



On the Same Page

“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**” (Romans 5:20 KJV)

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long. What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.

Worm's Eye View

I learned in art class about perspective, and the difference between the worm's eye view vs. the eagle's eye view. The picture will look much different depending on the chosen perspective.

I've been reading a collection of sermons written by Christopher Love of England in the 1600's. He died in his 30's, so you can see that I am willing to take counsel from younger men, so long as they are dead. The title of the sermon series (and the book) is *The Dejected Soul's Cure*. Its a real pick-me-upper.

But the book is honest and wise, and the author, like Spurgeon two hundred years later, is given to word pictures.

The question being examined is why a person who desires to live a holy life focuses more quickly on his faults than his goodness. He views his life more from the perspective of a worm's eye view than that of the eagle. I would guess that a certain number of you would know what I am talking about. Sin is a constant and obvious problem to those who wish to be holy. Certainly we know that pattern of holiness displayed in descriptions of God's character and as played out in the life of Christ. But we are also convicted about how far we fall short.

Love says that “God's people see their sins like Mountains, and their graces like mole-hills.” That is not how God sees us, but it is how we tend to see ourselves. There is no sin so mountainous that God will not forgive, and His grace is sufficient for a complete covering. If Noah's waters covered the mountains, God's grace can cover our worst sins (according to our own estimation, which is faulty).

But the battle is hard. Love says “my lusts burn like a flame, but my graces like a glowing coal.” It is a view born in a moment, and we cannot see that God can quickly douse a wildfire, and that He will also nurse along a glowing coal.

There are people in the world capable of writing a great list of all their successes, and have little memory to jot down but a failure

or two. Not so with many who pursue godliness. “Grace is as the gleanings of the Vintage; sin is as the full harvest.” You know the difference, don’t you? The gleanings are the few stalks left around the edges and corners of the field. The full harvest is greater by far. That is how it seems for those who live with a hunger for God, and also have a keen sensitivity with regard to sin in their own hearts.

Sunday at our Lord’s Table service we will sing the hymn “Grace Greater than our Sin.” Verse two sings “Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, Threaten the soul with infinite loss; Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.” While the serious but dejected soul says “my sins (seem) at full tide, but my graces (seem) at a low ebb,” the Gospel argues against the dejected soul, telling him that “where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. It is not that you are so much better than you thought yourself to be. No, you were probably quite right about yourself. It is rather that your Savior is so much greater than you have imagined. Verse 3 of “Grace Greater” sings “Dark is the stain that we cannot hide; What can we do to wash it away? Look! There is flowing a crimson tide, Brighter than snow you may be today.”

Forever by Paul David Tripp

Whatever our confessional theology says about eternity, at the functional level we live as if this is all there is. We live with a destination mentality instead of a preparation mentality. This present world with all of its joys and sorrows is not our final address. When we treat it as if it is, we try to get from this world what we can only experience in the next.

Notes:

Sunday School classes for youth and adults meet each Sunday, 10 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. with a study of **Ezra and Nehemiah**

This Sunday, February 2, is our Lord’s Table service (11 a.m.) and also American House service at 3 p.m.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, February 2, we continue a Lord’s Table series called **Gospel Conversations** from John 11 and Jesus’ conversation with Martha and Mary called **“If You Had Been Here.”**

Last Sunday, January 26, we find the elders in the church are “to put to silence” those who operate from “greed” motives as opposed to “grace” motives (Titus 1:10-16). [Listen to the message here](#)

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