



GRACE NOTES

January 2016

Happy New Year!

You were taught to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24

Spiritual Muscle in 2016

<http://roylayman.wordpress.com>



...for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1Tim4:7

As I look ahead to 2016, I need to get in better shape. I played some pickup basketball on Christmas day and it about killed me. I use to jog a lot and I've fallen out of the habit. I need to quit eating a 4th meal at 9:30 pm--it's like there's an actual Blue "Bell" that rings every night and beckons me to eat! Also, sometimes my sleep patterns are absurd. I continue to tell myself that sleep is overrated, but it's not. People need sleep! I plan to make better health choices in 2016.

Health choices are important and should not be neglected. But bodily training, physical health is not what I need most. The thing I need to take care of most this year and every year, is not my body, but my soul. As Paul told Timothy godliness is essential today and will carry over into eternity.*

As you and look toward a new year, we should ask, how can I experience SPIRITUAL GROWTH in 2016? *Spiritual disciplines are VERY important and should not be neglected.*

Here are some helpful resources that can foster your growth in godliness in 2016:

What Are Spiritual Disciplines -- a great introduction to spiritual disciplines and their value.

A great Bible reading plan. Print this off, check the boxes, and track your progress. Follow this [link](http://static.esvmedia.org/assets/pdfs/rp.esv.study.bible.pdf): <http://static.esvmedia.org/assets/pdfs/rp.esv.study.bible.pdf>

Resolved: To Read the Bible- Great post on the WHY and HOW of a journey in the Word. (reading plans included)

10 Questions To Ask New Years Resolutions - a guide to keeping our desires for change focused on God.

*Covenant
Member
Meeting*

*Sunday,
January 24*

9:30 am



Online Giving option available and easy

At GBF, part of our trifold vision is to SERVE God and our communities with all He has entrusted to us. We are called to give of our Time, Talent, and Treasures. Last month, we introduced online giving as a way to express heartfelt generosity. This new system is called *PushPay*. Please take some time, check it out, and consider it as an option for you moving forward. Here are the options to access this new and exciting option::

1. To start, text '**pushpay**' to **77977** and you will receive a link to download the app. Just search for "Grace Bible Fellowship" and you will see the option to give to us. It has our GBF logo, so you can't miss it. From there, you'll receive step-by-step instructions on how to give.

2. You can also give via the website. <https://pushpay.com/pay/thegbf/>. Options include a recurring gift or a one-time gift.

Please know that this is a fast, easy, and secure way to give. All major credit cards and online bank draft payments are accepted. If you have any questions, feel free to message Adam (adam@thegbf.com), and we'll be glad to help.

When a man follows the principles of biblical manhood, those around him benefit from his leadership and care. Kingdom Man challenges and equips men to fully understand their position under God as well as their position over what God has given them. The biblical definition of a man is one who has learned to operate under the authority of Jesus Christ while carrying out responsible and legitimate leadership within the sphere of influence that God has placed him. Kingdom Man provides concepts men can follow that will help them to actively pursue ways to maximize and develop the character qualities of biblical manhood in their lives.

Beginning January 5, Roy will be leading a Men's Bible Study using the book Kingdom Man, by Tony Evans, as a guide.

The men will cover and discuss the topics addressed in the book, one chapter a week. Men are encouraged to buy the book, but not required to.

The study will meet TUESDAY MORNINGS, from 6 - 7 am, at the church, south hallway entrance, 4th room on right. All men are invited. No dress code, age, marital status, or level of Bible knowledge required.

If your work schedule prohibits you from coming every week, come once, or twice, or as often as you can. The only prerequisite is that you be a man who admits you need God, be willing to learn more about Him and His plan for your life.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ GBF

TUESDAYS, 6 - 7 AM
beginning January 5

STUDY: Kingdom Man
by Tony Evans

You can buy the book here
http://www.amazon.com/Kingdom-Man-Every-Destiny-Womans/dp/1589977475/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1448985953&sr=8-1&keywords=kingdom+man



Grace Groups Update

The end of 2015 marked a time of transition for Grace Groups. Many groups are still working their way through their Bible studies and are eager to pick back up in the Spring semester. Some groups finished their curriculum and plan for the Fall semester. While they will continue to meet, those groups will begin new material. This makes for the perfect opportunity to get involved! If you are interested in joining a GraceGroup in the new year, please contact adam@thegbf.com for more information.

All of the groups have sought to study the Scriptures and apply it to their lives. When this happens in the context of faithful Christian community, God does marvelous and surprising things. This past December, these groups were able to reflect and consider the great and awesome things God had done in their midst. Seeking to be faithful to God's Word, each GraceGroup has been able to experience the many blessings promised to who would diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

OH BOY!
OH BOY!
IT'S A GIRL!

Welcome, Ella Ryan Mickelson

December 16, 2015

7 pounds, 6 ounces

Parents:
Cory and Ashley Mickelson

Proud big sister:
Ava



Lara is updating information for the church regarding your mailing address, email address and phone number. Please send her this information at lara@thegbf.com as soon as possible. Also, let her know if you are interested in being added to the text message alert list and the email list for Grace Notes. The updated information will also be helpful for the GBF accountant to mail all tax documents to the correct address. Thank you so much in advance for cooperating in this effort.



*Happy
New Year
from the
Carney-
Storall
GraceGroup!*



GBFYOUTH



**A WONDERFUL
CHRIST+MAs+TImE!**





WINTER WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 5 - 6, 2016

IF : GUNTER

Where: Grace Bible Fellowship - Lock-in Style - Friday @ 6 pm.

Come ready to eat great food, hear the Word and enjoy awesome community!

We will be finished at approximately 3 pm on Saturday.

What: The world around us feels like it is crumbling and almost nothing seems certain....until we look to Jesus and see that our hope is very clear and certain. He didn't just give us salvation from sin - Jesus is our salvation and the example of what it means to live in the fullness of grace and truth. What the world needs is His redemption, the very redemption and hope that lives inside of us. Rather than shrink back, it is time to love like Jesus loved, serve like Jesus served, pray like Jesus prayed, and pursue holiness like Jesus pursued it.

Register: <http://www.ifgathering.com/localgatherings/ifgunter>

Cost: Online registration will require a minimum \$1 donation.

Fee of \$50 to cover retreat expenses.

If cost is an issue, please contact Magan Cavalier @ 225-933-4204.

An opportunity to bless others...



Help Kris battle Ovarian Cancer again!

<https://www.youcaring.com/kris-roberts-435881>



Help the Rigsbys during their
time of crisis!

<https://www.youcaring.com/kyle-and-staci-rigsby-429510>

Follow Pastor Roy's blog

<http://roylayman.wordpress.com>

where he shares resources,
Grace Bible church life, and pastoral
insights from a small church pastor
in a mega-church world.

You can also access the blog
by going to the church website

www.thegbf.com

Five Assurances

Last Sunday, we looked at 5 Assurances and supporting Bible verses. These 5 truths have helped me so much in my spiritual growth as I was first introduced to them in a Navigators study several years ago. My hope and prayer for my church family is that 2016 will be a year marked by ASSURANCE and HOPE rather than fear and anxiety. I believe careful and prayerful reading of these verses as well as memorizing them will be very helpful!

Roy

1. Assurance of Salvation: 1 John 5:11,12

And this is the testimony that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

2. Assurance of Answered Prayer: John 16:24

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

3. Assurance of Victory: 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

4. Assurance of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

5. Assurance of Guidance: Proverbs 3:5,6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.



From Pastor Roy

I first read the following guidelines for Loving Each Other Amid Differences in a post by John Piper a few years ago when he shared them with pastoral staff. They certainly apply there, but also apply well to any Christian relationship. As Christians, we have somewhere around 35 "One Another's" (love one another, bear one another's burdens, encourage one another, etc) that we are called to in Scripture. Christian community is not optional, it's commanded. It's essential. Therefore, we need biblical guidelines on how to navigate relationships biblically. The following are very helpful.

SIX BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR LOVING EACH OTHER AMID DIFFERENCES

1. Let's avoid gossiping.

The New Testament warns against gossiping. The Greek word translated "gossip" means whisper or whisperer. In other words, the focus is not on the falsehood of the word but on the fact that it needs to be surreptitious. It is not open and candid and forthright. It has darkness about it. It does not operate in the light of love. It is not aiming at healing. It strokes the ego's desire to be seen as right without playing by the rules of love.

For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find...that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. (2 Corinthians 12:20)

2. Let's identify evidences of grace in each other and speak them to each other and about each other.

The church in Corinth was deeply flawed. But Paul found reason to thank God for them because of "the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4). The most flawed pastor on this staff—and we are all flawed - is a work of grace. It honors Christ, and keeps criticism in perspective, to see it and say it often.

3. Let's speak criticism directly to each other if we feel the need to speak to others about it.

The point is not that we will always agree on everything, especially the practical application of shared principles. Paul's word in Romans 12:18 is, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." It may not be possible, but we should try.

4. Let's look for, and assume, the best motive in the other's viewpoint, especially when we disagree.

When Paul deals with disagreement in Romans 14, one of the things he appeals to is that those with opposite practical convictions have identical heart-motives. "The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God" (Romans 14:6). Christ-honoring passions, Paul says, can unite us in spite of differences of application.

5. Think often of the magnificent things we hold in common.

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!" (Psalm 40:16)

To mention a few things we hold in common:...the sovereignty of God, the supremacy of his glory in all things, the majesty and meekness of Christ, the all-sufficiency of his saving work, the precious and very great promises summed up in Romans 8:28 and 8:32, the value and sweetness of the Bible, the power and patience of the Holy Spirit in transforming us, the hope of glory...

6. Let's be more amazed that we are forgiven than that we are right. And in that way, let's shape our relationships by the gospel.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.... And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. (Ephesians 4:32–5:2)

"The one who is forgiven little loves little" (Luke 7:47). In other words, think more of your own sins and how amazing it is that God saved you than you do about the other person's flaws.

GRACEGROUPS

At GBF we firmly believe that the grace of God has the power to transform lives. Our home groups are where much of that power is able to take effect. Please be in prayer about joining a GraceGroup. If you have questions or would like to volunteer as a leader, please email Adam@thegbf.com. Below is a list of leaders, study topics, meeting times and places.

GraceGroups are finished for this year and will resume meeting the week of January 10. Please contact Adam if you are interested in joining a group for 2016!

BATTLING UNBELIEF

Women's Bible Study
Magan Cavilier

225-933-4204

215 Preston Glen
Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

SEAMLESS

Women's Bible Study
Shelly Baird

903-819-2074

105 Forest Meadows Dr.
Friday 9-11 am

DISCIPLINES OF A GODLY WOMAN

Nancy Nevil

469-401-3614

699 Wallace Road
Saturday mornings

DISCIPLINES OF A GODLY MAN

Jon Stovall

469-323-2393

GBF
Mondays @ 7 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Jason & Nikki Waligura

214-587-1427

82 Forest Hills Circle
Every other Sunday,
6 - 7:30 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Jarod & Lara Martin

903-815-0562

413 Autry Blvd
Sundays, 6 - 7:30 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Jason & Casey Pettett

(903) 818-2548

Sundays @ 4:30 pm

KINGDOM MAN

Roy Layman

roy@thegbf.com

GBF
Tuesdays @ 6 am

PRAYERS OF PAUL

Justin & Keelie Ferguson

903-821-3371

10434 Hwy 289
Sundays, 5 - 7:30 pm

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Rick & Nancy Nevil

469-401-2615

699 Wallace Road
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

EXPLICIT GOSPEL

Dirik and Renee Jones

(214) 649-7563

1312 Missouri St, Celina
Sundays @ 5:30 pm

THE REASON FOR GOD

Jason Carney

903-819-8087

107 Arrowhead Dr
Every other Sunday @ 5 pm

MARK BY MAX LUCADO

Jeff & Amy Crelia

Gane & Kris Roberts

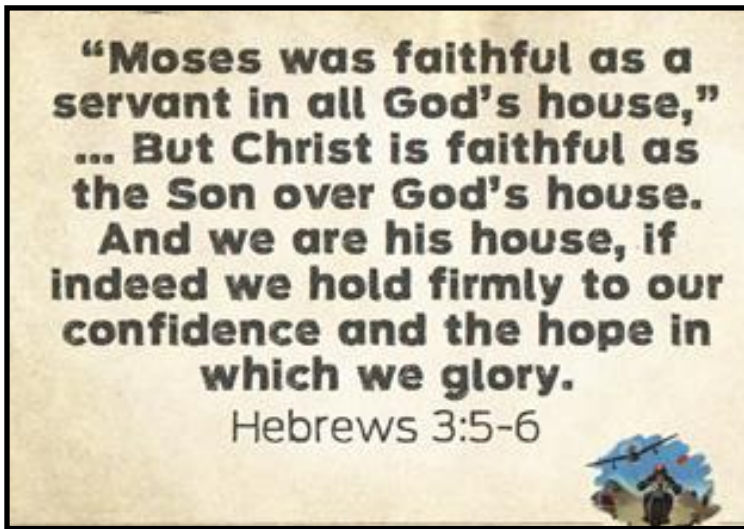
903-815-1182

515 Kerfoot Drive
Every Other Wednesday
6:30 pm



Christmas Joy!





JANUARY GRACE KIDS

JANUARY 10: MOSES WAS BORN AND CALLED

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 1:8–2:10, 23-25; 3:1–4:20
 MAIN POINT: God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.
 KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6
 BIG PICTURE ?: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

JANUARY 17: THE PLAGUES, PASSOVER AND THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 5–14
 MAIN POINT: God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.
 KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6
 BIG PICTURE ?: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

JANUARY 24: THE WILDERNESS TEST

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 15:22–17:7
 MAIN POINT: God provided for the physical needs of His people.
 KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6
 BIG PICTURE ?: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

JANUARY 31: THE GOLDEN CALF

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 32:1-35; 34:1-9
 MAIN POINT: God punished His people for worshipping a golden calf.
 KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6
 BIG PICTURE ?: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

GRACE KIDS

SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR

JANUARY

Pre-K/Kindergarten: Emerson and Buffy
 1st & 2nd Grade: Jennifer B.
 3rd & 4th Grade Girls: Carrie S.
 3rd & 4th Grade Boys: Johnathon B. & Grayson



STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Meetings resume January 13 @ 6:30 pm.
Come and bring a friend!

In December, we celebrated a gospel-centered and fun look at what the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago means for our lives today. This exciting month was all capped off by the White Elephant gift exchange. We reflected on all the amazing things God did in and through the ministry.

This coming Spring semester, we will continue our walk through the New City Catechism. However, we will have a new emphasis as we do so. We'll look at what it means to be a "world Christian". While we want to avoid being a *worldly* Christian (there are enough of those!), we want to be a world Christian. A world Christian is keenly aware of what God is amongst the nations. A world Christian prays for God's glory to extend to the ends of the earth. 1 Chronicles 16:24 commands believers to "declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" Our semester's ambition will be to obey this responsibility we have as believers. We will pray for God's work of spreading His glory amongst the nations to be done in and through the student ministry.

High School Bible Study
(9th-12th grade)
at The Layman's house



Sunday Nights
7 - 8:30 pm
beginning January 10.



*Christmas
Eve
Service
2015*



Our thoughts and prayers are with
the family of Kathleen Madsen on the
passing of her mother,
Barbara Jean Prouty
on December 28

Contact Us

www.thegbf.com

Phone: 903.433.1732

Grace Bible Fellowship

101 West Pecan, P.O. Box 96


Gunter, Texas 75058

Senior Pastor: Roy Layman

Family Life Pastor: Adam Cavalier

Elders: Brent Wilkens, Jeff Crelia
Theron Whitley, Roy Layman

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
	COVENANT MEMBER MEETING Sunday, January 24 @ 9:30 am					
3 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am	4	5 Men's Bible Study 6 am	6 IMPACT Leader Meeting 6:30 pm	7	8	9
10 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am GRACGROUPS Resume Youth Bible Study resumes 7 pm	11 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	12 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	13 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm	14	15	16 Women's Bible Study @ the Nevils
17 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am Children's Ministry Volunteer Lunch 12:15 pm	18 Men's Bible Study 7 pm MLK Day No School GISD	19 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	20 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm	21	22	23 Women's Bible Study @ the Nevils
24 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am 31	25 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	26 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	27 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm	28	29	30 Women's Bible Study @ the Nevils