in Zephyrhills, Florida. I will also be speaking in Alabama in December. But I have left many weekends open in November and December that I may be able to visit with churches in north Florida.

I remember when I graduated from FSOP in 1985, one of my biggest concerns was whether or not I would have enough knowledge and ability to produce a couple of sermons a week. As I began preaching I realized the real problem was how to find opportunities to preach everything that needed to be addressed. When I began my current work for the School, I wondered where I would find enough venues to present the need for preachers and preacher training. Now I realize the real problem is how to schedule all of the opportunities set before me. Some have mentioned to me they would like to provide me an opportunity to speak where they worship, but they are waiting for my schedule to slow down. My hope is that it will not slow down, therefore, if you would like for me to speak at the congregation where you worship, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone or email, (burgett@atlantic.net or 352-331-3195).

May God bless you.

*Return Service Requested*

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