



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

September 2016

Who Are You Going to Please?

How do you conduct your life? What motivations underlie what you do or not do? I would contend that much of what we do in life is dictated by who we want to please. In the back of our mind we are thinking, "How is this going to go over with this person or that?"

One obvious proof of that is how we dress. We are constantly thinking how our clothes are being perceived by others. We want to conform or please certain people while we could really care less what others think.

As Christians who love Jesus Christ and see Him as Savior and Lord, we want to please Him beyond all others. And yet this is not so easy to do. The Apostle Paul even suggests that marriage – as godly and good as it is – complicates the goal of pleasing Christ first. *"I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs – how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world – how he can please his wife – and his interests are divided."*

Figuring out how to please Christ first is no easy matter at times. But it is still the goal of every true Christian. *"So we make it our goal to please Him..."* 2 Corinthians 5:9. *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men..."* Colossians 3:23 *"Finally, brothers we instructed you how to live in order to please God as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more."* 1 Thessalonians 4:1

When I preach a sermon, I try to think that I have an audience of one. More than anything I would like my words to be pleasing to Him and accomplish what He has in mind in the ears of the listener. Frankly, I am often troubled as I consider my own motivations. Do I want to be clever and a popular preacher, or do I want to speak what God would have me say?

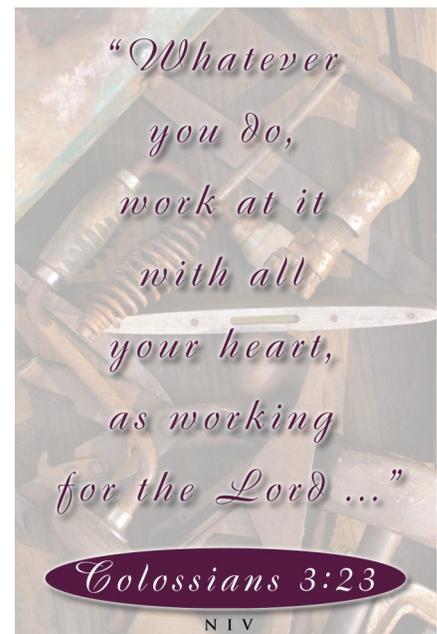
I know this: God wants each of us to be asking ourselves in every situation, "Is this pleasing to God or do I do what I do to please myself and others primarily?"

Some things are quite easy to determine. For instance, if pleasing God comes first, then is it not more pleasing to Him that we worship Him regularly (every Sunday)? His commands are clear. We please God when we don't curse and swear using His name. We please God when we don't murder someone or murder them with our words and anger. We please God when we resist sexual immorality, when we reject stealing, lying and coveting.

Still, because we don't have perfect judgment as sinners, we can wrestle with many situations. For example, will it please Almighty God to honor in the normal ways a parent who is sexually abusing us? Tough questions indeed abound. But the Christian will always make it our aim to wrestle with these questions rather than ignoring them.

Thankfully in the majority of cases, what it means to please God first is clear because He has told us what honors and pleases Him. The key is to make this your goal and act on it. My prayer is that you will always want to please God first!

~ Pastor Rich



Leadership Workshop

Wednesday, September 7
6:00 p.m.

Led by
Pastor John Kieschnick
Houston, Texas

Everyone at Grace is invited to attend. Dinner will be served starting at 5:00 p.m. (for a small cost). Workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. There will be no worship service on this Wednesday.

September Scripture of the Month

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

~ Colossians 3:23-24, NIV

Our Grace Family

Meet Mike Zurakowski

"Lively" Mike is really fun to be around. He has so many interests and can fascinate you with some of his tales! He hails from Richmond, Michigan, entering this complicated world May 26, 1958. He currently is single, but glories in his one son, Michael, Jr. Our Mike has worked at least 40 years in the plumbing business and can truly write a book about his "more interesting encounters and experiences." His past pets included short-hair pointers and English setters. This lines up with his hobby of hunting. Yet, that alone does not limit his other interests of: fishing, golf, bowling, tennis, archery, and antiques and collectibles.. Check him out on his inside advice of how to recognize "good things" at garage sales or other estate offerings. His favorite foods: lobster, shrimp and hamburgers, but these do not label him as a true- blood "meat and potatoes" man! If Mike could be anything he wanted, he would so enjoy being a game warden or conservation officer. A softer side has him remembering seeing his son for the first time. And an even softer side would have him "doing charity work full time" with some quiet moments of hunting and fishing. Taking it in Mike's order, he lists his most valued possessions as "my soul" and his vintage duck decoy. Talk about a variety of outlooks! Mike loves to communicate with people, using his easy social skills. Did you know that he holds a patent on a golf product he invented? Check this out. And further explore what he knows about antiques and collectibles---this will offer you some interesting tidbits of his deep knowledge in this area. Summing Mike up, he contributes: "I am pretty much optimistic most of the time, and I enjoy church and Bible study." Well-rounded and more importantly, a very interesting person with whom one might share many interesting moments!



~ Pat Kopp

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Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by

the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Print and Non-Print Materials Added to the Library

New Non-Fiction

Grace: A Bigger View of God's Love by **Randy Alcorn** (234.2 Alc): The power of God's grace gives comfort, strength, and encouragement when we are faced with the small and big challenges of daily life. This gift of grace is free to everyone through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior. In this devotional-style book, Alcorn ties Bible verses with appropriate commentary to give readers a deeper understanding of the full power of God's grace.

Keep It Shut: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing at All by **Karen Ehman** (241.6 Ehm): This is the first of two titles added to the collection that deals with the power and impact of our words. Ehman is a Proverbs 31 Ministries author and speaker who is tackling the difficult topic of "taming the tongue." She gives helpful insight to those who tend to speak first and think later. Her goal: to help people to use their words well so they can experience healthier and happier relationships.

Controlling the Tongue: Mastering the What, When, and Why of the Words You Speak by **R. T. Kendall** (241.6 Ken): Words have power. At one time or another we have regretted something we have said. By examining people of the Bible who spoke before they thought, Kendall helps his readers take control of their words and face the subsequent consequences. Despite their misspoken words, God still used them and He can use us too.

Non-Fiction on Compact Disk

Shaped by Grace: You Are God's Masterpiece in the Making by **Max Lucado** (CD 234.2 Luc)

Risk Is Right: Better to Lose Your Life Than to Waste It by **John Piper** (CD 248.4 Pip): We tend to play life safe and pursue comforts, entertainment and the accumulation of possessions. Piper calls his listeners to a life of fearlessness as God promises to go with His followers into the unknown areas to which He called them.

What Did Jesus Really Mean When He Said Follow Me? by **David Platt** (CD 248.4 Pla): Jesus calls us to follow Him, but how are we to do that? Self-denial, transformation of our desires, and losing our lives are among the areas discussed by Platt.

Fiction

The Promise of Jesse Woods by **Chris Fabry** (Fic Fab) The time is 1972 in Dogwood, West Virginia, a familiar setting for Fabry's novels. Matt Plumbry, the son of a preacher, picks two unlikely kids as friends when his family moves to

Dogwood. Dickie is a mixed-raced boy and Jesse Woods is a tough Appalachian girl with whom Matt eventually falls in love. Jesse makes a promise that draws them together until a fateful night when they work together to save a life at the same

time another life is lost. Years later, Matt is pulled back to Dogwood upon hearing of Jesse's upcoming nuptials. The truth of that fateful night will finally be revealed.

Gabriel's Bride by **Amy Lillard** (Fic Lil): Lillard artfully weaves an Amish story with contemporary romance. Gabriel, a widower, needs a helper to care for his farm and six children. Through a marriage of convenience, Rachel Yoder, an orphan, becomes his wife. The vows they spoke were real. Can they also build a real love?

Fetching Sweetness by **Dana Mentink** (Fic Men) Agnes Wharton is a reclusive author and Stephanie Pink is an aspiring literary agent. The task is simple—pick up Wharton's manuscript. But, Wharton's dog, Sweetness, is missing, and Wharton won't release the manuscript until Pink finds her dog. And so the search begins.

The Second Half by **Lauraine Snelling** (Fic Sne) Mona and Kenneth are approaching what they hope to be "the best years" of their lives. But when their divorced son, an Army special forces officer, is deployed to an unknown location, Mona and Kenneth assume the guardianship of his two young children.

The Witnesses by **Robert Whitlow** (Fic Whi) Parker House is a gifted young attorney. He shares an uncanny ability to anticipate his opponents next move, a skill shared with his ex-Nazi grandfather. This skill puts Parker in demand until his grandfather's past put both of their lives in danger.

Children's Books

Caring and Sharing Treasury by **Jan & Mike Berenstain** (J Ber): This 5-story anthology in the Living Lights collection shares biblical values, morals and life lessons for children to learn and enjoy. Titles include: **Jobs Around Town**, **Get Involved**, **Love Their Neighbor**, **Gossip Gang**, and **The Biggest Brag**. Children who like the Berenstain Bears will enjoy this stories.



~ Mary Schultz

Like the Back of Your Hand

People excuse themselves for not knowing much about the Bible because they are not theologians. But, where people know their Bibles, the cults have little opportunity to take root and cause destruction in the lives of people. So said Paul Harvey.

No one is born knowing everything, but we all learn a little at a time. I knew a man who began doing a little woodworking after his wife gave him a particular tool early in their marriage. Little by little, he learned. He and a friend eventually began copying furniture pieces they found in a museum, and were ushered out one day for taking measurements on a piece. Together they built a replica of a mirror frame from the 1840s. Because molding profiles had changed in almost a century and a half, these two bought blank shaper knives and used a Dremel tool to grind the knives by hand to the desired period shape. They manipulated the wood finish to appear to be much older. They got quite an ego boost when a museum curator certified their mirror frame as authentically from the 1840s. We learn the Bible by a little work with it everyday.

From 1946 to 1987, there was one camera shop in New York City where professionals at leading newspapers and magazines took their cameras for service. The owner, Marty Forscher, had done camera repair for the US Navy in Washington, DC during the War. In those days, three cameras were used by Navy photographers: a Speed Graphic, the Kodak Medalist, and a Contax. Every night Forscher returned to his hotel room some distance from enemy lines. He removed every screw from one of the cameras. He put the parts into a shoebox and closed it. Then he shook the box. He timed himself to see how long it took him to reassemble the camera and have it in good working order. Thirty years later he said doing that gave him a familiarity with those three cameras that still remained with him.

Many of us have Bibles in text or audio on our smart phones. Some of us waken during the night and may not fall back to sleep right away. We find ourselves waiting in line or at a medical office. We listen to a player while we exercise. If we were to use those times to hear or read the Bible, we would find we could get through the Bible a couple of times per year. Then, as C.F.W. Walther said, "We become our own concordance." It is also easier to work biblical phrases into our conversation for witnessing to our faith.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace member Sheila Wittke.

NEW AIR TIME: Monday evenings at 9:00 p.m.

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

SEPTEMBER 2016 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

- 05 - How Serious Are Aortic Aneurysms - Dr. Deanna Nelson
- 12 - Is Sun Exposure the Only Cause of Skin Cancer - Dr. Paul Dudrick
- 19 - Food Allergy or Something Else - Dr. Andrew Singer
- 26 - Concussions in Youth - Dr. Joshua Johnson



Saturday, September 17, 2016

10:00a - 2:00p

Grace



**Fall
Fest**

*Grace Lutheran Church-LCMS
9076 Middlebrook Pike
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E-mail address: glc@visitgrace.org
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

