

# WUSBC NEWSLETTER

For the CROSS | the CROWN | and the COVENANT

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

Please mail your giving to:  
Lana C.

## STATISTICS FOR May 3, 2020

Worship Attendance: 25  
Facebook: N/A due to  
technical issues  
YouTube: 17 views  
Budget Offering: \$3,112.02  
Building: \$215.00  
Smiths (missionaries to  
Zambia, Africa): \$15.00

## BIRTHDAYS

Rae Jean M., 22nd  
Silas F., 24th

## ANNIVERSARY

Dick & Wilma N., 21st

## SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

No Sunday School  
9:45 - Service for adults  
11:00 - Service for families with  
children  
(no childcare provided)



## Pastor's Note:

This week we're going to begin studying the book of Colossians. I'm excited and overwhelmed at beginning a new book. Though Colossians is a small book, there is a vast amount of doctrinal teaching in there. As I've been pouring over the book, praying over how to preach through it, I started thinking about a couple things.

*First, I wonder how the churches reacted to receiving a letter from Paul?*

I think I've always envisioned the local churches giddy with excitement at receiving a letter from Paul, but I wonder if that was really the case. In the case of Colossians, most of the people there had probably never met Paul. There is no record of Paul traveling there and evidence points to Epaphras as the founding pastor. The next letter is to Philemon where Paul is telling him to forgive a runaway slave. The letters to the Corinthians are correcting them. In other letters Paul is telling the church what to believe. In many of these letters he is telling some people in the church, "You're right"; but to others he is saying, "You're wrong." I'm guessing a letter from Paul was not always the source of joy and unification.

What about us? How are we going to receive a letter from Paul? Will we be willing to receive joy, teaching, and perhaps some correction? I believe one of the most dangerous things is to not receive the letter at all; rather, just hear it without ever thinking *God preserved this letter for me to apply to my life!* Now don't think this will come easy. Who among us finds it easy to be told what to do? Or, who among us likes to receive teaching, especially from someone we don't even know? So please pray with me that God will open our eyes to the truth of this little letter that we may be deeply rooted in the supremacy of Christ in all things.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brenda H., Emily G., Eric H., Heather V., Jason B., Stacy F., and other healthcare workers
- The family of David Boggs, Pastor's mentor and friend. David had been battling bone cancer since early January, May 6th he went home to be with his Savior that he so faithfully served.
- Our church family
- Our nation

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

- Colossians 2:6-7

*Second, if you were in prison, what and to whom would you write?*

I find it quite challenging to think of Paul's circumstance when writing this letter. It seems to me he had every right to be writing about himself. He could have said, "Please pray that God will get me out of here, so I can get back to doing mission work!" He could have complained about the Jews who got him in this mess, the weather, or any number of things we complain about. Instead he boldly writes about Christ to a group of people he doesn't know. Instead of being angry at God for cutting his mission short, Paul pursues missions in the place God has placed him. I wonder how often we miss God's missional opportunities because we're frustrated with where God has put us; which, ironically is the very place God wanted us to serve.

I don't know that any of us will find ourselves in a prison this week, but we may find ourselves somewhere with idle time and no where to go. It could be there at your house. Who will you call or write? It could be back at a job. What will you say to your coworkers? It may be waiting in line at Walmart. Will those in line around you hear the regular complaining and talk of the weather, or will they hear of Jesus? It could be that the frustratingly slow line you're having to stand in isn't holding you back from God's plans for your life; rather, it is the plan God has for your life and the furtherance of His Kingdom.

In His grace,

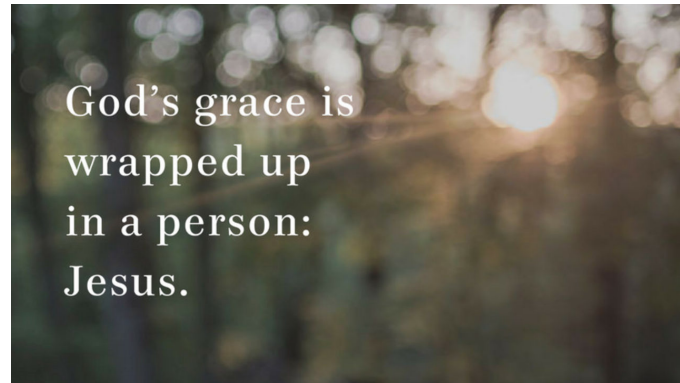
Pastor Heath Huskey

# GRACE IN CHRIST

|Galatians 2:1-10|

## Questions for Reflection

1. When you think about different church ceremonies and traditions, where do you place them in relation to salvation?
2. Is there evidence in your life that you have been saved by faith alone through grace alone? If not, then by what do you claim salvation and why?
3. Are you in some ways trying to earn salvation by working for it? If so, why?
4. Is there someone in your life that is proof of the power of the gospel that you have received? How did you share the "good news" with them?
5. Consider the 5 Solas of the reformation. How do these impact your faith or guide your understanding of salvation?



## Grace in the Face of Tradition

As we studied last week, we saw that Paul's "apostleship" was under attack because it was not established in the same manner as the other twelve. Down through the millennia, man has continually tried to place God in a box and define His means of accomplishing His will according to the ideals of man. This never has, and never will, proved functional. If we consider the 5 Solas of the reformation, we will soon see there is no place among them for the ideology of man. I believe this is because they demonstrate attributes of God that are simply too high for us to attain to. R.C. Sproul said "Dead men do not cooperate with grace. Unless regeneration takes place first, there is no possibility of faith." In the first ten verses of Galatians 2, Paul is defending the theology of grace alone once again. This time, it is in contrast to a long held belief from the Mosaic Law.

In this part of Paul's letter he begins by discussing his trip to Jerusalem when he met with the Jerusalem Council to resolve the issue of gentile salvation. Let that sink in...deeply. This council met to determine if Gentiles, like you and me, could or should be saved!!! WOW! At this council meeting, Paul has with him a man

named Titus who will serve as evidence of regeneration. As an uncircumcised Gentile, he was the perfect evidence of the effectiveness of Paul's ministry. Circumcision is key to this particular text. This doctrine was central to the Judaizer's theology as they clung tightly to Mosaic Law in their system of works. In fact, they taught there could be no salvation without circumcision (see Acts 15:1, 5, & 24). Paul, and the apostles denied that and the matter was settled at this council meeting in Jerusalem.

As we continue through the remainder of these verses, Paul mentions the bondage the Judaizer's are trying to bring upon the church by mixing in the Mosaic law with the doctrine of grace. As Christians, we are free from the law as a means of salvation, free from its ceremonial regulations as a means of living, and also free from its curse for disobedience. However, this does not mean we are free **to** sin, but rather are free **from** the power of sin! Due to the unyielding manner in which Paul and Titus preached salvation by grace alone through faith alone, they were commissioned to take the gospel to the heathen (gentiles). That's us!!!! We are the heathen(gentiles)...the non Jews. Thank God in Heaven that His plan of salvation, which was ordained before the foundation of the world, made provision for a heathen like myself. Let the wonder of that truth settle into your heart. Allow your mind to contemplate the love (agape) it took for God to create such an elaborate, exhaustive, and exclusive plan to redeem you. Ponder the fact that we can scarcely imagine how wicked we truly are, and that we are loved by our heavenly Father more than we could ever imagine possible!!! Lastly, enjoy the word search below!!

## Galatians 1-2

G M P D D E S R U C C A Y P U P T  
 G I A R Y K B E L I E V E D U S O  
 A T U L D T K N O Q E F P A D T K  
 U S L V B B C G X H K X U Y I R Z  
 K O C U E T E X X O L D Z T H E L  
 Z Y G T J N O Y A D J Y U C A T E  
 P R Q M T J L I G L E S P B I E A  
 N H F I X Y C Z M Z S M X A B P T  
 I H L R C I M S W P U L E R A K C  
 E E V C L N J P H R S D A N R C T  
 S A R I O E T U N E Q A P A A E P  
 B V C S T H P Q W A A M O B Q C J  
 S E G D V B R S C C I A S A D X R  
 V N S A H P E C O H R S T S N D D  
 J E R U S A L E M G Y C L W I O R  
 S N A I T A L A G G S U E F H T W  
 V O T O S F M K J O W S J E J C I

Believed	Peter	Titus	Barnabas
Cilicia	Syria	Damascus	Arabia
Jerusalem	Cephas	Gentiles	Paul
Jesus	Gospel	Accursed	Heaven
Preach	Apostle	Galatians	