



February 2010



ECHOES OF GRACE NEWSLETTER

"And of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:16-17

Grace Baptist Church, Wilmington NC February 2010

The Names of God

*from a message preached by Pastor Benson
on Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Part 1: Introduction

We have two primary reasons for studying the names of God: First and foremost, we want to exalt, magnify, extol, honor, praise, and glorify the name of the Lord our God. *"I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great is thy mercy toward me: and Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell."* Ps. 86:12-13

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake." Ps. 115:1

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Ps. 34:1-3

Secondly, I want you to trust the Lord. The surest way I know to persuade you to trust him is simply to tell you who He is. *"This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* John 17:3

"They that know thy name will put their trust in thee." Ps. 9:10

No single word in human language is sufficient to serve as a name for our God. Therefore, there are several words by which He is known. It will be instructive and edifying to simply give you some of the many the names by which God reveals Himself in the Holy Scriptures, and tell you what those names mean. We will begin that study in the next article.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Men's Luncheon WCA Open House <i>Ladies Activity</i>	5	6
7 Lord's Supper	8	9 WCA Day at CiCi's Pizza	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day 	15	16	17	18	19 Dinner for Eight	20
21 Missionary Marilyn Pitzer	22	23 Sr. Saints Luncheon	24	25	26 CCYC	27
28 WCA Open House Zaxby's donates 15% to Teens	Coastal Carolina Youth Conference February 26 & 27					

Ladies DELIGHT Corner

*Ladies Retreat
in Myrtle Beach
March 12-13*

Theme:

*Take Me Away...
Queen for a Day*

*Speaker: Carol Trahan
Northland Baptist Bible College*

Cost: \$75

*February 7 is deadline to register
Payment must accompany registration*



**The Myth of the Perfect Christian and
the Wonder of God's Grace**

by Steve Ridge

I just finished reading an article entitled, "The Myth of the Perfect Parent."^[1] Most of us would agree with the premise of the article which is: there is (or for some of you, *was*) more to child-rearing than some sterile facts and equations which produce the "perfect" child. There are many factors that will influence your children as to whether they will be true to God as they grow up and leave your home.

There is much that could be written and has already been written on the subject of parenting and what supposedly went wrong with some people's parenting styles. But let's move to a parallel road, the road of the proverbial "perfect" Christian. Is there such thing as a Christian who is perfect? We are all in the lifelong process of becoming more like Christ and should be renewing our mind on a daily basis (Romans 12:2). Be cautious of using the scriptures like a multivitamin. Is taking a daily multivitamin enough to keep a person in good health? Does memorizing one verse that deals with a particular sin struggle mean that it will go away from us? Thinking a sinful habit that developed over years will go away with a quick prayer and a verse is simplistic at best and may be incredibly self defeating in the end. After repeated failures, a person may just throw up his hands and say, "What the use! I just cannot do this."

Let's back up from these discouraging comments and think for a moment. Does God promise that He will relieve us from all struggle, labor, and strife in this life? No—as a matter of fact, the only place where all struggle and trials will end is in heaven. That is another great reason to look forward to life eternal in heaven. Once we have received Christ, we need to face the truth of the ongoing struggle against sin. We must daily put down sinful desires through the power of the

Holy Spirit. We should be making steady progress as we walk with Jesus.

In light of the fact that none of us will reach perfection on this side of eternity, isn't it amazing that God forgives us, loves us, and desires to be with us! How good God is to already know us (our good, bad, and ugly), and yet still want us to represent Him as His ambassadors. Don't allow your lack of perfection to keep you following Christ. Resolve to rejoice in His grace today and press forward for Him (Phil. 3:12-14).

^[1] *Christianity Today*, January 2010.

BIBLE QUESTION CORNER

Bryan Palumbo was the first (of many!) to identify Psalm 118:8 as the middle verse of the Bible: "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION: What chapter of the Bible is known as the "love chapter"?

The Heart ♥ of Grace

CONGRATULATIONS, NEWLYWEDS!
Dean & Karen (Lee) Miller, married 1/16/2010

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Bob & Judy Williams
Thiago Modena Doug Lukowski

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO:
Sandra Stone, in the death of her aunt
Earl Walker, in the death of his brother
Nathan Brokke, in the death of his grandfather
The family of Bob Whitt
The family of Steve Kelly