

February 2012

Grace Alone

Complete these common American phrases: 1) If it sounds too good to be true....
2) We make money the old fashion way, we 3) There's no such thing as a free ...
4) There is no gain without 5) God helps those who (Answers at the end of the article.)

Everything about the American way of life teaches us that we get what we earn in life, that there is no free lunch, that you make your bed and then you lay in it. In America we are very aware of the values of competition and winning and we know what it means to work hard and use elbow grease. We value effort and sweat. We tell people, "You get what you deserve in life" and "If you want to make something of your life it's up to you" and "If it is to be, it's up to me".

This is called the American work ethic. The only problem with the American work ethic is God doesn't operate on the American work ethic. This makes it difficult many times for us to relate to God because we are in this driven work mentality.

Psalm 145:8 tells us that God, rather than being in a work ethic mode, God is gracious. He relates to us by grace. *"God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."* The Bible says repeatedly that God is a gracious God. That means He loves to be gracious to you. God loves to bless people who don't deserve it. That's His nature. God blesses people who don't deserve it. You can't understand the Christian life at all unless you understand grace. It is the heart of our faith. It is the heart of our relationship to God. When you understand grace you are going to feel closer to God. The more you understand grace the more you are going to be drawn to God, the more you are going to love God, the more you are going to be grateful to God. It is by this system of grace that God brings us to Himself....*Continued page 2*

Sermon Series True North

January 29

February 5

February 12

February 19

The Bible Alone Part 1

The Bible Alone Part 2

Grace Alone

Faith Alone

We are in a series entitled True North. We've been looking at core beliefs that define our identity, that all glory belongs to God alone, that Jesus alone is our Lord and Savior, that the Bible alone is uniquely authoritative, and that grace alone is the foundation for our relationship with God.

As a pastor who has had the opportunity to present the gospel to many people, I believe the truth of Paul's words in Ephesians 2:9, that "grace through faith is a gift of God" is so true. What is it that brings a person to that place where they are willing to rely on God alone for their salvation, rather than their own good works? It is God's grace that softens the will and opens the mind to grace alone. My prayer is that we would understand this grace as Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:7-8. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding." Answers to opening common American phrases. 1) It is. 2) Earn it. 3) Lunch. 4) Pain. 5) Help themselves.

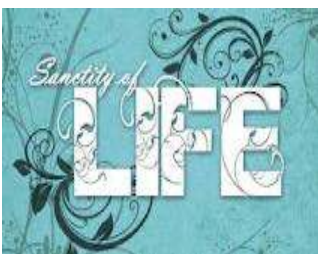
Adult Sunday School Class 9 A.M: "Experiencing The Apostles Creed"

On Sunday morning at 9 AM there is an exciting adult class about The Apostles Creed. This class is an in-depth and fascinating look at the Apostles Creed - from its origin during the early days of Christianity to its relevance in our lives today! Join us for an exciting 8 week tour and see how the Apostles Creed forms a historical bond that unites believers from diverse cultures and traditions. We will also unearth the creeds Scriptural roots and review our denominational understanding of the creed as a living expression of our Christian faith.

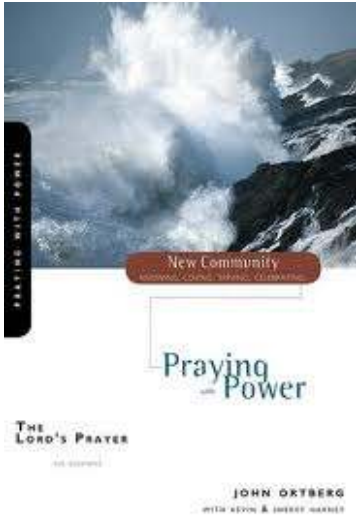
We will explore God as the Creator, Jesus the Son of God, the infamous Crucifixion, travel from the depths of Hell to the triumph of the Resurrection, flee from the coming Judgment, be caught up in the Ascension, walk upon the foundational stones of the Church, experience the power of the Holy Spirit and the Forgiveness of Sin. Join Rick Kobiljak as he leads this exciting class.

Discover Hope Church Class

The next Discover Hope Church Class is to be held on Sunday, March 4 from 2-4 PM. If you would like to find out more about Hope Church or are interested in becoming a member this class is for you. If you wish to attend or have any questions you can contact the church office or Pastor Roger at 281-488-0900. Childcare is provided.



Hope Church honors "Sanctity of Life" by supporting two crisis pregnancy centers, one in Baytown and another in Scarsdale. In 2011 Hope Church benevolence offerings provided funds for WIGL to make 797 blankets and 47 diaper bags to be donated to women who receive support and counseling at these centers. Please pray for the staff and clients at these centers. . There has been some interest shown in learning to crochet blankets for the centers. If anyone is interested, please contact Linda Schooley 713-515-4120.



Prayer Ministry

Praying with Power – Prayer Class Coming March 3rd and 10th!

“If you could ask the first disciples, “What was the Savior’s secret to living in alignment with the Father’s Will and with power to face life’s challenges”? - they would have answered with one word, **“Prayer!”** As we learn to talk with the Father we grow strong in faith and obedience.” If you’d like to learn more about prayer, plan on attending the prayer class sponsored by Hope’s Prayer Ministry. Topics will include: Preparing your heart, spiritual warfare, intimacy with God, praying for others, and praying with power (based on John Ortberg’s book of the same name). We will meet on two consecutive Saturdays (March 3rd and March 10th) in the Adult Classroom from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lunch

will be provided.

If you’d like to learn more about prayer or just get a refresher, this class is for you – whether you’re a seasoned prayer warrior or someone who is just beginning to pray.

Contact Jerri Brezik (281-474-4648 or jerri.brezik@att.net) to sign up for the class or sign up at the table in the foyer each Sunday in February. If you have any questions, please contact Jerri Brezik.

...There will be more upcoming training, sponsored by the Prayer Ministry, on topics such as becoming a prayer servant, hospital visitation and prayer, leading others to Christ, and more!

The “What” of Prayer (excerpt from John Ortberg’s book, “Praying with Power”)

“Most of us have times when we are not exactly sure *what* we ought to pray about. This “what” problem can get in our way. We’re not sure what God might be interested in. Does he really care about the little stuff of life? Is he all that interested in the things that matter to me? The truth is that there is no concern, no matter how small, that God does not care about. There is no request, no matter how silly or trivial it may seem, that God doesn’t want to hear. ...God cares about the little things and the big things in life.”

The Prayer Ministry of Hope Church is here to serve the family of God at Hope Church by lifting up prayer requests and interceding for others. There are a number of ways that you can request prayer at Hope Church:

- E-mail a prayer request to Hopeprayerservants@yahoo.com
- Come forward for prayer at the end of one of the Sunday services. Prayer servants are available up front or they can meet with you in the Prayer Room.
- Fill out a prayer card available in the attendance register (in the black notebooks on each row in the sanctuary) and place it in the offering plate.
- Fill out a prayer card in The Prayer Room and place it in the box.

Note that all prayer requests are confidential and are not published in the bulletin. Contact the church office if you have questions.



Now is the time to come join the *Hope Church Worship Choir* as we prepare for the Easter season. All interested singers should contact Anita Hughes at music@hopehouston.org or stop by for rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in the Choir Room. We look forward to seeing all our singers soon!

6:30 PM Wednesday Night Bible Study On The Gospel of Mark

Study the story of Jesus' mission in the action-packed gospel of Mark. By his power and authority, Jesus showed the people of his day that he was the promised Messiah. But they were looking for a different kind of Messiah. What would happen if they didn't get what they wanted? See for yourself in this enlightening study of the Word of God.

We will discover some of the most important teachings of the Christian faith, and how we can have a relationship with Christ and grow in that relationship. There will be study material available to allow you to study in advance and take notes while in class. No prior Bible Study experience is necessary for this class. I hope you will be able to join this study. Pastor Roger will be leading this Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM.

Women's Ministry

February is the month for our Women's Retreat: Beautiful Feet



Are your feet running in all directions, aching to be put up, or longing to walk alongside others? No matter where you are in your faith walk, the Lord has equipped you with uniquely beautiful feet! (Yes, your feet *are* beautiful!)

Join us as we "lift the lid" off several shoe boxes to examine various styles of shoes and learn how each represents a portion of our walk with the Lord! What is your "shoe size?" What makes truly beautiful feet? And what has the Lord called these beautiful feet to do?

Whether you shuffle, walk, boogie, or run, bring your beautiful feet to this Women's Retreat. Getaway hosted by *Hope Church Women's Ministry* on **Friday, Feb 17 to Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012**, at *Trinity Pines Conference Center*. Prepare to be swept off your feet as we take a walk in the Word together, enjoy fabulous food and tasty treats, tap our toes to praise music, and kick up our heels, sharing encouragement, fellowship, and fun in Christ! Questions? Contact *Lindy Baker* at 832-265-0434 or dbaker2371@aol.com or *Debbie De Young* at 281-488-0707 or roganddeb@hotmail.com for more information about this knock-your-socks-off exciting event

Thursday morning Women's Bible Studies continue the study of Isaiah and the book of Philippians. Join us for a time of fellowship and engaging study of the Bible on Thursday mornings at 9:30 A.M.



Hope Youth Sponsored Sweetheart Dinner February 11, 2012

Make plans to join us for a first-class candlelit dinner hosted by our Hope youth.

- ♥ Childcare provided
- ♥ Proceeds will go towards the Hope youth summer trip
- ♥ If you would like to help, or for more information please contact the church at 281-488-0900 or David Wray at 832-287-0890.

Spring Break Mission Trip To Austin Texas

Where Are We Going?



The Springs Community Church and Pastor Richard Villarreal will be hosting a week long service and outreach event during Spring break, March 11-17, in Austin, TX. This short term mission event is about joining with God in the renewal and transformation of the greater Dove Springs neighborhood and about being the church in the city for the city.

What We Will Be Doing?

1. We will be reaching out to the community by hosting two vacation bible schools in the park at two different locations throughout the week. These will take place in Dove Springs neighborhood. The second VBS will culminate in a neighborhood block party with food, games, music and worship.
2. We will also look to have other service opportunities for the youth at other area sites to be determined.
3. One day will be set aside for fun and recreation at local Austin sights.



Cost

Cost is \$50/person which includes food (breakfast, lunch, & dinner), lodging at Sunrise Community Church and transportation.

Contact David Wray 832-287-0890 or Debbie De Young 281-488-0707 for more information.

UPOMING EVENTS IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

February 2012...

We had an amazing Council Retreat and Hope Church is in store for some amazing opportunities to grow in 2012!

I encourage each and every one of you (whether you have been a member for 25 years or you visited for the first time last week!) to be a part of as many things as you are able. Through these opportunities, you will grow together in your relationships within your family at home as well as your family at HOPE.

Serving Him, Donna

Do You Pray For Your Children?

I have been challenged more so than ever to pray for my kids...their school, their friends, *their parents*, and mostly for their spiritual growth. I encourage you to pray every day for your kids.

One book I have begun to use is Stormy Omartian's *The Power of a Praying Parent Book of Prayers*. Here is the first prayer to get you started:

Becoming a Praying Parent

Lord, I submit myself to You. I realize that parenting a child in the way You would have me to is beyond my human abilities. I know I need You and partake of Your gifts of wisdom, discernment, revelation, and guidance. I also need Your strength and patience, along with a generous portion of Your love flowing through me.



Journey to The Cross

This Easter we need volunteers to help our guide our children along the path Jesus walked during his last days on earth. Please email me for more information and to sign up at donna.hussey@prodigy.net

OVER THE EDGE Pre-Teen Camp

July 26-30, 2012 For children entering 3rd -6th Grade.

Email donna.hussey@prodigy.net for information.



Save The Date!

Vacation Bible School

June 11-15, 2012

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Back To School Fun
Coming August 2012



FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.



FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each

ot _____ d _____ give

_____ e an _____ if _____ y

of you h _____ grie _____ ce

a _____ st some _____ .

For _____ as t _____ L _____ d

for _____ you."

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

Special Events

February 11 Sweetheart Dinner
February 17-19 Women's Retreat
February 25 Bay Wind Nursing Home
Visit, 10 AM 4th Sat of
month
March 4th Discover Hope Class 2-4PM

Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday Schools: Adult,
Youth, & Children's
Worship Celebrations
9:00 AM &
10:30 AM
11:45 AM Hospitality Time
5:00 PM Love Revolution: Junior
and High School Students
Feb 5 and 19th.

Monday

7:00 PM Women of Hope Feb 20 7PM

Tuesday

7:00 PM Elders/Deacon meeting

Wednesday

6:30 PM Club 119 for children
Junior High & High School
Bible Studies
Adult Bible Studies
Worship Choir Rehearsal
7:45 PM Praise Team Practice

Thursday

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study

Friday

Saturday

Men's Fellowship Feb 18 9AM