



February Newsletter

Grace Community Church

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The "Prosperity" of Matthew 6:33 and Philippians 4:19

I recently clicked on an article taken from a sermon by one who would be labeled as a "prosperity gospel" preacher. In the next few hours a dozen articles came on my sight which proclaimed that this person was a phony, a false believer, of the devil, a thief and for sure on his way to hell. He was accused of never sharing the true Gospel but only a get rich quick scheme.

Knowing that I will be slammed by a boat-load of responses if I make any attempt to bring even the slightest amount of balance to this perspective online, I am going to burden you with some of my thoughts about this.

What troubles me is not that these people want to hold Pastors and Christian teachers accountable. That is important. What troubles me is that those who accuse these folks of being totally out of balance in their teaching do not themselves ever address some key things Jesus and the Bible say about this.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

To the people Jesus was speaking to, having all of your basic needs met, which is what He is addressing, would seem like a whole lot of prosperity!

Jesus also said, "I have come in order that you might have abundant, overflowing life." (Phil 4:19). I think some peasants would feel like they had won the lottery if God promised this to them.

It is not about things, but Psalm 84:6 declares "No good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless."

So, the critics may have a point. Maybe some of these people do talk about the promises too much. But, the critics never do? Why? Balance, balance, balance.

One more little "vent". The person they accuse the most, closes every message by leading people in prayer to repent of their sins and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Thanks for letting me do this "off-line". I love being your Pastor. What a church family!

Need to reach Pastor John?

941-544-9543 Or gcc.pastorjohn@yahoo.com



SETTING AT THE GATE (THE ELDERS REPORT)

The Winter of January is behind us, the Super Bowl is here and Valentine's Day is quickly approaching! (Have you decided how many Roses you are giving to your Love?)

Our annual Missions Dinner, complete with Silent Auction, was a very successful affair! Simply outstanding meal, if not all, mostly homemade! Personally I would put our preparers of food (your choice of descriptive names, Chef's, Cooks, etc.) above any I can think of, how about you? Please, next time you happen onto one of our wonderful preparers give 'em a high five and tell them what an outstanding job they do making sumptuously tasting food. OH! And we haven't even began to talk about "eye appeal" to compliment that Fantastic taste! Have not gotten the accounting for the total of Pledges as yet but hear it is more than years past!! GOD is SOOOO Faithful to us!

For those that have either forgotten or just haven't heard of the Missions we, here at Grace Community support, allow me to recount those for you: (in Alphabetical Order)

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Representative from Grace to the Mission- Nada Decker. CEF works with the Educational community to give the Elementary Student a Spiritual component to their young lives. Local contact Sherry Brower, Bradenton, Fl.

Preachers without Borders Representative from Grace to the Mission – Ron Stanek. This group works with the people of Africa to train them to preach and teach GOD's Word and supply them with a Bible so they have GOD's Word as they teach. Greg and Beverly Wooten, Kenya, Africa, are the Missionaries.

Pregnancy Solutions Representative from Grace to the Mission - Linda Abend. This is a National Group, if not International with a local work area here in southwest Florida. They offer an alternative of delivering the Baby to the pregnant young ladies that are considering Aborting their Baby. Local support led by Callie Cowan.

Young Life Representative from Grace - Marge Norton. Young Life is a National Group that works through the local High Schools to bring a knowledge of Christ to the Students as they complete their prep School education and prepare to go to their next step into the world as an adult. Chas Jordan is the local recruiter and Leader.

This year will be the third year Grace Community Church has been Blessed to participate in the support of these local, regional, National and Global Missionaries.

Until next time, We will be setting at the gate awaiting His return.

Tuesdays – Bible Study with Pastor John 10:00 am

Tuesdays – Prayer Service with George 6:00 pm

Tuesdays – Ladies Bible Study with Diane 7:00 pm

Wednesdays – Bible Study with Basil 7:00 pm

Sundays – Adult Bible Study 9:00 am

February 11th – Communion

February 18th – Pot Luck

February 24th - Men's Breakfast

February 24th - Walk for Life



Women's Conference is March 16-17. Our Registration begins Sunday, Feb. 4th!