

Worship

January 6, 2012

Christians are 'saints because of the new relationship into which they have been brought by God 'in Christ Jesus'...; it is not because of their own doing or by works of the law but because of what Christ has done. They are set apart for him and his service; as the people of his own possession, they are the elect community of the end time whose lives are to be characterized by godly behavior. (O'Brien, Philippians, p.46)

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (Acts 20.28)

Although the exact nature of the work performed by [overseers] episkopoi is not mentioned, at the heart of it lies the ministry of oversight, supervision or protective care. The climatic use of this title occurs at 1 Peter 2.25, where Jesus is described as "the shepherd and guardian (episkopos) of your souls." (O'Brien, Philippians, p. 47)

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Community Together: Grace Hill History

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Twenty percent of gifts also go to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Philippians 1.1-11*

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Foundations of a Faithful Church

1. The People: What God has done and what He calls Us to do
2. The Gospel Creates a Spiritual Community
3. Prayer: Remembering, Relationship, Requesting
4. Christ:
 - a. Saints in, v.1
 - b. Grace and Peace from, v.2
 - c. Compassion of, v.8
 - d. Fruit of Righteousness through, v.11
 - e. Slaves of, v.1
 - f. Day of, v.6, 10

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6.12,13)

Father, individually and corporately, we feel the lack of sufficient foundation. The waves of trying circumstances crash upon us; we reread your call to follow ("take up our cross," as Your slaves); we do not do what we know you are calling us to do. In all this, we realize the poverty, the overestimation, the lack of sufficient foundation on You. Build us upon the rock of Your Son and the mountain of His message, because only in Him do we find strength and satisfaction, mercy and forgiveness.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil 3.20,21)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

**Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2:16, 17

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Grace Hill Financial Information (some numbers are preliminary before accounting reports are done):

- Average Monthly expenses: \$14,500
- December 2012 giving: 25,504
- 2012 monthly external giving (ends 12/12): 1,667
- December 2012 balance \$11,004
- Average Monthly 2011 giving: 11,621
- Average Monthly 2012 giving: 13,664
- YTD basic operating budget balance: \$7956

Grace Hill Upcoming Events and Opportunities:

- * Grace Hill Town Hall Meeting, Jan 13th 5:30 pm. RSVP for childcare to Robyn.
- * Small Groups in Churton Grove, Becketts Ridge, Orange County, and Chapel Hill. See Ross for details.
- * Recommendation for Family Interaction/Teaching: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com>



Grace Hill Church

Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth.

Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached by email ross@gracehillchurch.net or by cell phone at 919.593.2169.

Our Worship Director is Michael Musser (mike@gracehillchurch.net) and our Children's Ministry Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez ([robyn@](mailto:robyn@gracehillchurch.net) and kaylyn@gracehillchurch.net)

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