

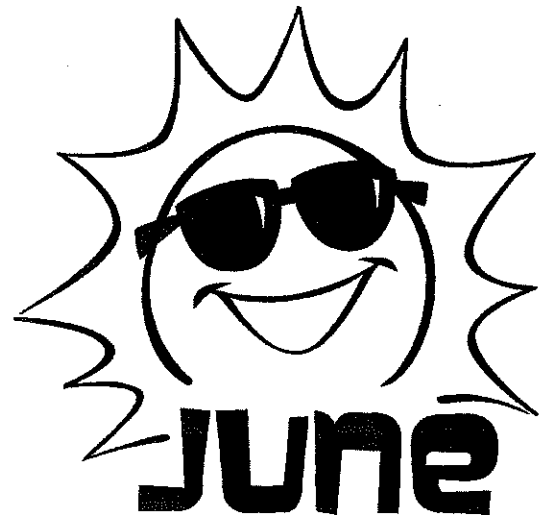
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*We hope you enjoy our church newsletter
but if you would like to be removed from
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**Good News Guide
Volume Twenty-One
Number Six
June 2009**



I recently heard...

Pastor Greg Perkins

(These words are abbreviated and quoted by Phil Johnson (with emphasis added by me) at this year's Shepherds' Conference I attended with Pastor Randy. It is also a continuation of my article from April)

What Is an Evangelical? (Part 2) *A survey of how the term has been used and abused...*

“... Evangelicals, historically, have regarded the Bible itself as the very Word of God and therefore the highest of all authorities on earth; and they have regarded the gospel of salvation by grace through faith through the work of Christ on the cross as the non-negotiable center of everything we believe and teach. ... All historic evangelical essentials are subsumed under those two heads: **the authority of Scripture and the centrality of the true gospel**. Or if you prefer Reformation terminology, *sola Scriptura*¹ and *sola fide*².

... Most of the epistles in the New Testament were written precisely to defend those two evangelical essentials. Most of the epistles have a polemical³ thrust. It is clear as you read the New Testament epistles (as well as the book of Acts) that even in the very earliest apostolic churches, early gnostic⁴ influences were already attacking the authority of Scripture. ... they came against the church even before the canon of Scripture was complete. The apostle John dealt with them in the first two of his three epistles. He basically epitomizes **the evangelical spirit** in his second epistle... *he tells the elect lady that if someone comes to her with a message that's anything other than the teaching of Christ as proclaimed through the apostles and recorded in the New Testament, she was not even to give that person a formal greeting—which was a ceremonial show of respect and brotherhood. Such a person is ... a false teacher to be avoided...* 2 John 7-11....

... Don't miss the point that what John was defending there was the authority of revealed truth against the dreams and imaginations of these proto-gnostics⁵. ... *John says someone who denies the incarnation—the deity of Christ and His eternal preexistence—is not a Christian at all.*

... **We believe these things to be essential Christianity** ... because that is what Scripture teaches. The basic doctrines of the Trinity and the incarnation are so woven into... the New Testament that **if you deny them ... you have in effect thumbed your nose at the authority of Scripture**.

... Or consider the book of **Galatians**. The entire message of that epistle **is rooted in evangelical principles**. At the very start, the apostle Paul makes this clear. ... Paul is purposely drawing a clear line in the sand. ... There's one true Gospel, Paul says. It's "the one we preached to you" (v. 8). It's "the one you received" (v. 9). It's the gospel given to us in Scripture. ... **The gospel is the central issue**... *justification by grace alone through faith alone—apart from works—is the very heart of the gospel*. The better you understand the doctrine of justification, the better you understand the gospel. ... The core truth of the gospel is embodied in the doctrine of justification by faith. ... Of the **two pillars of evangelical conviction** I'm giving you—**the authority of Scripture and a sound, biblical understanding of the gospel**—*the point about the gospel goes more to the heart of what defines an evangelical than anything else*.

In fact, that's reflected in the word evangelical... it's derived from the Greek word for **gospel**... the **good news**. So the name evangelical itself is a reference to the gospel. ... No one but evangelicals thoroughly and consistently grasp the principle of *sola fide* and all its implications. So **the doctrine of justification by faith is in fact both the defining doctrine of historic evangelicalism and the very heart of the gospel message**. It is likewise reflected to one degree or another in virtually every book in the New Testament.

... What Paul was defending in Galatians and elsewhere was the gospel. ... He was defending the evangelical simplicity of the true gospel against the legalizing influence of the Judaizers.

Remember, the apostle John drew a line between evangelical truth and incipient forms of gnosticism. Paul was erecting a different boundary—between the true gospel and the false soteriology⁶ of the Judaizers. Both apostles embodied the evangelical spirit.”

1 Sola Scriptura - The teaching that the Scriptures contain all that is necessary for salvation and proper living before God. <http://www.carm.org/christianity/dictionary-theology>

2 Sola Fide - The teaching that faith alone saves a person when he places his faith and trust in the sacrificial work of Christ. <http://www.carm.org/christianity/dictionary-theology>

3 Polemical - A controversial argument, especially one refuting or attacking a specific opinion or doctrine. <http://www.carm.org/christianity/dictionary-theology>

4 Gnosticism - taught that salvation is achieved through special knowledge (gnosis). This knowledge usually dealt with the individual's relationship to the transcendent Being. It denies the incarnation of God as the Son. In so doing, it denies the true efficacy of the atonement since, if Jesus is not God, He could not atone for all of mankind and we would still be lost in our sins. <http://www.carm.org/christianity/dictionary-theology>

5 Proto-Gnostics - Proto, because it was before full-fledged cultic Gnosticism came of age. http://www.reformationtheology.com/2006/12/semper_gnosticism.php

6 Soteriology - The study of the doctrine of salvation. It is derived from the Greek word *soterios* which means salvation. Some of the subjects of soteriology are the atonement, imputation, and regeneration. <http://www.carm.org/christianity/dictionary-theology>

Grace Community Church Missions

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

On Friday, June 19th, we have an opportunity to get together at a Fresno Grizzly's baseball game. This fundraiser will financially support those we are sending to India and New Mexico.

Every ticket sold will go to support our short term mission trips. June 19th is Father's Day weekend (and Christian Fellowship Night). This should be a great time for our church!

Buy tickets for your Dad (or for your kids) after service June 7th and 14th. Tickets are \$10 each.

VISITATION MINISTRY

Praise God! Within the last few months we have seen FIVE people come to faith in Christ during our visitation ministry! Our church is in need of more people willing to be part of the Visitation ministry and connect with our guests.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GRACE?

Please PRAY for the missionaries Grace is sending into the world this summer:

- Pastor Randy and Gil Harder in Africa May 14—June 2
- Dennis Braga in Pskov, Russia July 15—August 15
- New Mexico Mission Team (15 people) July 18– July 26
- India Mission Team (6 people) July 31– August 15

For questions on any of the above information contact Mark Lacaze at the church office (674-1172) or mark.lacaze@gmail.com



The Annual Grace Community Church Co-ed softball league is about to begin another year. Our first game is scheduled for Friday, June 12th, so we need you to sign up! All games are on Friday nights at 6 and 7 PM. This year will be a little different than past years because guest churches that have played in our league are no longer participating. That means we need every interested person to apply to fill out at least three teams. We take everyone from 7th grade on up. Please sign up using our clipboard in the foyer or call John Henson at 673-6572 for details.

Applying Biblical Financial Principles

By

Kenneth L. Williams

The Steinway piano has been the instrument of choice by masters of the keyboard for many years. Pianists such as Rubinstein, Cliburn, Horowitz, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt knew that a skillfully crafted instrument such as the Steinway produces a rich, wonderful sound.

Steinway pianos are built today the same way they were when Henry Steinway started the company in 1845. Two hundred craftsmen and 12,000 parts are required to produce one of these instruments. Most crucial is the rim-bending process where 18 layers of maple are bent around an iron press to create the shape of a Steinway grand. Five coats of lacquer are applied and hand-rubbed to give the piano its glow. Each key is tested 10,000 times to ensure quality and durability.

In a similar manner, Christians – followers of Jesus Christ – are being “handcrafted.” We are pressed, formed and shaped to make us more and more like Him. We are polished until we “glow.” We are tested in the laboratory of human experience to ensure quality and durability.

One of the ways in which we are made in Christ’s image concerns our giving.

1 John 3:17 says that we demonstrate God’s love when we see our brother in need and give to meet that need. In fact, the Lord Jesus said that we are to love our neighbor just as we love ourselves, and the illustration He provided was that of the Good Samaritan.

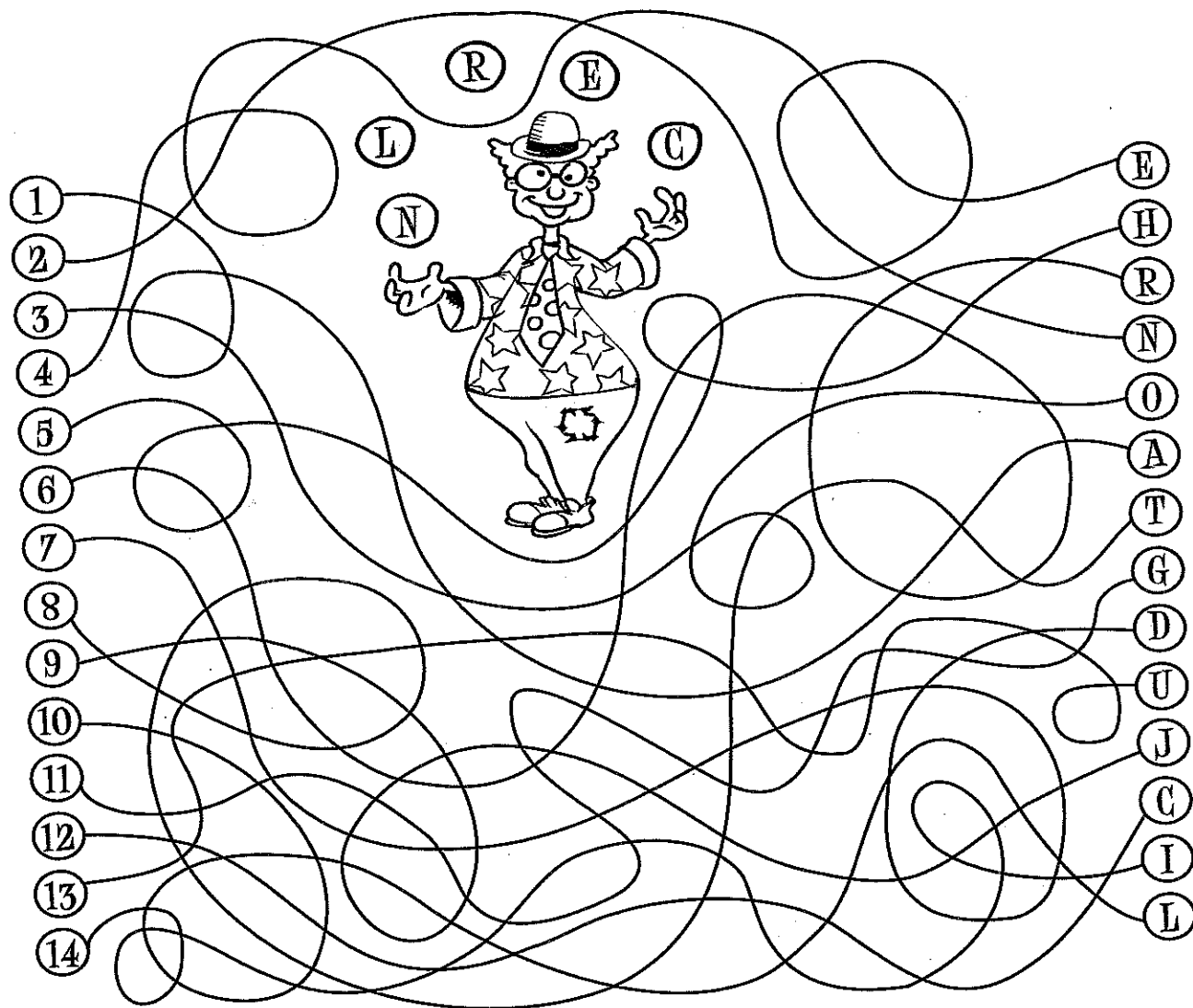
Yes, we are to give to the Lord’s work here at Grace Community Church. Yes, we are to place a priority in our lives on supporting this ministry financially. But let’s not limit ourselves and our services for Christ to the walls of our church. Instead, let’s be alert to opportunities to demonstrate God’s love to fellow-travelers on the road of life. When we do that, we are demonstrating to ourselves and to all who observe that we have been “handcrafted” in the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE JOKE'S ON YOU!



1 Thessalonians 5:11

Someone's been clowning around and has taken all the letters away from the Bible verse. Fix the verse by following the path from each number to a letter. Then write the letters on the matching blanks.








" _____

4	2	12	3	13	6	1	11	4	3	2	4				
1	2	3	8	5	4	6	1	2	7						
B															
	13	14	10	7	S	4	1	12	5	S	3	8	5	4	6
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7	3	14	2	11											



Happy Anniversary!

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Doors of Hope Baby Bottles Due Father's Day June 21</p>	¹	2	3 Men's Study, Chubby's 6:30 am <i>Pursuit 6:30 pm Camp Game Night</i>	4 Crossroads Graduation	5 High School Graduation ***** Celebrate Rec 6:30 pm	6  <i>Youth Camp June 6-10</i>
7 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am <i>After Him Service 5:00 pm Ice Cream Social</i>	8	9	10 Men's Study, Chubby's 6:30 a.m.	11 *College Group 7:00 pm 26752 Frisco Way *Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	12 Celebrate Recovery 6:30 pm ***** Softball Starts 6 & 7 pm	13
14  Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am	15	16	17 Men's Study, Chubby's 6:30 a.m. Pursuit 6:30 pm	18 *College Group 7:00 pm At The Olguin's 26311 Cullen Way *Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	19 Celebrate Rec 6:30 pm ***** Grizzlies Game Missions Fundraiser	20
21  Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am	22	23	24 Men's Study, Chubby's 6:30 a.m. Pursuit 6:30 p.m. at The Potter's 19275 Farallon	25 *College Group 7:00 pm 26752 Frisco Way *Hispanic Ministry 7:00 pm	26 Celebrate Recovery 6:30 pm ***** Softball 6 & 7 pm	27
28 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am	29	30	Every Friday Night 6:00 & 7:00 pm Come Out & Have Some Fun!!!  <small>bbhw0130 www.photosearch.com</small>			