



Grace Hill Church

The Mission of Grace Hill Is to Gather People to the Table of Christ, Who Is the Bread of Life, to Be Transformed by His Grace, Renewed in His Truth, and Sent on His Mission.

Biblical theology [another name for “The Big Gospel Story] is an attempt to get out of this world into another. We might call it a bridge; we might call it a rocket. The point is that we’re trying to get our minds and hearts out of worldliness and into the Bible’s symbolic universe. ~James M. Hamilton Jr., *What Is Biblical Theology? A Guide to the Bible’s Story, Symbolism, and Patterns*

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ~Hebrews 11:37-38

November 21, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #45

Question: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

Answer: No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Hebrews 11:1-19, 12:1-3*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

Sermon: *The Call to Live IN the Big Gospel Story*

Outline:

1. We Are to Not Only Know but *Live In* God’s Big Gospel Story
 - a. Five Aspects of Stories to Consider So We May Live in God’s Big Gospel Story
 - i. Origin Story: The Invisible, v.1
 - ii. Destination Story: The Future Destination, v.10, 14, 16
 - iii. Fear Story: Freedom to Act in the Right Direction, v.23, 27
 - iv. Riches Story: True Wealth, v.24-26
 - v. Christ in the Old Testament: v.26
2. Pray for Help to Reject False Stories and Live in God’s Big Gospel Story

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, we confess we are often trying to work You into our story, rather than entering to live in Yours. The differences are dramatic. Our culture is performance; Yours is gift. Our story says, "You should be ashamed;" Christ says, I have taken your shame. The stories around us say, "Pleasure is your origin and purpose," but Jesus says I made you to know my glory that outshines the sun. Forgive us.

Father, You call Abraham, Moses, David, first century Hebrew believers and us not to put Christ as a sticker on our own story but to live in His—where he fulfills for us love, purpose, meaning, and joy. Spirit, help us to choose to live in Your story, dwell in Your world, adopt Your culture. In the midst of sadness, frustration, challenge, Your story of the cross leads us more than any other to hope and healing. Enable us to live in Your story with faith.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Responding to the Lord with Worship

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

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13:20–21)

Additional Quotes:

What we think and how we live is largely determined by the larger story in which we interpret our lives. Does your story enable you to look death in the face? Does your story give you a hope that goes beyond the grave?

In the throes of death that night, my older brother in Christ was rejecting false stories of the world. He refused to live his last moments informed by stories that would have people pretend death isn't real or fear what lies beyond it.

He wouldn't have put it in these words, but he was affirming that it is good for children to see that the Bible's story is real.

~James M. Hamilton Jr., *What Is Biblical Theology? A Guide to the Bible's Story, Symbolism, and Patterns*

The world does have a true story. The Bible tells it. This book is about the Bible's big story, and it's about how we become people who live in that story. To do biblical theology is to think about the whole story of the Bible. We want to understand the organic development of the Bible's teaching so that we are interpreting particular parts of the story in light of the whole. As an acorn grows into an oak tree, Genesis 3:15 grows into the good news of Jesus Christ. ~James M. Hamilton Jr., *What Is Biblical Theology? A Guide to the Bible's Story, Symbolism, and Patterns*

Key Verses we've seen in this Series for Reading OT:

1. Luke 24:26-27, 44-47, 1 Cor. 10:4; 2 Cor. 1:20; Heb. 11:26

Core Questions:

1. How is the Holy Spirit whispering or shouting to you from this passage? What stands out for you?
2. How does the text intersect or engage your life? Where is the connection or application for you?
3. Where do you find gospel conviction and gospel comfort in this passage? (Gospel = the specific act of Jesus taking your sin and sharing with you his victory.)

Announcements:

- **Congregational Meeting Today:** We will have a Congregational Meeting today, right after the worship service, to elect deacons and communicate about another item. We will have Core after the meeting.
- **Feast of the Incarnation:** Sunday, December 12, 2021, after worship. Outdoors or indoors.
- **Renewed Covid Policy:** To provide for the health of our community, masks are required at all indoor public gatherings starting Thursday, August 12th, 2021.
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
 - Use your bank's BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
 - Send a physical check
 - Use our mobile giving option (either as a guest or by setting up an account):
 - <https://faithlife.com/grace-hill-church/give> or text the word "Give" to 919 296 1330.



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 Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached at ross@gracehillnc.org or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, daniel@gracehillnc.org. Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc