

ETERNAL REWARDS

A PUBLICATION FROM GRACE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY | VOLUME III, ISSUE 3



President Dave Anderson leads the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Grand Opening of Grace's new Woodlands location.

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What a Thanksgiving

by Dr. Dave Anderson, President

This holiday season I am reminded of the challenge of Hebrews 2:16, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." After all, we call ourselves Grace School of Theology. We teach grace as a gift when it comes to salvation, but it is not like we get our gift and have no more need of grace. God's very throne is characterized by grace. And this year He has showered us with his grace.

Have you heard the news? Can you say ACCREDITED? Yes, on November 6th we received "Accredited Status without conditions" at the TRACS Commission hearing in Chicago. We are the first school in the last decade or so in their association to go from Candidacy Status to Accredited Status in one year, and this was a year ahead of our own goal of November 2013. This was made possible by generous givers like you and the addition of three key faculty members:

1) Dr. Al Letting—he actually comes from the TRACS organization. His experience and inside knowledge of all the requirements for accreditation was invaluable in our process.

2) Dr. Joe Wall—on loan from East-West Ministries, Joe comes to us with a much needed PhD to help fulfill the requirements of TRACS. He also will be indispensable in our goal of having a student in every country of the world by 2017, since East-West is a mission organization in twenty countries with a hundred missionaries. East-West already has a number of students who need us to finish their degrees.

3) Dr. Ken Wilson graduated from Oxford in England two days after Thanksgiving. He is one of the leading scholars in the world on Augustine. Dr. Wilson was needed by us to move toward compliance in our percentage of full time professors with a PhD or its equivalent (at Oxford it is called a DPhil). Dr. Wilson begins with a great class in the Basics of Free Grace Theology on January 3rd. It is an intensive one-week class. Take it if at all possible (you can audit it or take it for credit).

These men are just three of God's many gifts to us this year. Their educations, careers and reputations bring

immeasurable additional credibility to our young seminary. We can't wait to see what the Lord has in mind for 2013. But it reminds me of a poem on grace a friend recently sent me:

Lord, I crawled across the barrenness to you
with my empty cup
uncertain in asking any
small drop of refreshment.
If only I had known you better
I'd have come running with a bucket.

- Nancy Spiegelberg -1974

Perhaps the only reason we don't come more boldly to God's throne of grace is because we don't know Him very well. May 2013 be a year in which we get to know Him better.

May He bless you this Christmas season!

Dave Anderson

Dr. Dave Anderson, *President*
Grace School of Theology



Why I Believe in Grace

By J. Merritt Johnston, MABS Student

Grace has never been a great physical attribute of mine. As the only girl in a family of boys, my mom enrolled me in ballet at age three, but the dance lessons did little to impart me with grace. Instead, I bumbled through my childhood with an unbelievable lack of coordination.

But in the midst of all those physical stumbles, I discovered a grace far more significant than that of ballerinas. God's gift of grace gave this clumsy, little girl the hope of heaven, and I've never been the same since. As God has grown my faith over the years, He's also grown my passion to be a Grace-giver, particularly to the young girls trying to navigate this crazy world of airbrushing and plastic surgery. To channel that passion, I partnered with a group of college friends to start a girls ministry called SAGE.

We've been traveling the country together for nearly fifteen years and have seen God do amazing things along the way. But when a group of 20-year-olds start a ministry, there are many lessons that you learn the hard way. As the ministry leader, I quickly learned that I desperately needed both theological and ministry training. I simply wasn't prepared for many of the situations I encountered, so I began my search for the right seminary. Time and time again, my search ended in vain. Trying to find the right combination of affordability and accessibility seemed impossible.

But God always has a plan. His grace is sufficient, regardless of our hectic schedules or limited bank accounts. He led me to Grace, a seminary that lives up to its name. Time, distance, and finances are no longer obstacles in my calling to pursue a seminary education. I learn online right where I live, and the lessons I learn are already impacting generations to come as I invest in girls around the country. That's the power and the beauty of Grace at work.



Merritt speaking at a SAGE Girls Event

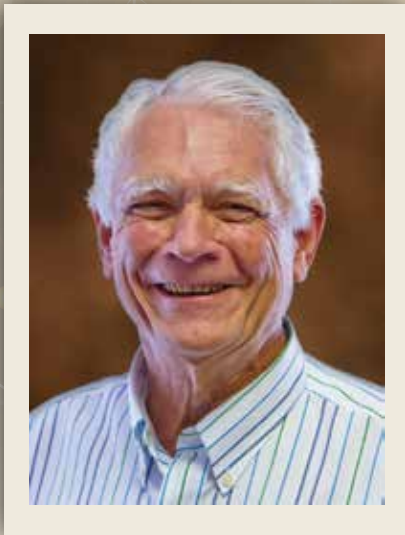
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3 Motives for Holy Living

by Dr. Joe L. Wall, Grace Professor



One of the great burdens expressed by many ministers is the chasm that too often exists between the lifestyle the Christian church teaches and the lifestyle lived out by church members and leaders.

Reacting to this hypocrisy, some have attempted to press their people into godly living through preaching the danger of hell. Some preach that one is not truly saved through simple trust in Christ and His wonderful saving work through the cross and His resurrection, but that one must have a deep, committed, persevering faith before he can ever begin to have any true assurance of his salvation. It is a shame that such an approach should be entertained, for it comes dangerously close to preaching a gospel different from the gospel of grace taught in Scripture (*Galatians 1:6-9; 3:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:4*).

Certainly the terrible moral compromise and wide-ranging lack of commitment by God's people should alarm us. However, the answer to this kind of problem in the church should not be that we push the gospel of grace toward works-salvation. Rather, the Scriptures provide three other strong motivations for holy living without diluting the concept of salvation by grace.

1 First, the Bible repeatedly teaches that the true Christian has been regenerated (*John 3:1-16*) and indwelt by the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 6:19*). Thus all true believers are new people on the inside, and the living God lives inside of them. Because we have been forgiven and given life for free, based on the loving sacrifice of Christ, we commit to His lordship in our lives in response to His love (*Romans 12:1, 2*).

2 Second, because God is our Father, He promises to discipline us if we continue to rebel against His direction and correction, and we are thus motivated by a fear of fatherly discipline (*Hebrews 12:3-17*).

3 Third, and finally, the fact that we will one day have to give account of our lives to Jesus before His judgment seat is a sobering truth that should affect the way we live (*2 Corinthians 5:9-11*).

(We are honored and blessed to have men like Dr. Wall serving on the Grace staff/faculty. Dr. Wall possesses a unique combination of theological knowledge and real-world ministry experience. In addition to his service at Grace, he also serves on the staff of East-West Ministries International, a thriving missions organization. Through this mission partnership, Grace has been able to launch its "Every Nation Initiative," with the goal of equipping students in every country around the world. Note: This article is an excerpt from Dr. Wall's book, "Going for the Gold.")

Giving the Gift of **GOOD DOCTRINE**

by Dr. Ken Wilson



How do we balance the intellectual pursuit of the Bible and theology with the experiential application of that knowledge to our daily lives?

I remember my first realization that my knowledge had exceeded my ability to live out the requirements found in the gospels and epistles.

In college, my solution was simple: I would quit reading and memorizing Scripture until my life exemplified what I had already learned. That naïve, youthful answer did not last long—one month. What a disappointment when I realized that, even being relatively ignorant, my ability to live out God's truth would fall far behind my knowledge of that truth. Decades later while pursuing my doctorate, I encountered many theology professors who seemed unconcerned about any practical application of truth. Well, to be fair, most of them did not view Scripture as God's truth, so perhaps it was not surprising to see their disregard for following its teachings.

In contrast, last week during a church service, a devout and sincere young man advised all of us that we must be careful in arguing over doctrines intellectually. It was more important to live out Christ's teachings in love than to prove correct doctrine. Practical application took precedence over doctrinal disagreements. His admonition admittedly resonates when non-essential or trivial doctrines divide believers. However, I privately exhorted

him that one's understanding of the truths in God's Word determines how a person thinks and acts. **Correct doctrines precede practical application.**

Stephen was a bi-sexual, drug addict, and schizophrenic who I met in the psychiatric ward during medical school. There he believed in Christ when my best friend related God's love in Christ's sacrifice for his sins. After spending four weeks going through Romans and teaching eternal security, Stephen was released. Sadly, two weeks later he overdosed on drugs, had a cardiac arrest, and was resuscitated in the Emergency Room. It "just so happened" that the ER doctor who resuscitated him went to our local church and knew this troubled young man. When he awakened after being in cardiac arrest, Stephen thought he was in heaven because he recognized that friendly face.

After two more months of constant love and studying Scripture, Stephen told me something I will never forget. He spoke confidently, "Ken, now I know that even if I 'tube it,' I will be in heaven with God when I die. That gives me the courage to live." Years later, Stephen held his extended family in Boston together during difficult times, and remained a faithful husband and church deacon. **Good doctrine impacts lives. Good doctrine leads to practical application.**

The opportunity to teach at Grace School of Theology excites me. This school teaches good doctrine and simultaneously stresses practical applications, with the result that the lives of men and women are transformed. Yes, by God's grace, a balance can be achieved. I thank God for His grace, and for Grace School of Theology.



Course	Instructor	Time	Dates	TW	SW	CL	SA	BT	MD	OL
INTENSIVE										
TH-563X*	Basics of Free Grace Theology	Wilson	8:30 am-4:00 pm	January 3-8 (excluding Sunday)	X					O
MODULE 3										
Mondays										
OT-512	Old Testament Survey - Pentateuch	Baker	7:00-10:00 pm	January 28 - March 18		X				O
TH-661	Sanctification and Pneumatology	Wall	7:00-10:00 pm	January 28 - March 18	X					O
TH-564	Theology Proper	Moody	7:00-10:00 pm	January 28 - March 18				X		O
OT-618	Old Testament Survey - Major Prophets	Campbell	7:00-10:00 pm	January 28 - March 18					X	O
Tuesdays										
MS-550	Spiritual Life	Wilson	7:00-10:00 pm	January 22 - March 12		X				O
MS-761X	Ministry Stewardship (2 Credits, Elective)	Letting	7:00-10:00 pm	January 22 - March 12	X					O
Wednesdays										
TH-566	Christology and Ecclesiology (One Semester)	Wall	11:45 am - 1:30 pm	January 23 - May 22	X					O
TH-568	Soteriology	Anderson	7:00-10:00 pm	January 23 - March 13			X		X	O
OT-514	Old Testament Survey - History	Haywood	7:00-10:00 pm	January 23 - March 13			X			
Thursdays										
TH-663	Angelology, Anthropology & Hamartiology	Wilson	7:00-10:00 pm	January 24 - March 14		X				O
NT-515	New Testament Survey - Acts and Pauline Epistles	Haywood	7:00-10:00 pm	January 24 - March 14				X		O
NT-517	Hebrews, General Epistles, and Revelation	Baker	7:00-10:00 pm	January 24 - March 14			X			O
Saturdays										
NT-670**	Fundamentals of Greek Exegesis (4 credits) (One Semester)	Anderson	10:00 am-12:00 pm	January 26 - May 25	X					O
MODULE 4										
Mondays										
TH-767	Church History	Wilson	7:00-10:00 pm	April 1 - May 20		X				O
MS-753	World Missions	Wall	7:00-10:00 pm	April 1 - May 20	X					O
TH-562	Introduction to Systematic Theology and Bibliology	Moody	7:00-10:00 pm	April 1 - May 20				X		O
OT-620	Old Testament Survey - Minor Prophets	Campbell	7:00-10:00 pm	April 1 - May 20					X	O
Tuesdays										
TH-564	Theology Proper	Wall	7:00-10:00 pm	April 2 - May 21		X				O
OT-620	Old Testament Survey - Minor Prophets	Baker	7:00-10:00 pm	April 2 - May 21	X					O
Wednesdays										
TH-663	Angelology, Anthropology & Hamartiology	Anderson	7:00-10:00 pm	April 3 - May 22					X	O
NT-513	New Testament Survey - Gospels	Wilson	7:00-10:00 pm	April 3 - May 22			X			O
OT-516	Old Testament Survey - Wisdom Literature	Haywood	7:00-10:00 pm	April 3 - May 22			X			
Thursdays										
NT-517	NT Survey - Hebrews, General Epistles, and Revelation	Baker	7:00-10:00 pm	April 4 - May 23		X		X		O
MS-854	Pastoral Ministries	Saathoff	7:00-10:00 pm	April 4 - May 23			X			O
ONLINE ONLY										
Code	Course	Instructor	Module	Dates						
TH-560	Bible Study Methods	Hixson	3	January 21 - March 17						
RS-501	Bible Study & Technology (1 Credit: Certificate Only)	Hixson	3	January 21 - March 17						
OT-773	Hebrew 2 (MDiv and ThM Only)	Eckman	3-4	January 21 - May 26						
NT-878	Greek 4 (MDiv and ThM Only)	Eckman	3-4	January 21 - May 26						
TH-560	Bible Study Methods	Hixson	4	April 1 - May 26						
TH-665	Dispensationalism & Eschatology	Hixson	4	April 1 - May 26						

CAMPUS & TEACHING SITE LEGEND	
TW	HOUSTON NORTH CAMPUS - 3705 College Park Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77384
SW	HOUSTON SOUTHWEST CAMPUS - 7100 Regency Square Boulevard (Suite 263) - Houston, TX 77036
CL	CLEAR LAKE TEACHING SITE (CLEAR LAKE BIBLE CHURCH) - 622 El Dorado Boulevard - Houston, TX 77062
SA	SAN ANTONIO TEACHING SITE (BANDERA ROAD CITY CHURCH) - 9435 Bandera Road (Room #6) - San Antonio, TX 78250
BT	BEAUMONT TEACHING SITE (ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH) - 3920 W. Cardinal Drive - Beaumont, TX 77705
MD	MIDLAND TEACHING SITE (MIDLAND BIBLE CHURCH) - 2800 North A Street - Midland, TX 79705
OL	ONLINE
Notes:	All courses are one module and worth 3 credits unless otherwise noted. Biblical language classes are one semester. Schedule is subject to change without prior notice. Students must take less than 50% of their program at any teaching site; the remainder may be completed at the main campus (North and SW), online, streaming video (synchronous or asynchronous/archived), or any combination thereof. *TH-563X Basics of Free Grace Theology may be taken instead of TH-568 Soteriology or as an elective. Registration closes December 30. **NT-670 Fundamentals of Greek Exegesis is for MDiv and ThM students only. Exceptions granted only by the professor.

DELIVERY METHODS	
X	Professor is physically teaching from this location.
X	Live interactive video conference. Professor not present.
O	Remote online streaming (real-time or archived viewing)

REGISTRATION DATES	
Open Registration	November 19-December 30
Late Registration	December 31-January 11 (Fee Applies for Returning Students Only)
Note: New Students May Register for Module 4 through March 22	

PARTNERS IN GRACE: Ministry Report

WE ARE ACCREDITED!



Dr. Mark Haywood (left), VP of Student Services, and Dr. Al Letting (right), VP of Academic Affairs, celebrate Grace's Accredited status from TRACS with Dr. Paul Boatner, TRACS President (center).



Prof. Mark Choate

HISPANIC PASTORS' TRAINING: In association with Pastor Daniel Melendez, who is very well connected with Hispanic radio and television in Houston, Grace is putting together an initiative to train Hispanic pastors. We are hosting an orientation meeting on Saturday, January 26, 2013, at our campus in Bellaire (SW Houston). Each semester Prof. Mark Choate will teach four, four-hour Saturday sessions in Spanish. The certificate program will focus on the Bible during the first year, theology the second year, and pastoral ministries the third year.

NEW URL: Now that Grace is accredited, we have a new online home. Visit us at gsot.edu to find the latest Grace news and course information.

WELCOME DR. KEN WILSON:



We are honored to welcome Ken Wilson, M.D., D.Phil, to our full-time faculty. In addition to his career as a leading hand surgeon, Dr. Wilson is one of the world's premiere Augustinian scholars. He also served for several years

as a Grace Trustee before moving to England to complete his D.Phil. program at The University of Oxford. Dr. Wilson will be teaching an intensive called "Basics of Free Grace Theology" January 3-8 at our new Woodlands Campus. Register before 12/30/12!

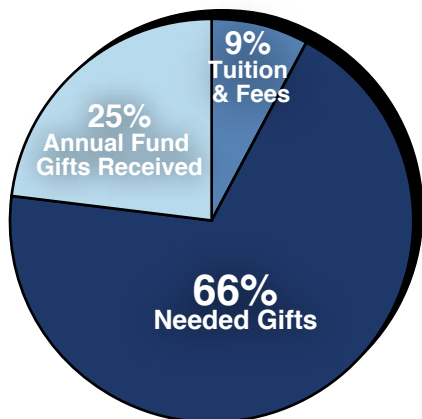
WELCOME WILLIE GAINES:



Willie is serving as Senior Student Recruiter and Enrollment Specialist. He earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from Prairie View A&M University and has completed 1/3 of Grace's Th.M. (4-yr) program.

He previously served as a senior engineer/analyst at NASA. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to work at Grace, but it's okay if you are.

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2012-2013 YEAR-TO-DATE		ACTUAL	BUDGET
TUITION & FEES	Received YTD:	\$129,256	TOTAL: \$256,626
	Remaining Expected:	\$127,370	
ANNUAL FUND GIFTS	Received YTD:	\$666,719	TOTAL: \$2,471,194
	CURRENT NEED:	\$1,804,475	
OPERATING EXPENSES	Ministry Budget for July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013		TOTAL: \$2,727,820

Grace School of Theology is a 501(c)(3), charitable, non-profit organization and is financially accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.





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