

Words from the Woodwards

August, 2022

"Since...the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, *Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*" 1 Cor. 1:21-24

Dear ministry friend,

Thank you for your prayers and support.

This Scripture reminds us that secular society disregards the message of Christ's death for us. Similarly, mainstream church and counseling disregard the fuller message of the Cross as it relates to discipleship.

G.Marshall observed, "We are not only to take by faith the fact that the Lord Jesus died *for us* to pay the price and penalty of our sins, but we are to appropriate by faith the fact that *He also took us to the Cross with Him*. In Christ, God put to death our old man that we might be delivered from the power and dominion of sin in our lives. So the story of the pathway of faith begins with Calvary and our identification with the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus."

We continue to rejoice when transformational change flows from the desperate believer appropriating his/her union with Christ in a meaningful way!

Updates

We just finished our local Exchanged Life Counseling Workshop. God sent us 11 special believers to be further equipped. Mark McKeehan participated as well, which gave us four "triads" to practice the history-taking, the Wheel diagram and the Line diagram. We are so encouraged to hear how the Lord reveals new insights and applications during this training event through our in-depth teaching and fellowship. We decided to postpone the Finding Peace Seminar to September 24th.

I just finished formatting a new online course for GraceStudyHall.org. It is "How to Control Your Emotions" (based on the book that we publish by Lee Turner). That makes 16 courses that are freely available there.

One of my writing/editing ministries is posting monthly articles on our blog sites. These sites include GraceFellowshipInternational.com (ministry news), ELCmatters.org (for trainees), RevitalizingPastors.org (for Christian leaders). I also have personal blog site projects: BiblicalPsychology.net (to support the spirit/soul/body model of man), MyPrayerHelps.com (to encourage prayer), DeliverUsFromEvil.online (to support deliverance from porn). Editing eblasts include *Glimpses of Grace*, *Certification*

Coaching, Solomon's Stories, and weekly Grace Notes. May God guide and bless these publications.

Family

I attended a special event at Dollywood on July 14th where service awards were given by the park management team. Linda was featured in one of the presentation videos and received her 20 year service award! I'm so pleased and thankful for her testimony and ministry to countless new employees (and others) who benefit from her gracious and dedicated orientation training year by year.

And this month marks my 21st anniversary of full time ministry with GFI in Tennessee. How the years fly by.

I am so thankful for God's faithfulness...and for your friendship, partnership and support. May you be encouraged daily by the wisdom and power of the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,
John



Our son, Brad, visited with our granddaughter, Lilah

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