

"The Word as Personal Grace" John 1:1-18

Living the Christian life is an invitation into something just beyond our grasp, our natural ability. Everything that is Christian, God-like... is freely received, or we do without it. We celebrate grace that is amazing for this very reason. God graces us with Himself - all we need - so that we may be and do all we were created to be and do. It is in the Person of Jesus Christ that we come face-to-face with Amazing Grace!

The amazing grace of Jesus Christ reminds us that in every drama of salvation God is the Actor. According to John God creates, He comes, He shines, He enlightens, He gives. All of God's being is clearly expressed in His doings in Christ. Paul said similarly that it is God alone who calls, who justifies, who sanctifies, who glorifies (Rom 8). God is both Promiser and Performer (Ro 4:19-21) for every aspect of salvation.

Grace, properly seen, keeps us from trying to find our way to God. He comes in person to us, for us, to do in and through us what we could never do for ourselves. In loving awareness of this gracious reality we learn to say, "Not I" - I cannot get to God, I cannot create a life pleasing to Him, I cannot repair myself... "But Christ" - But Christ can! "Not I, but Christ" is the salvation theology of every true Christian person. We believe and freely receive the activity of God in Christ (Ro 5:19) to become Christian.

"Not I, but Christ" must also become the "living the Christian life" theology of every Christian. Sometimes, we quietly and humbly receive the truth that God never intended us to live the Christian life - that's why He has given us the "fullness" of Christ (1:16). More often, we enter into living the Christian Life "by grace through faith" in fatigue and frustration, with exasperation and humiliation. We promised, we rededicated, we committed, we tried harder - all to no avail. We resisted "not I, but Christ" to the death - we thought through hard work, more studying, longer prayers, the right church, more time... we could change ourselves (with God's help, of course) into good, adequate, strong, victorious "I's". We finally laid our illusion of a "changed I" on the altar of humility and repentance and received our freely given "exchanged I" in Christ. Perhaps we believed God through Romans 6:10, "The life that He (Jesus Christ) lives, He lives unto God," and, by grace we said in faith, "Then live this life!" The Word of God Himself, Jesus Christ our Lord and our Life, become our Personal Grace - our Infinite Supply of God's activity for every need. And it was amazing, indeed!



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- A response to God's leading
- A monthly contribution
- A yearly contribution

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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



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GREETINGS

Some of you are already asking about our 2011 Florida retreat. Our dates are February 18-20, 2011. Our current plans are to hold the event in the Alachua/Gainesville area as usual, although a few modifications may be in order due to some potential construction at the local church we use.

Also, an event in the Atlanta area is currently scheduled for April 1-3, 2011 with Steve McVey and Gene Edwards. Should be an interesting weekend - we'll keep you posted as we get more details.

If you want to schedule a meeting - conference, retreat, etc - we are booking between 12-15 months out for most events, so contact us soon if you want a 2011 calendar spot.

We are blessed in this economy to continue to have these kinds of opportunities to enlarge the awareness of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." As most of you know, we have no set fees or charges for anything that we do (maybe that's why we keep getting such invitations!). Nevertheless, God continues to be our Source, supplying for our every need. We and the saints of God are grateful to so many of you for making this ministry possible.

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

5,19

CCF

12-16

Glorietta, NM

21 * ALACHUA STUDY - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE *

24-26

Binghamton, NY (607-625-4612)

OCTOBER

7-9

Baton Rouge, LA (225-769-8844)

29-30

Orlando, FL

NOVEMBER

19-21

Louisville, KY (502-241-1550)

♥ PRAISE & PRAYER †

♥ Amazing Grace

♥ Amazing Supply

† Opportunities to Proclaim the Gospel of God

† For the Church to live by the Life of Christ

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