



GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

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.

OCTOBER 2009

Two words:

- Rest and Power -

Is it possible to rest and still see miracles happen? Do the words *rest* and *God's power* go together? Or do we have to add words like *works*, *self-effort*, *self-righteousness* and *paying the prize for the power of God*?

We believe you will enjoy the two articles in this month's newsletter. Pastor Tom Lipkin from Finland teaches about the simple Gospel being the Power of God, and Pastor Mike Walker from US explains how we can rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ and experience the fruits thereof.

The Gospel is the good news of what Jesus has already done! But unfortunately our focus is often on what we must do. Galatians 1:6 says, "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ."

When we turn away from Jesus – whom do we then turn to? Most of the time the answer is: ourselves! Have I done enough, do I deserve this, am I good enough etc. These are all wrong questions. The right questions are: Did *Jesus* pay the full price? Did *He* finish the work? Is *Jesus* good enough? With a 'Yes' to these questions we can rest in the assurance of His finished work!

Be encouraged and let the Gospel be the power of God in your life and ministry!



Mary Felde
Editor



The apostles preached the simple Gospel of God's love and grace through Jesus, and God confirmed His word by healing the sick. Are we today preaching the pure Gospel, or are we also preaching self-righteousness?

Is the Gospel God's power everywhere?

Imagine a fierce sermon and a frightened crowd who feels sinful, judged and uncomfortable. Yes, sometimes a sermon can really make people frightened, worried, feel inferior, and judged.

Still, a sermon is one of the most wonderful tools God has given

to the church. It can also arouse faith, hope and love. A sermon can have a liberating and refreshing effect and make the heart "bubble" with joy.

The first disciples preached God's love

The first disciples used sermons and preached the Word when introducing Jesus to people. Be-

fore Jesus was received up into heaven, He told His disciples to preach the Gospel to every creature. He Himself promised to confirm the Word if the disciples just preached it (Mark 16:20). What a magnificent dimension God set for preaching!

He Himself promised to confirm the preached Word. The sermons in the Acts concentrated on God's love towards all people through Jesus Christ. The apostles simply preached the core of the Gospel that Jesus is God's gift and what it meant for people to receive Him and believe in His death and resurrection. Through the simple Gospel, God confirmed His word by healing the sick.

At that time, they did not preach with a pointed finger about all the possible "faults" people might have had. They did not preach in a judging or blaming tone. They did not put burdens on people by demanding different things from them. Paul did not preach about how "horrible" the idolatry in Athens was or how "awful" a lifestyle the Corinthians had. Nor did Philip preach judgment over Samaria because of its different religions. No. The disciples simply preached Jesus. They preached God's grace that everyone could receive.

“He Himself promised to confirm the preached Word.”

They preached God's favor that comes upon people who receive Jesus' grace. Jesus was the centre of everything. One's deeds did not impress God in any way.

The consequences of preaching self-righteousness

These basic truths have never changed. Nevertheless, there has always been a tendency to preach something other than the Gospel.

“...there has always been a tendency to preach something other than the Gospel.”

think we do not pray enough, read the Bible often enough, feel enough pain for the lost and so on. We say as Paul did in his letter to the Romans, “what a wretched man I am....” In this state of depression, we, in addition, think we preach the Gospel far too less and guilt gets an even stronger hold on us. Suddenly, before we even really realize it, the Law will steal from us a great deal of the freedom and joy that God has given to every believer. It is time to discover the Gospel anew! Jesus came to take away our burdens, not to put new ones on us.

“...before we even really realize it, the Law will steal from us a great deal of the freedom and joy that God has given to every believer.”

In sermons we so easily set our eyes on ourselves and on all that we should do to “have revival.” The consequence of this is often only depression. We This is what a sermon is all about. It should paint a picture of Jesus before the listener's eyes and teach about what having Him in our lives means to us on a daily basis.

That is why Paul says: “How terrible it would be for me if I didn't preach the Gospel!” He saw all people “crucified in Christ” and wanted to present all people as “perfect in Christ” before God. Paul knew very well that nobody was righteous. Even sanctification is a gift we receive through Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:30). If the focus when preaching about sanctification is on “us,” instead of it being on Christ, it easily can lead to creating guilt instead of life.

The “smallest bit” of self-righteousness must go.

When the Gospel is preached, people will be lifted up from guilt and defeat. Jesus said to a sinful woman in John 8: “I

“...it is impossible for man to approach God if the basis for that is even just the “smallest bit” of self-righteousness.”

don't condemn you either. Go home, and from now on do not sin anymore.” The power of sin broke in that moment. When the power of sin was broken, Jesus set her free to live. Jesus is the same today, too. Through sermons and teachings, guilt and a feeling of inferiority will disappear. The power of sin will be broken. A sermon should create hope and faith and then the listener will feel Jesus' beautiful love again. Maybe you, too, have been caught up in the trap of guilt. Let the Holy Spirit help you. His duty is not to show you your failures, but to show you how precious, loved and righteous you are in Christ regardless of your failures. Only God's grace can break the power of sin. Grace not only takes away sin and guilt, it also makes the pressure to succeed, the self-centeredness, the habit of comparing oneself to others,

and the feelings of insufficiency disappear.

Jesus is our example in every possible way. Some of Jesus' first recorded words were: “Repent and believe in the gospel!” What does repenting mean? It means that we no longer try to please God with our own deeds. No matter how good these deeds are, they are called dead deeds. Instead, we are called to walk in faith. This means that we understand that every good thing we experience is a gift from God to us and a part of his wonderful grace. Jesus showed us that it is impossible for man to approach God if the basis for that is even just the “smallest bit” of self-righteousness. All blessings are to be received as a gift only.

Of course the Bible speaks about things that are right and that are wrong. In the Bible we

can find lots of everyday wisdom and good pieces of advice. But the Bible is not just a moral book. All religions have a certain moral. The Bible really is, from the first pages of Genesis to the last pages of Revelation, just about one person - Jesus Christ (Luke 24:27). All preaching should lift up Jesus. That is when Jesus Himself will confirm the Gospel. Many believe that Jesus does miracles more easily in Africa or Asia. But Jesus does miracles in any place where His Gospel is being preached; in any place where “someone” receives in faith. Jesus does not discriminate against any nation. There is only someone needed who will preach and listen and Jesus will confirm His Gospel with miracles. You can be that “someone” who will preach or that “someone” who will receive.

Preaching the Gospel does not mean that all sermons should be like the ones on Easter. Nevertheless, the core of the Gospel

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Rest *in* Jesus

By Mike Walker

There is a place of rest available for every New Covenant believer: We can cease our own works and enter into the life Jesus has given us through the cross.

Rest – a word that often seems beyond the grasp of people living in a hurried, ever-pressing, stressful world. The demands of daily life consume our time and energy, but God has assured us that there is a place of rest for the people of God.

Hebrews 4:1 – **“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into**

his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”

There is a rest for God’s people; a place in the Spirit where we can live with knowledge of the abundant life and supernatural power that Christ has given us. There is a place of rest where we stop from our own works and enter into the life Jesus has given us through the cross.

The Promised Land

Hebrews 4:2-3 goes on to say: **“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest...”**

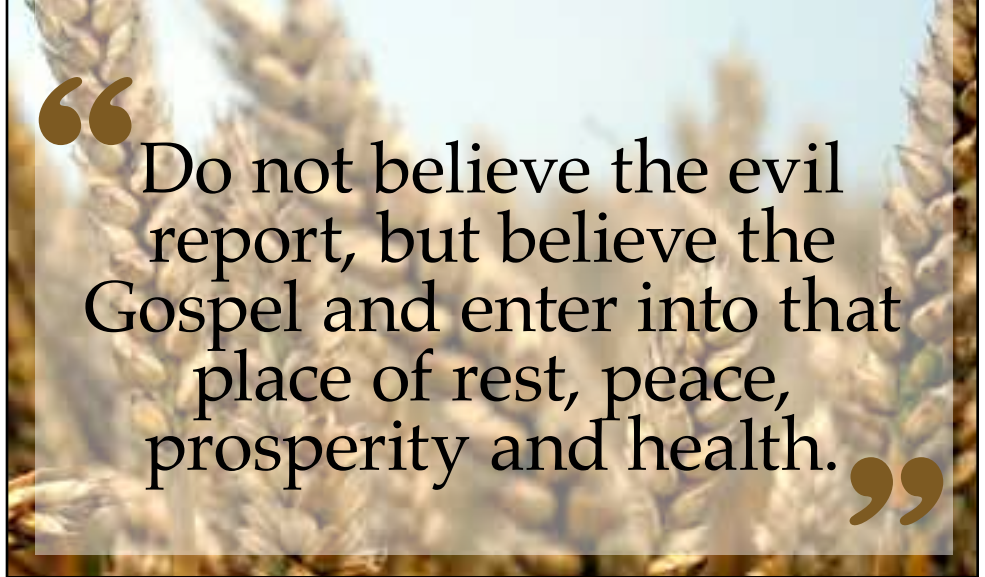
This text is speaking about an account in the Old Covenant found in the book of Numbers chapter 13. We can read how the Lord spoke to the children of Israel and gave them this

“The demands of daily life consume our time and energy, but God has assured us that there is a place of rest for the people of God.”

“promised land.” The Lord told them to go explore and see the blessing. So they chose twelve spies who were sent in advance to look over the land that God had promised. In their journey they discovered walled cities and giants, but also found abundance of blessings!

Ten of the spies came back with a fearful report; they did not believe the Lord had given them the land. Only Joshua and Caleb refused to believe the evil report and later entered into the land of promise – a land flowing with milk and honey or in New Covenant terms, abundance and prosperity. Those were the two of that generation who entered into rest!

This “promised land” is available for every believer; it is a land flowing with health, prosperity, and every good thing. This “promised land” is not a location on a map, but a state of being. It is a place in the realm of the spirit world that liter-



“Do not believe the evil report, but believe the Gospel and enter into that place of rest, peace, prosperity and health.”

ally affects how we manage “life” and our state of being through the challenges that life hands out. The life that Jesus came to give surpasses a basic, maintenance level existence that so many Christians settle for.

Believe the Gospel and enter the place of rest

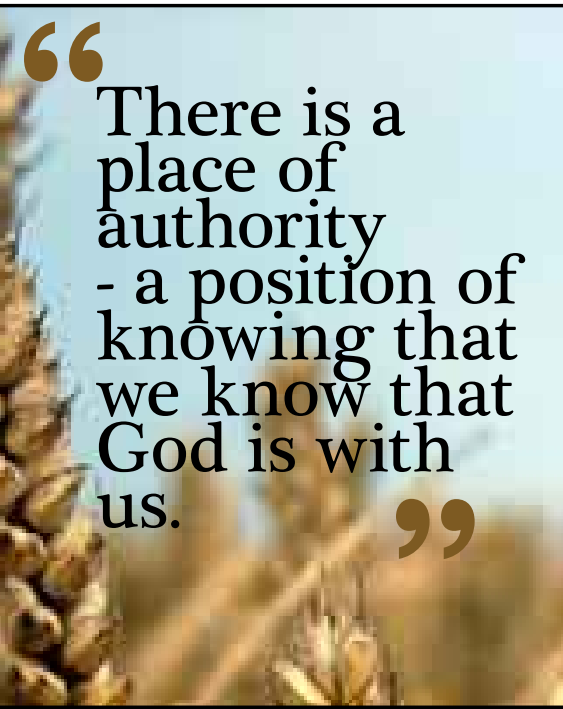
This place of rest is total peace and victory in every area of our life and it is found in believing the Gospel – the news that is too good to be true, yet it is true!

John 6:28-29 – **“Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”** To enter into that place of rest we must believe the Gospel. Believe Jesus is the Savior, the healer, the deliverer, the provider. Believe He is our Great Shepherd leading and guiding us in every area of our daily life. To work the works of God, we must believe! Believe He has conquered all the powers of

the enemy and that we are seated with Him in heavenly places.

We fight the good fight of faith to believe as the winds and waves of adversity rage against our life. There are so many voices speaking in the world today - the voice of the media, the voice of circumstances, the voice of broken relationships, the voice of addictions, the voice of fear and many more. All of them can have some kind of effect on our lives. Some can even become so huge in our thinking that it is as though a giant is looming over our lives.

That is why it is so important to hear the voice of the good news of the Gospel! It is the news that reveals God’s incredible and immeasurable love for man in that He sent His only son, Jesus, to come from heaven to be the Redeemer of man. As man, Jesus became the perfect, acceptable offering for the sin of mankind. All the wrath of God for sin was poured out on Jesus! We can rest in that reality. Jesus paid the full price for our



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sin, for our peace, for our healing, provision, for our friendship, wisdom, and gave us complete and total victory over all the powers of the devil!

Seated with Him in a place of rest

There is a place of authority - a position of knowing that we know that God is with us. We understand that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word, so once we hear the “news that is too good to be true yet it is true for my life,” embrace it, hold on to it, believe and declare it - then rest in that truth! Do not believe the evil report, but believe the Gospel and enter into that place of rest, peace, prosperity and health.

As Joshua and Caleb entered into the land of promise with the next generation, their own generation, who did not believe and did not

enter into rest, died in the wilderness.

Hebrews 4:9-11 – **“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”**

Enter into what Christ has accomplished for us. He is seated in heavenly places; He has won the victory and given it to us! We are seated with Him in a place of rest where we have overcome the world by faith in His finished work.

Sometimes it seems like the answer is beyond our reach and that there are huge walls between victory and us. Those giants can loom large and we feel like grasshoppers before them as our

life is weighed down with problems, but that is the time to enter into the place of God’s rest. We can settle down in heart and mind and reach beyond the veil of unbelief and rest in what Christ has done – we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus above all principalities, all powers and every name that is named!

Matthew 11:28-30 – **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

Embrace the promise of God and declare that, through Christ, that place of rest is ours.



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Rest in Jesus