

# The Floral Heights Informer

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

30 July 2006  
Volume 6; Issue 32

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## Our Elders:

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David Witherspoon

## Grace

By Travis Pyle

What is **grace**? W. E. Vines defines grace as Divine favor (p. 501). How do we obtain **grace**? **Grace** is a gift from God, Rom. 5:15, “But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by **grace**, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath about unto many.” God has given His **grace** to all men (Titus 2:11). Many people of the denominational world would say since it is a gift an individual must do nothing to receive it. The Bible teaches the contrary (Acts 2:38).

### The Gospel’s Relationship to Grace:

How shall we obtain faith except we hear the word of God? From times of old, God has given us a way for his creation to be saved. Isaiah, a prophet ordained by God, went forth amongst the Israelites preparing their hearts and preaching unto them about the coming of Christ. God’s grace was given to Mary the virgin. Luke 1:28 reads, “and the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art **highly favored** (or graciously accepted my emp. twp), the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.” In verse 17 of Numbers 24, Baalam, who was given the gift of prophecy, saw a vision of the Star to come, which is the Christ. Christ dwelt with the apostles during his time on earth. While he did so, he instructed them with the words of eternal life (Jn. 6:68). However, Christ promised after all was fulfilled they (apostles) would not be without comfort. The comforter, Holy Spirit, was sent to the apostles in order that they might speak in truth and in harmony to God’s word (Jn. 14:16-17). Paul spoke of his chosen course in Acts 20:24, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my live dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” With God there is no respect of persons, and the gospel that was given equals the TRUTH, which is CHRIST. Part

## Local News:

### Summer Gospel Meeting

There is only one week remaining until our gospel meeting begins. During the dates of August 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Micky Galloway will be preaching for us. Lets take the time to tell our neighbors and pass out flyers.

**Kyle Austin** suffered a bit of a set back in his recovery process. Remember him in your prayers.

Check out our **live chat line on Monday evenings at 8:00 PM!**  
<http://www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org/chat/>

Although the chat line is designed to preach to the lost members of the church are encouraged to log on and participate in Bible discussion too.

### Relief Needed:

Luis Zamora, of Austin Texas, has recently lost all his support for preaching. The South Austin church has lost so many members that they can no longer afford to support their preacher. If you can help you may send the aid to the follow address:

Luis Zamora  
212 Morrell  
Kyle, TX 78640-8818  
(512) 657-9371

**Continue to pray for our shut-ins:**

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Verlon Powell**  
Rolling Meadows Health Care Room  
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**Calvin York:**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

of that truth is everyone knowing that we have forgiveness of our sins, “according to the riches of his **grace**” (Eph. 1:7).

### Christ Relationship With Grace:

God has given us Christ, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:23). Why is there a need for Christ? Because “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Furthermore, we read in Ephesians of how we were dead in our trespasses and by the **grace** of God we are saved through Christ (Eph. 2:1ff). We gain access into **grace** by faith.

### Examples of those who Received God’s Grace:

We have established beforehand that God’s gifts are conditional. The condition relies on our will of obedience. In Genesis, God tells us how He repented that He had made man because every thought of his heart was continually evil. “But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8). Noah did all according to what God commanded of him and thus was saved from the flood, he and his entire house (Heb. 11:7). In chapter 6 of Joshua we read of a city called Jericho that was promised to Joshua. The gift was conditional; Joshua had to go around the city once a day for six days and the people had to shout alongside the trumpet. The walls indeed fell and Joshua was given the city (Josh. 6:1-6). Lastly, we hear of a man scourged with leprosy, namely Naaman. Naaman was a great man and a captain of Syria, a mighty man in valor, says the writer of II Kings. God’s **grace** was upon him when his wife’s maid (from the land of Israel) suggested unto Naaman’s wife that he go to the prophet Elisha to be rid of his leprosy. In short, Naaman did as the Lord gave Elisha utterance to tell him to dip in the River Jordan seven times. Once Naaman showed his obedience to God’s word, his skin became like that of a little child.

### Conclusion

God’s **grace** abounds and is rich toward us all (Rom. 5:20). From the above we understand that God is not a respecter of persons and He has given us His **grace** liberally. God’s grace has come in the form of the gospel and more so through the sacrifice of Christ. In turn, the grace of God is a gift, and there are conditions that go along with this gift. We see through the examples of Noah, Joshua, and Naaman that man must be obedient to the word of God. If we do so, then we can be certain that we will be justified in the sight of our Lord (Rom. 5:15ff).

# The Church of Christ

## Introduction:

The church of Christ may be compared to a country or kingdom. While the Bible church is not concerned about the things of this world it does have a king and laws whereby its citizens are subject (cf. Jn. 18:36-37; Eph. 2:19ff). Those who meet the requirements of citizenship may enter into the church (Acts 2:40-41). This lesson shall examine all aspects of the church of Christ. One who is a citizen of the Lord's church has true hope of existing eternally in the kingdom of God.

## I. The church in Prophecy:

- A. The NT church is the kingdom of God spoken of in the OT and NT (cf. Matt. 3:1-2; Mk. 9:1; Col. 1:13; I Thess. 2:12).
- B. Daniel foretold of this kingdom being established in the latter days of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:28, 44).
- C. Isaiah tells us that God's kingdom would be established in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3).
- D. The church was established on Pentecost (Acts 2) and thereby prophecy is fulfilled.

## II. The Nature of God's kingdom (the church):

- A. Spiritual (Jn. 18:36):
  - 1. The church is not a social organization (Rom. 14:17).
  - 2. The church is not a relief society (I Tim. 5:16).
  - 3. The church is not a secular organization (Eph. 4:11-12).
- B. The church has a king (Jesus) (Jn. 18:36-37; Eph. 5:23).
- C. The church has citizens who have met the requirements of citizenship.

## III. How does one come to be a member of God's kingdom (the Church)?

- A. God calls people into His kingdom (I Thess. 2:12) through the gospel (II Thess. 2).
- B. The Gospel calls upon people to obey its instructions and thereby obtain citizenship.

## IV. What does one do in the church once becoming a Member?

- A. Voluntarily subject oneself to Christ's Authority
- B. Worship
- C. Work

## Conclusion:

Why do people join organizations? People are generally looking to either help others or promote self in the society we live in by joining various organizations. When one becomes a member of the church of Christ, sins are forgiven and a true path of eternal heaven is discovered. Those who join the church of Christ are looking to invest in their eternal existence. There will come a day of reckoning and those not in the church of Christ will face a sad existence in eternity. Are you a member of the kingdom of God?