



GLOBAL GRACE NETWORK

GGN is a fellowship of ministers and churches that advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ – Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

MAY 2009

YOU

are greatly loved

God did it again – totally surprised me! I was in the Netherlands on a two-week business trip, and crossing the street going back to the hotel I sensed the Father speak these words to me: “There is no one I love more than you!”

It startled me, could this be true? Instantly a few other people came to my mind whom I thought surely He would love more than me. But then after a few seconds I saw it: God’s love is strong and intense, and it is equal towards everyone! Tears came in my eyes... Surely there is no one God loves more than me – or more than you – or more than the people you meet today.

John lived in this awareness and named himself “the disciple whom Jesus loves.” Jesus also lived in this awareness and spoke about himself, “the Father loves the Son – and shows Him all that He Himself is doing.” In John 15:9 Jesus says, “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you.” This enormous love brought Jesus to the cross and caused Him to take the world’s judgment on Himself!

This month’s newsletter is all about Rediscovering The Gospel! Ask God for a paradigm shift as you read the teaching articles by Peter Youngren and Steve McVey, as well as the testimony called Amazing Grace.

Thank you for all your e-mails, your thankfulness, and your eagerness to know Jesus and the Gospel. GGN will each month continue to reveal God’s grace to all of us. Also have a look at the Bible College Ads - maybe this is YOUR chance to get to know

His love and grace even better. Remember, there is no one He loves more than you!



Mary Felde
Editor



by Peter Youngren

Major parts of the world have been “Christianized”... now let the whole world be “Gospelized.”

“**Revolution**” is a strong word that means “to turn upside down.” Why a “Gospel Revolution?” Why not words like “renewal” or “revival?” Simply put, the problem is so deep that nothing less than a revolution will do – a paradigm shift in our understanding of the Gospel is needed. Some suggest that America has become Gospel hardened. I don’t think so. America must hear the Gospel.

The Gospel is what God has already done through Christ.

Religion focuses on what “we must do” to be saved, healed, prosper or have revival. The rich young ruler asked Jesus, “What must I do to be saved?” Jesus responded, “One thing you lack.” This summarizes the dilemma of all religions. As long as our question is,

“What must I do?” the answer will always be, “One thing you lack.” What must we do to get revival? What will it take? How much prayer, fasting, studying and faith is required? What will it take to be healed? Five steps, ten steps or fifteen steps to my healing? Somehow each sick person will fall below the grade. Religion focuses on human performance and self-effort, while the Gospel liberates. Our question is no longer, “What must I do?” but, “What has Jesus done?” Our prayer is, “Lord, let my eyes be open to see what You have done for me.”

The Gospel is the power of God.

It does not merely release God’s power – it is the power of God! When we speak the Gospel, power comes out of our mouth. While we depend on the Holy Spirit, it is not a matter of praying

the power down but rather, preaching the power out. When the good news of what God in Christ has done comes out of our mouth, it is like beams of light driving away darkness.

The Gospel puts us in the “it is finished” era of history.

This era began with the death and resurrection of Jesus, and by the time the day of Pentecost came, the Gospel era was in full swing. Before that time, people looked forward to what was to come; now we look back to what has already happened. We read the Old Testament in a new light – each account viewed through the light of what Jesus has already done. We filter the Old Testament through our New Covenant glasses. The primary application of the story of David and Goliath can no longer be that of Goliath symbolizing our human problems. Rather, David represents the Son of David (Jesus), and Goliath, the devil and his kingdom. We see in David’s defeat of Goliath a symbol of what Jesus had done when He stomped on the devil’s head at the cross of Calvary. We no longer seek “our victory” – we now enter into the victory of our “David,” Jesus Christ.

When we wrestle against the schemes of evil principalities and powers, we seek not to defeat them. We merely stand in the victory Christ has already provided – Satan was defeated 2,000 years ago.

In the pre-resurrection era people worked in order *to* get things. Our

As long as our question is, “What must I do?” the answer will always be, “One thing you lack.”

spiritual activities are discovering and learning to walk in what we already *have* through Christ. Everything is now ours – things past, present, or future; heavenly things, earthly things; every blessing is ours through Christ Jesus. When we look at Jabez’ prayer, “Oh Lord that You would bless me,” we filter that prayer. We pray in the New Covenant fashion: “Thank You Lord that you have already blessed me with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Help me to see more fully all that you have given me.” (Ephesians 1:3)

The Gospel is all about Jesus.

The core of the Gospel is Christ as our righteousness. I find myself preaching less salvation, prosperity, healing, and signs and wonders than before. Instead I preach Jesus Christ our righteousness – and salvations, healings, signs and wonders follow.

This is one of the stark differences before and after the resurrection. The pre-resurrection preachers, for example John the Baptist, preached about the sins and flaws of the people in order to induce repentance. The New Testament preachers, starting with the apostles and Philip the evangelist, preached Christ. They induced repentance from self-

reliance and trust in our own righteousness by pointing people to Christ.

The founder of the Missionary Alliance church, A.B. Simpson, coined the phrase: “The world does not have

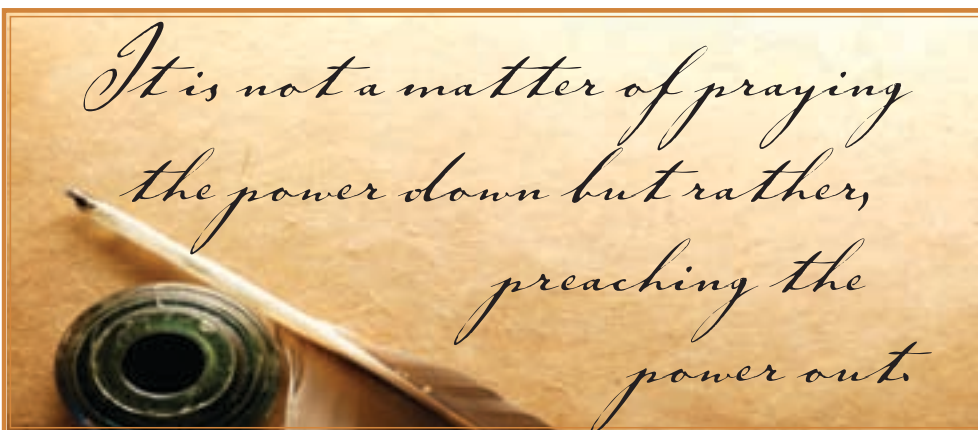
a SIN problem; the world has a SON problem.” At first glance this statement is difficult for many to digest. However, as we look at the scriptures without the blinders of tradition, we see that Jesus is the Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world (John 1:29). He did it by one sacrifice – once and for all. Jesus’ blood is not only the appropriation for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). People have not heard this message. Instead they have been told they need to deal with their sin, when in fact Christ has already dealt with our sins and reconciled the world to Himself – not counting people’s sins against them (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). The Holy Spirit no longer convicts people of their sins, but of the sin of not believing in Jesus (John 16:8-11). It’s all wrapped up in Jesus now.

The Gospel is that God has judged the world’s sins.

Frequently I hear people talk about God judging America or some other nation. Very little is spoken of how God has already judged the sins of America with the judgment that fell on Christ (Isaiah 53:5-6).

The Gospel transforms human behavior.

The grace of God that saves us is the same grace of God that teaches us to live holy and righteous in an ungodly world (Titus 2:11). Many have heard they must “clean up” their lives to receive God’s grace. This is a false teaching, because humans do not have the ability to “clean up” themselves. If they did there would be no need for Christ’s death on the cross. In fact, we humans are hopeless. Five hundred years ago



“The world does not have a SIN problem; the world has a SON problem.”

the Protestant Reformers had it right when they spoke of the doctrine of the “total depravity” of man. The apostle Paul describes this depravity in vivid language: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; The poison of asps is under their lip; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Romans 3:10-13)

What a statement! This is the human race, incapable to reform ourselves. At best, we camouflage the true condition of our sinful heart by religious behavior.

Only one hope remains – becoming a new creation in Christ. Our own willpower is insufficient to make us repent; in us lies nothing good. All that matters is if we become a new creation in Christ (Galatians 6:15).

That is why Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel.” Why? The Gospel makes us new creations. It is the power of God! It is not just a story that sounds nice, logical and religious. It transforms the human heart; once the human heart is transformed then the behavior will also change.

A Gospel Revolution shows the stark contrast between the Gospel and all religion.

The Gospel is glorious, fantastic, awesome, and beautiful. Let’s not reduce it to the level of mere religion.

A Gospel Revolution frees believers.

One of the great tragedies of modern Christianity is there are all too many bound-up, intimidated, held-back believers. People who have gone to church their entire lives are still looking for their “breakthrough.” Sadly, some have not yet discovered their sins have been forgiven, and that we already have everything in Christ. In this state of defeatism, what hope do we have to offer the world?

This makes our message unattractive. If we who profess to have the truth are not yet free, why would anyone want to join our ranks? This battle for the freedom of believers is not new. The believers in Galatia had retreated from their freedom in Christ, away from the Gospel of grace into performance-driven religion. Paul wrote:

“Stand fast in the liberty where Christ has set you free.”

A Gospel Revolution takes believers out of the “have not” category.

It does away with the distasteful picture of believers holding a tin cup, asking God for evermore breakthroughs, blessings, and benefits. Instead, we are now living in the light of the revelation that “of Him we are in Christ Jesus who has become for us wisdom from God – and righteousness, sanctification and redemption.” (1 Corinthians 1:30)

A Gospel Revolution elevates the cross of Jesus above human wisdom.

Human wisdom teaching continues to be popular. Without God’s grace through what Jesus has done, the best

we have today is the self-help section in the local bookstore where many authors give good advices. There are many life enhancement gurus on TV who do their very best to inspire people to live better lives. I applaud their efforts, but all this advice lacks the power to transform human behavior. It is one thing to have our problems analyzed and to receive advice on how to solve our situation. We nod our heads agreeing to deal with our situation differently, in the hope it will change. We may even have some degree of success through human wisdom, though ultimately we will all fail.

“Once the human heart is transformed then the behavior will also change.”

The Gospel is in a totally different sphere. Paul warns of human wisdom making the cross of “no effect.” Just like the Greeks 2,000 years ago, many today look for wisdom. It appeals to our mind and logic. We all like things which sound reasonable and well thought out. However, our task is not to pass on human wisdom – we are to preach the cross of Christ. Why? Human wisdom at its best will still fail. Even well-intentioned people cannot live up to the wisdom principles they know to be right.

All too often, Christ’s Gospel is pushed aside for human wisdom teaching. It is popular to draw much teaching out of the book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. These books are the Word of God, but if you read them in the light of the New Covenant, you realize that Jesus Christ has become



*with T.L. Osborn, Peter Ljunggren, Åge Åleskjær,
Joseph Prince, Linda Bergling and more!*

our Wisdom. Jesus Christ is the one who makes it possible to live these truths. Without a 24/7¹ relationship with Christ, we will all fall short of the truths put forth by Solomon and other writers. This is why the scriptures read: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:19-24)

A Gospel Revolution empowers believers.

Today some focus much time on the devil and darkness, but this was never the case in the Book of Acts. They did not engage in the type of spiritual warfare that we see quite prevalent in some circles today. Instead their focus was on letting the light shine so darkness would be dispelled. One of my favorite shows for years on television was CNN’s “Crossfire”, where two opposing sides would argue different political positions. Sometimes current Christianity has become like the “Crossfire” show. We argue about many things that really are not all that important. We go to great lengths to protest when city hall puts “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas” on its lawn. Naturally, if I should make

the decision I would put “Merry Christmas” everywhere. I like the name of Christ. To be honest though, what

difference does it make if people are not born-again? Why do we fight so hard in these areas when the apostle Paul says neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but what means something is that we are a new creation in Christ (Galatians 6:15)? What good is it if our country adheres to Christian values or traditions and yet people are not born-again? Naturally, I favor Christian values, but mere values do not save people – the Gospel is the power of God to salvation.

A Gospel Revolution lights up the world.

The apostle Paul wrote about the light of the Gospel and he added: “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, made His light shine in our hearts.” (2 Corinthians 4:6a) That light is in us! We have this Gospel treasure in us. The solution to every human dilemma is to let God’s light shine forth. The world must hear that their sins have been cancelled. Do you want your family, your city, your church, and your nation to love God? How does it happen? It is quite simple. We love God because He first loved us.

The more we show people how much God loves them, the more they will love Him back. We are not initiators – God has initiated everything. We no longer look for a move of God – we see that God has already moved. When we discover what He has done, our response is one of reciprocal love, service, dedication and sanctification.

A Gospel Revolution makes witnessing natural.

Sometimes we decide to “go witnessing” for a couple of hours. How unnatural to set aside

witnessing for a time slot, instead of sharing Christ whenever someone comes across our path by simply letting the light in us shine. For years I have tried to get people to share the Gospel with their friends. I’ve since stopped. I now focus on helping people discover how great the Gospel is. When people see the brilliance of the Gospel, they will naturally want to share it. If you found out that your local Mercedes Benz dealership was selling their cars at a 90% discount, wouldn’t you tell your friends? Of course. If Dell were giving away their latest home computer for free, in unlimited supply, then surely you would share it with people. When we discover the awesome reality of the Gospel, we can’t be held back.

The world is ready for the Gospel Revolution.

Millions, even billions, are tired of their old worn-out lives full of failures and regrets. What an opportunity to offer people new life! Exchange your old for new. This message speaks to the hurting human conscience, wounded by trying to live up to what one knows is right and continually failing. The message of God’s grace – the underserved, unearned, unmerited favor of God – brings freedom to all who believe. As long as we look at Christianity as merely values, ethics, and human performance, we are no different than any other religion. Once we free the Gospel from man-made religion, a new day will dawn. Let the Gospel be what it is – brilliant, shining, beautiful, attractive, and empowering. The revolution has begun – the world is waiting!

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1. 24/7 means 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

THE PARTY

By Steve McVey

The church-god I envisioned as a child, and even during the early years of my ministry, is nothing like the Father I have come to know in recent years.

I've changed a lot over the years in many ways. Maybe the way I've changed the most is centered on how I see God. The church-god I envisioned as a child, and even during the early years of my ministry, is nothing like the Father I have come to know in recent years.

It's true that God never changes. He really is the same yesterday, today and forever. But as the barnacles of the rigorous, rules-keeping, regimented religion of my yesteryears have been scraped away by the growing revelation of His outrageous love, I've come to see Him in a different light than I ever knew in my past.

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

I grew up seeing God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as a team who each had their own unique perspective and approach to me. My view was that God hated sin and, since that was one thing I was good at doing, I needed help to know how to keep Him at bay. That's where the Holy Spirit came in. His role was to come to me and tell me in no uncertain terms to "stop it!" Sometimes He would use feelings of guilt and shame. At other times He would sternly remind me that God brought me into this world and He

"My view was that God hated sin and, since that was one thing I was good at doing, I needed help to know how to keep Him at bay."

could just as easily take me out if I didn't straighten up and fly right.

Then came Jesus. My view was that He came to keep God from doing what He was itching to do – zap me. I felt like God had one last nerve and I had gotten on it. Jesus was there to shush God when He was about to go off on me by holding up His hands and saying, "Father, remember, – the scars, the scars!" "Oh, yeah," God would say and then He would calm down for a while until I royally screwed up again and it became necessary for Jesus to repeat the whole thing.

Is it any wonder I had trouble feeling intimacy with God? The sad thing is that I don't think my perspective was unique. I meet many people today who still believe that there is somehow a dichotomy between the Father and Son when it comes to their acceptance of us. Many think that the Father is the nervous, on-edge type, and that Jesus is the One who sits by His right hand to calm Him down. The Holy Spirit? They see Him as the behavior-policeman.

They're all on the same team.

In reality, it's not like that at all. The good news is that, contrary to what many believe, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are really all on the same team. There has never been one moment when they weren't of the same mind and heart toward you.

In the inner sanctum that exists between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, there has always been nothing less than a loving intimacy that defies human definition or even description. Think of the most passionate and tender and touching and enduring

love-relationship you've ever had with another person in this world. Multiply it by an infinite number and you won't even begin to get close to the love shared among the Trinity.

The amazing news of the Gospel of

"Their love is so great that it's too big to be contained and too intense to be restrained."

grace is that this divine dance isn't a closed party. Their love is so great that it's too big to be contained and too intense to be restrained. So the Trinity threw the doors of this private club wide open at the cross and cried out across time and eternity, calling in "the poor and maimed and blind and lame."

They're all on your side.

The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost all see things the same way, do things the same way and see you the same way. They're all on your side. There's a party going on right now and, by His grace, you're in.

Is that how you see God? I hope so, because it's true. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit love you and want you to relax and enjoy the party. That's what abundant living is all about.



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Amazing Grace

BY PAUL DEWAR

Before I share this testimony, I want to tell you some information about myself. I am a third generation Pentecostal believer and preacher. I grew up hearing and singing “Amazing Grace,” but even after having been saved for over 23 years and in ministry for 20 years, I had little understanding of that Amazing Grace.

MIXING LAW AND GRACE

For years I have heard and even ministered a mixed message of Law and grace. But finally I realized that I was burning myself out, busy “doing” ministry. I have for many years had the privilege of ministering in many nations in the world. But many times I have returned from these trips with a tremendous cloud of condemnation and feeling guilty for not having performed to my fullest.

If you ask my wife Trace, she will tell you that I wasn’t easy to live with. This would last for weeks and months – I couldn’t shake off these chains of performance religion. I had heard teaching over the years that made me believe that it was how long I prayed and fasted that determined my performance – when really it is all about Jesus. I struggled a lot – even though I could quote Romans 8:1,

“There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”.

Many of us can quote the scriptures, but they’re not really a living reality in us. Because I felt and preached and heard so much preaching on being performance-driven, I thought it was my fasting and my praying that would give me more anointing. I had heard and even preached “if – then...” Then there would follow a list of seven steps, six steps or even twelve steps.

Jesus has done. It was like I had been walking through life with a flashlight on the Word of God, but when this message of Grace and the finished work of Christ Jesus was revealed to me, it was like a whole floodlight opened over and in my life. I began to see Jesus and what He did for me throughout the scriptures.

It has changed my life and ministry to the point where I have had to go through messages I used to preach

“I had heard teaching over the years that made me believe that it was how long I prayed and fasted that determined my performance.”

There were message titles such as “If You Want More Anointing Then...” And because I felt I had not followed the steps, I assumed that was why everyone was not saved or healed in the meetings I was doing.

SET FREE FROM OWN EFFORT

But then one day I came across the ministry of Pastor Peter Youngren and Pastor Joseph Prince who delivered a message to me that really set me free. I thought I was free but now I know I am free, not because of what I have done but because of what

and throw them away because they were a mixture. I have learned to relax in Him and realize that it’s not me – it’s Him! Why? Because of what Paul the Apostle says: Christ in you.

Somebody said to me recently, in fact it was a pastor who said it: “Yes, but how much of Christ is in you – what percentage is in you?” My response was that 100% is in me, because He is in me and as He is, so am I.

The ministries of Pastor Peter Youngren and Pastor Joseph Prince,

“When this message of Grace and the finished work of Christ Jesus was revealed to me, it was like a whole floodlight opened over and in my life.”

and also a very important life source for me, the Global Grace Network Newsletter, have become an inspiration and also a great ministry resource. I have preached many of the messages from the newsletters.

In the process of this amazing grace transformation, a woman I have known for many years e-mailed me and asked me a question. She had earlier been a part of a church worship team, but through things that had happened in the church, she had been away from church for over 20 years. She now had four children by four different men.

But as the Father in the story of the prodigal son, I knew the Father was looking and awaiting her return. The question she asked was: “If I die tonight, where will I go?” Many



times I hear Christians give the answer that you will be going to hell. Well, I began to e-mail her what the Father was saying to me from the prodigal son. I said to her: “You think you are unworthy like the prodigal son. But the Father ran to him and embraced Him.” I was able to share with her that before you began to run towards Him, He ran to you and embraced you in Christ.

Romans 5:8: “But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

RECONCILED TO GOD

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (AMP):

“But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favour, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]

It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favour with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favour).”

Reconciled – Greek word, *katallasso* – means to change, exchange, reestablish, make things right, remove enmity. It describes the reestablishing of a proper, loving,

interpersonal relationship, which has been broken or disrupted.

And today I can tell you that she is now reconciled and has reestablished a proper, loving relationship with God the Father. She also attends a Pentecostal church in her city and is, in fact, very involved in the life of the church. That’s how powerful the message is – Amazing Grace!

So this message is now all I know. I preach “Jesus Christ and Him Crucified,” declaring to the nations: be reconciled to God.

Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Paul is saying: I refuse to give up on this message, to modify it or leave it for another message.

And I echo those same words: I refuse to give up this message or to modify it or leave it for another. Because this message transforms lives, it can transform nations.

Thank God for His Amazing Grace!



PAUL DEWAR

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