

Good News

From Getwell

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SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

This week's Psalms for study
Psalm 11

- ¹In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?
²For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.
³If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?
⁴The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.
⁵The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.
⁶Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.
⁷For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Ron Wallace

RON'S REMINDERS



WHY STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM?

The jailor's question, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30) is still on the minds of thinking individuals. According to the Bible, the answer begins with hearing the gospel of Christ (Romans 10:17) and believing in Jesus as God's Son (Acts 16:30-34; John 8:24). Next, one must repent of sins (Acts 17:30-31; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38) and confess faith that Jesus is the Christ (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:37). Then consummating act of one's obedience is baptism to be saved (Mark 16:15-16).

A question often arises: "Why stress the baptism so much?" These answer Bible references give the answer:

- Water stands between the sinner and cleansing (Ephesians 5:26).
- Water stands between the sinner and sanctification (Ephesians 5:26).
- Water stands between the sinner ... and putting away sins (Colossians 2:11-13).
- Water stands between the sinner and new life in Christ (Ephesians 2:6).
- Water stands between the sinner and living with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).
- Water stands between the sinner and forgiveness (Colossians 1:13-14).
- Water stands between the sinner and the kingdom (John 3:5).
- Water stands between the sinner and the blood of Christ (John 19:34).
- Water stands between the sinner and a good conscience (1 Peter 3:21).
- Water stands between the sinner ... and the promise through Christ (Acts 2:39).
- Water stands between the sinner and the body (1 Corinthians 12:12).
- Water stands between the sinner and salvation (1 Peter 3:21).
- Water stands between the sinner and sonship (Galatians 3:26-27).

What is Grace?

Grace, "God's Riches at Christ's Expense," is His unmerited gift of salvation, and it is central to the gospel of Christ.

Justice calls for the punishment of all men because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). But God, because of His love for mankind, chooses to be gracious and offer salvation to those who obey Him. Paul says, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Thus, salvation is by grace through faith.

The Greek word that New Testament writers chose to describe God's unmerited favor is *charis*, which had as its root meaning "that which is beautiful, lovely, attractive, and charming." It implies the idea of favor or special kindness shown to another. Graciousness is part of the beauty that should mark every Christian's life. Paul said, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6), and "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

Paul had a deepened sense of grace because he had changed from being a persecutor of the church to becoming a preacher of the gospel. "I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). As he faced imprisonment for his faith, he told the elders of the church at Ephesus, "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

Paul preached God's grace because he understood that man was unable to earn God's forgiveness by his own merit, since all men are sinners (Romans 3:23). Because of His gracious love, however, God acted and sent Christ to sacrifice Himself for mankind. "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The cross of Christ, the world's greatest display of love and grace, appeals to the heart of the penitent sinner. Jesus said, "If I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32).