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Faith alone in Christ alone

Greetings to you from all of us at Grace Evangelistic Ministries! We never grow weary or slumber in giving God all the glory for what He, alone, is doing for and through this ministry. Any information we give you, compared with the vastness of God's work, is a mere chip off the whole ice-berg. He established Grace Evangelistic Ministries as a vessel to reveal the Savior to the lost and to bring truth to those who have personally believed in His Son. Our needs are met through His children who have compassion to see God's Word offered wherever there are open doors.

Many people have asked, "How do you get financial support without soliciting funds?" We answer, "By trusting God-not our ourselves." Each day is begun with the attitude that if God assigns a job, He alone will provide for it. The principle, "God's work done in God's way will have God's provision" is a biblical truth throughout the Scriptures. It was true in Moses' day and is true today. Our confidence is that "The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our [fortress]" (Psalm 46:7); therein lies the reason this ministry is spreading like wildfire over dry grass.

In the exodus generation, God gave Moses many assignments with specific instructions and perfectly provided for each one. Let's examine one such occasion: In Exodus 31 and 35, God gave Moses instructions to build a Tabernacle. Moses brought the matter to God's people: "Moses spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, 'this is the thing which the Lord has commanded, saying, 'Take from among you contribution to the Lord; **whoever is of willing heart** (don't use gimmicks-just publicize the need), let him bring it as [unto the Lord]: gold, silver, and bronze'" (35:4,5). "And everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord's contribution..." (v. 21a). "And they still

continued bringing to him **freewill offerings** every morning" (36:3b).

Moses actually had to request they cease giving. "And they said to Moses, 'The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the Lord commanded us to perform' (v. 5). "So Moses issued a command, and a proclamation was circulated throughout the camp, saying, 'Let neither man nor woman any longer perform work for the contributions of the sanctuary'" (v. 6). Yes, you read it correctly. "Thus the people were restrained from bringing any more. For the material they had was sufficient and more than enough for all the work, to perform it" (v. 6b, 7).

Believers who advance, through the daily intake and application of sound Bible doctrine, will certainly continue to enjoy God's grace provision in the midst of a troubled world. He will shield you from the recession and calamity that befalls a nation who rejects His plan. Jeremiah beautifully put it this way: "Blessed [happy] is the [believer] who (through learning and application of Bible doctrine) trusts in the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green (all year round), and it will not be anxious in a year of drought (because of recession)" (Jeremiah 17:8,9). God is under obligation to sustain every growing believer throughout his allotted years, regardless of the economic status of a nation.

Like the apostle Paul, our joy is immeasurable as we witness the effectiveness of this ministry. It is evident that many are responding to the gospel by faith alone in Christ alone-our first priority! Many are challenged to build their lives upon the foundation of the Word of God, and we are privileged to assist in their spiritual growth by providing sound Biblical publications and audio tapes. When we can, we send men with the gift of communication to a doctrinally sound seminary to equip them to accurately divide the Word of Truth. We are grateful that our position in God's Vineyard remains undiminished, courtesy of His matchless grace-never earned-never deserved!

Thank you for not letting up in mentioning us before the Heavenly throne. Doors are continually flung open for our missionary team! Like Paul, "[We] thank [our] God every time [we] remember you. In all [our] prayers for all of you, [we] always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it unto completion until the day of the Lord." "And [our] God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6, 4:19).

Because we depend on our Father and stay under His direction, we have confidence that He has prepared the way. We ask that you continue to include us in your prayers as we seek to do His will, to glorify Him, and to root our hope in the assurance that "...[Those] who trust in the Lord will be exalted" (Proverbs 29:25b).

Stay in touch with doctrine.

Underneath are the everlasting arms.

Forever drowned in the Ocean of His grace,
Moses C. Onwubiko
President; Grace Evangelistic Ministries

You shall know the
truth, and the truth
shall set you free.
JOHN 8:32

Doctrine of Grace

By Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko

(Lesson9—Continued from volume 22 Lesson8)

Before you begin this section, you may wish to pause and acknowledge any sins that may hinder the Holy Spirit from saturating your soul with the doctrine presented here (1 John 1:9). If you are an unbeliever, this is the perfect time to tell God the Father that you now believe in His Son Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father,

We pause to pray for those who study this important doctrine. Father, we pray that the individual's mind may be fully enlightened with regard to Your unfathomable, unparalleled, immeasurable, and unsurpassing grace. We humbly ask that their eyes may be opened to behold "how wide and long and high and deep" is Your unchanging grace toward the entire human race. May their understanding of this doctrine serve as a link to other biblical doctrines, such as salvation by grace and the eternal security of those who have personally trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. May Your children, for whom this glimpse of Your grace is new, enjoy a sense of relief by the end of this biblical exposition. And, we ask that Your promise in John 8:32, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free," be fulfilled for those who will approach this teaching with humility. May they be set free from the bondage of legalism. Thank you, Father, for answering this prayer, which is offered in the Name of the King of kings, Lord of lords, and our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

PAUL'S DOCTRINAL ORIENTATION

We previously noted how Paul excelled beyond his peers and stood aloof in the mastery of the Mosaic Law-how he was well ahead of the Rabbinical elite in religious matters. Prior to his conversion, Paul was actually a stumbling block in the formation of the early church. After becoming a believer, he delayed missionary work and went to Saudi Arabia to spend most of his time in meditation and in the communion of doctrines of the Church Age. The result was that his perception of God's plan for the new dispensation was etched in his right lobe.

Once enlightened and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote, "For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; and I was advancing in Judaism beyond my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. But when He who had set me apart (*Greek: Aphorizo = select to office-set apart to serve cf. Romans 1:1*), even from my mother's womb, and called me through His GRACE, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood (literally human beings), nor did I go to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to

Damascus" (Galatians 1:11-17).

Upon returning from Arabia, his teachings became the focal point in Christendom. Still, you might ask, "How can I be certain that Paul was doctrinally oriented?" We will use a logical approach to answer this question. It is crystal clear that one cannot give what one does not have—that's just common sense and logic. Paul's epistles were printouts of the Bible doctrine engraved in his soul—the evidence that he was saturated with Church Age doctrine: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions. Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out (*Greek: Pleroo = explain fully*) the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery (*Greek: Mysterion = some sacred thing hidden or secret and is only known by the revelation of God, i.e., Church Age doctrine*) which has been hidden from past ages (*dispensation of providence*) and generations; but has now been manifested (*Greek: Phaneroo = to reveal*) to His saints..." (Colossians 1:28-29).

"And we proclaim Him, admonishing (*Greek: Noutheteo = to warn, instruct*) every man and teaching (*Greek: didasko = the thing aimed at when one teaches, didasko is to shape the will of the one taught by the communication of the knowledge of the word of God*) every man with all wisdom (*Greek: Sophia = the knowledge of how to regulate one's relationship with God*), that we may present every man complete (matured) in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving (*Greek: Agonizomai = to wrestle, toil*) according to His power, which mightily works within me" (Colossians 1:24-26).

Paul proclaimed that the Lord Jesus Christ was his personal Teacher. In addition to what the Lord taught him, Paul put the Mosaic Law under the microscope of Church Age doctrine, shedding light on the Law and the Prophets. The Holy Spirit directed Paul to use specific Greek words, which indicated his doctrinal orientation. Four of these Greek words are worthy of our attention.

i. The first word is *noutheteo* which means: "to warn, to instruct," or "to put *something* into *someone else's mind*." The apostle Paul warned through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but he had to master Church Age doctrine before teaching others. These truths had to be rooted in his own soul. Paul was neither selfish, arrogant, nor claimed sinlessness. He, rather, challenged the Corinthian believers to watch his lifestyle and determine if he lived what he taught. Only a believer who offers himself as a pattern for others can confidently say, "I exhort you, therefore, be imitators of me" (I Corinthians 4:16).

ii. *Didasko* is the second Greek word that means: "to teach," but more than that, according to the Greek Lexicon, it means: "*to shape the will of the one being taught*." No one can really infuse another's mind with his own teachings unless the message has had impact on his own soul. Through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, Paul was able to apply truth to life's situations and thus reshaped his thinking to divine viewpoint. Because his will had been molded to conform to God's plan for his life, he had the courage to teach others to follow his example.

iii. *Sophia* is the third Greek word under discussion. It means: "*wisdom*," and in the spiritual sense, it means "*the knowledge of how to regulate one's relationship to God*." Wisdom, in our context, is an accurate application of Bible doctrine. When one is wise in the spiritual sense, he is said to be *phrenimos* in Greek—*one who is prudent with others and knows how to regulate circumstances*. Paul was spiritually wise and that was what he hoped to impart. The spotlight was turned on him when he wrote to the Ephesians, "Therefore be careful how you walk (live

your life), not as unwise men (carnal believers, or unbelievers) but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are [*short and*] evil" (5:15,16). He was giving them a warning that he already carefully considered, which underlines our premise that no one can give what he does not have.

iv. The fourth Greek word is *agonizomai*. It means, "to wrestle, to strive," or "to toil." "And for this purpose (*of communicating the infallible word of God*) also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me" (Colossians 1:29). The Lord Jesus Christ used the same word in John 18:36.

In light of these four Greek words, an important lesson emerges: **For a believer to be an effective teacher of the Word of God or the gospel, his message must first make an impact in his own life.** And, so it was with Paul—a model for his own preaching—minus self-abasement or self-righteousness and accomplished in the filling of the Holy Spirit to illuminate the mind with Truth. And, it takes time! Since no one can teach beyond his own knowledge, years of academic preparation is vital. There is no short cut when it comes to putting the nuts and bolts of Scripture together. It's not far-fetched to estimate that it takes eight hours or more of diligent study and research to prepare for one hour of accurate Bible teaching. Paul pointed this out when he said, "I labor, striving according to His power (the power of the Holy Spirit)."

A student of the Word may wonder, "Well, Paul only wrote letters to the churches under the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, how do we know that he really studied?" The Holy Spirit knew clearly that such questions would arise and He supplied the answer in advance. In Luke's account we read, "I know that after my departure savage wolves (false teachers) will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert (watchful, vigilant, and of sober mind), remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish (instruct) each one with tears" (Acts 20:29-31).

Paul taught the church for three solid years, though Luke only recorded Paul's farewell address to the church at Ephesus. If all of his teachings were put in print, we would need a ladder to read the Bible. The years and the number of times he taught each day in Ephesus were literal, not figurative. So if he taught two lessons a day, plus held a job, he would have had to spend most of his nights into the wee hours pouring over God's Word.

In lieu of Paul's farewell address, an important lesson has surfaced: **A good Bible teacher, in the course of his studies, should examine his life (under the ministry of the Holy Spirit) to see if what he teaches others affects him and, if so, to allow the doctrine to change his own life before presenting its truth to others.** Here is Paul's way of saying it: "You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?" (*Do you exploit people of their money?*) (Romans 2:21-23).

What came from Paul's mouth illustrated his life, so let's examine some verses at face value: "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes." (Acts 20:33). We are not sure how many ministers could say that today, or even how many believers for that matter. He went on to say, "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak (the handicapped) and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (v.35).

Where Paul had an option of exploitation, versus using his trade as a tentmaker, he chose to work-where he had the choice between lying to get food and starvation, he chose to starve. No wonder he could dogmatically state, "...I have learned (*through rigorous studies of the Word of God and its correct application*) to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I (*through proper application of doctrine*) know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need" (Philippians 4:11,12).

So far, we have demonstrated that Paul's thinking was saturated with doctrine. Why? Let's examine a few reasons.

1. The doctrine of the Church Age was new and different from previous dispensations, thus he had to absorb it all in order to orient to the new era-the Church.
2. Glorification of God was his objective. He knew that God is a God of precision, and to serve God well, he needed to learn and apply precise mystery doctrine to each circumstance he faced. You may recall the principle that a right thing done in a wrong way is wrong. Today, many are serving God in a wrong way which negates service to the Lord and ends up as "wood, hay, and straw" (I Corinthians 3:11-15) at the Evaluation Seat of Christ Jesus (Romans 14:10). This was not the case with Paul.
3. He wanted to know all about the power behind Christ's celebratory victory on the cross and His resurrection: "That I may know Him (*through intensive studies of the infallible Word of God*), and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings..." (Philippians 3:10a).
4. He wanted to master and use the very assets Christ used in His humanity, namely the omnipotence of God's word through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul knew that Christ put His Father's word above all else; this is made clear in that "Doctrine" was Christ's last word on the cross: "Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed (*Hebrew: Padah = delivered, rescued*) me, O Lord, God of [doctrine!]" (Ps. 31:5). Bible doctrine and flawless application propelled the Lord Jesus Christ to His triumphant victory at His first advent.
5. Paul desired divine guidance, joy, happiness, and peace. "Thy word is a lamp (*Hebrew: Nerah = a light, lamp, prosperity, instruction*) to my feet and light (*Hebrew: Owr = illumination, enlightenment, happiness*) to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Jeremiah's words became Paul's own: "Thy words were found and I ate them (*believed and acted upon them*), and Thy words became for me a joy (*maximum tranquility of the soul*) and the delight (satisfaction) of my [soul]..." (15:16). Do you want divine guidance, happiness, spiritual wealth, and peace? Then stay in touch with doctrine, today, tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that-all the way to your death.
6. Paul had to make Church Age doctrine his own so he could run according to the rules that safeguard the dispensation of the church: "And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules" (II Timothy 2:5). When a believer ignores and/or rejects Church Age doctrine, he can't run according to its rules. Allow me to ask this vital question: Is your pastor-teacher feeding you with the spiritual food necessary for this dispensation?
7. The final reason: To advance to spiritual maturity and receive his rewards both in time and Heaven. He knew that the only way a believer can "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18), and be blessed in this life and forever, is through day-by-day perception and consistent application of Bible doctrine.

In Paul's departure from Ephesus, he told the believers (and it certainly applies to you and I), "And now I commend you to God and to the **word of His grace** (*Bible doctrine*), which is

able to build you up (*advance you to maturity*) and give you the inheritance (*reward in time and in eternity*) among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). In light of this, we can concretely conclude that apart from Bible doctrine permeating our souls, there will be no application; without application, spiritual maturity is a myth. Furthermore, without spiritual maturity, there is no capacity for life-for friendship, marriage, or happiness-no capacity for superior blessings in time or in eternity.

BIBLE DOCTRINE ALONE CANNOT ADVANCE ANYONE

Many Bible communicators stress the importance of learning Bible doctrine while neglecting to **highlight** and underline its **application**. No believer can advance one hundredth of a millimeter in his spiritual life without perception and application of doctrine on a regular, daily basis. We learn this vital principle in the Pauline epistles where it is vividly clear that the test of Bible doctrine is in its application.

In Paul's pastoral epistle to Timothy, he wrote, "Take pains with these things (Paul's teachings); be absorbed in them, so that your [*spiritual*] progress may be evident [*visible*] to all. Pay close attention (*watch carefully*) to yourself and to your teaching (*see to it that your teachings reflect your lifestyle*); persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you" (I Timothy 4:15,16).

What does Paul mean by "you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you?" For one thing, he was not talking about salvation from the Lake of Fire. Keep in mind that salvation is in three increments: past, present, and future. When a person anchors his faith alone in Christ alone, he is saved once and for all (Hebrews 10:14) from eternal damnation. Paul put it this way: "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity" (II Timothy 1:9). The salvation of a believer in time was wrought in eternity past-billions of years ago-way before we could possibly have had anything to do with it, good or bad. If you have believed in Christ, your salvation is now irreversible history; for there is "no condemnation for those who are in [*union with*] Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

The final increment of Salvation is when God removes the believer from life by death and he receives his resurrection body (I Corinthians 15:51-57). Now, we are subject to salvation in time when each believer is responsible for learning and applying Bible doctrine to all circumstances. A believer who fails to do this walks precariously in harm's way. Paul's message to Timothy can be better understood in Romans 8:13: "For if you are living according to the flesh (carnality), you must die (*the sin face-to-face with death*); but if by the (*enabling power of*) Holy Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body (sin nature), you will live (*you will be saved in time from the sin unto death*)."

The Lord Himself uttered these words: "Everyone who comes to Me and hears (*learns*) My words (*Bible doctrine*) and acts upon them (applies them to his life), I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house upon the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great" (Luke 6:47-49).

The Lord's teaching, at this point, envelopes the principle that perception of Bible doctrine without its application is meaningless. Christ further hammered home this crucial truth when a rude woman interrupted His teaching: "And it came about while He said these things, one of

the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breast at which you nursed.' But He (the Lord) said, 'on the contrary (*wrong*), blessed (*happy*) are those who hear the word of God and observe (*Greek: Phulasso = Guard, watch, apply*) it" (Luke 11:27,28). Prior to correcting this woman, He declared: "...My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do (apply) it" (Luke 8:21).

James, the stepbrother of our Lord Jesus Christ, put it this way: "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer (*doesn't apply the doctrine he has learned*), he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; and once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law (sound Bible doctrine), the law of liberty, and abides by it (*Greek: Parameno = connotes both retention and application*), not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man (*whomever he may be*) shall be blessed in what he does" (1:22-25).

It is important to reiterate that the doctrine in Paul's soul, and his perseverance in using it, was what transformed his human viewpoint to divine viewpoint, causing him to become humble in his relationship with God and others-it was what prepared him to be a grace-oriented believer-it was what propelled him to spiritual maturity-it was what made his life precious both to the elect angels and to believers of the world.

SAMPLES OF APPLICATION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

No two believers apply Bible doctrine in the same way, so we are going to throw out random sampling:

1. A believer becomes the victim of malicious gossip: He has one of two options; he can break fellowship with God by reacting in bitterness and seek to get even with the mastermind of the gossip, or he can apply the doctrine of "leave all injustice in God's hand." Paul wrote: "Never pay back evil for evil...Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written (Deut. 32:35), '**VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY SAYS THE LORD**'" (Romans 12:17,19).
2. Things fall apart in one's life: The believer can become panic-stricken about the future and immediately forfeit fellowship with God, lose the filling of the Holy Spirit and tranquility of soul, or he can relax and apply what Paul did: "And we know that God causes all things [sickness, lost of loved ones, lost of employment...lost of wealth] to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Or, the believer can find great comfort and hope in Job's application: "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives..." (Job 19:25a).
3. Someone in your periphery (a husband, wife, or friend) does not conform to your standards: The believer can react (a symptom of immaturity) or he can reach into his soul and pull out virtuous love: "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered...love never fails" (I Corinthians 13:4-8a).
4. A believer has an opportunity to become rich by exploitation: The believer juggles the doctrine in his soul against the temptation and comes to the conclusion that any profit that is not directly from God is no profit after all! For it's the "blessing of the Lord that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it" (Prov. 10:22).
5. A believer is at the crossroads of life: The believer with metabolized doctrine does not fret. Rather, he waits on the Lord, and while waiting, he reminds himself, "For such is God, Our God forever and ever; He will guide us until death" (Psalm 48:14), and he

seriously concentrates on our Lord's words: "I will instruct (guide) you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you" (Psalm 32:8).

6. The believer is in severe suffering: He draws upon God's word in his soul like Job did: "Though He slay me, I will hope (*have absolute confidence*) in Him" (Job 13:15). He holds on, never retreats to self-pity, but reaches the same conclusion as did Job: "But He knows the way (*Hebrew: Derek: journey, course*) I take; when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). In plain language, "God knows what I'm going through, and He knows how and when to get me out and makes my life more splendid. After all, He alone can blend bad things with good things and comes out with a product of intrinsic good"

As we ride the waves of our spiritual lives, we will face tests in all forms and shapes; the Lord is glorified only when we utilize the same powers that He used in His incarnation, then passed them to us-the power of Bible doctrine and the filling of the Holy Spirit. These divine assets are provided in grace, utilized in grace, and in the filling of the Holy Spirit; without even one of these ingredients, application of Bible doctrine is impossible.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Paul, a trophy of grace, wrote this: "But by His doing (*minus anyone's effort plus nothing*) you are in Christ Jesus..." (I Corinthians 1:30a); and "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works (*of any kind*), that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

God is perfect and His work is perfect. God the Son purchased you (I Peter 1:18, 19)-perfect transaction. God the Holy Spirit sealed you (II Corinthians 1:22)-perfect seal. God the Father keeps you saved by His power (John 10:29)-perfect security. Because God provides salvation in grace, and we are the beneficiaries of His grace, there's nothing to add.

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling (*losing your salvation*), and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 1:24-25).

PAUL'S GRACE-ORIENTATION

To be continued-(Volume 24-lesson 10)

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

These are the Lord's words of encouragement and reassurance that He spoke to His confused and bewildered disciples: "Let not your heart be troubled...In My Father's house are many dwelling places (mansions); if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Our Lord had just delivered His discourse concerning His betrayal, death, and ascension, when suddenly, His disciples became discouraged. "Why are we following Him? What's our gain? Where do we go from here? What will happen to us afterward?" These and many other questions were probably running through their minds. But our Lord calmed them with the word of life.

We often run into similar situations in our day-to-day spiritual lives. Perhaps we ask, "Why must we go to Bible class every day? Why must we learn and apply doctrine consistently? Do we really need spiritual rewards to live in heaven?" and so on and so forth. To the weary-soul, Paul encourages, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (don't be discouraged; don't give up hope), knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). He further asserts, "And let us not lose heart in doing good (good of intrinsic value), for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary" (Galatians 6:9); therefore, "Let us hold fast...our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

Progress Report

Our purpose is to inform and bring you up-to-date about what God is doing for and through this ministry. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for His indelible work. When you approach His throne in prayer, please remember Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Praise Him for His work through us; our work is nothing apart from His grace.

USA

Demand for our publications continues to grow. Many of our partners have joined us in the distribution of our materials to positive believers. Our mailing list gets larger by the week, causing us to stand in awe and reverence of the Almighty God for what He is doing.

OVERSEAS

- We currently support pastors teaching doctrine in the churches we established in Africa until they become financial-self-supporting.
- Right now, we have eight men that we sponsor at GEM's recommended seminaries in Africa. Dozens more are on the waiting list.
- Today, our mailing list includes addresses from Australia, Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, India, Philippines, Scotland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The list grows as God directs and removes linguistic, racial, cultural, and geographical barriers to make Himself known to those who seek to know Him. We consider it a great privilege to be His instrument in spreading the gospel and doctrinal truths.

RECENT MISSIONARY TRIP TO ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe August 2001

Moses and Gloria Onwubiko returned from Zimbabwe on the 18th of August. Moses is becoming conditioned to travel and recovers more quickly with each trip-no jet lag this time! This was Gloria's third trip, so she was exhausted. Sleeping on a 19-hour flight is very difficult. Moses laughed that perhaps first class was what Gloria needed-like the one given to him as a gift in his previous trip. He humorously told us about this in his report before our congregation.

A pastor-teacher from Mississippi (once connected with Berachah), Roy Hurst, was introduced to Moses by telephone earlier in the summer. He talked with Moses before he left and made plans to meet him in Zimbabwe. Their plans worked out well and time spent together was most enjoyable. Upon returning, he called Bob Thieme and reported lots of positive volition in Zimbabwe...a nation who's history reflects decades of instability, war, and endless problems. Roy now pastors a church in Decatur, Mississippi.

Zimbabwe was formerly known as Rhodesia and borders on South Africa. The pastor-teacher in Zimbabwe (who coordinates Moses G.E.M. trips), John Gumbo, agrees with Moses and Roy that there is indeed significant positive volition in Zimbabwe; the Lord will always honor positive volition. Since there's not an evangelist in this area, the pastor-teacher and congregation encourage Moses to stay longer and return frequently. An already large congregation will increase even more due to the response of recent missionary work.

All the pieces fell into place as the Lord was in full control: No illnesses, no crime, no hassles, no accidents, no bad food to inconvenience Moses and Gloria. Every aspect of the trip, including distribution of seven boxes of material, went well. The airline allows two boxes and beyond that, the excess baggage charge is \$145.00 per box but far less than Federal Express' quote of \$24,000.00 for 30 (70Lbs) boxes of books and Bibles!

Printed material is in great demand, making it evident that a publication center in Africa is needed and would cost significantly less than shipping charges from the US. There are no high quality, low cost, printers operating in Nigeria.

As for comparing the positive volition between Zimbabwe and Nigeria, Moses said he couldn't make such a comparison other than to say there is significant positive volition. There is nothing better a person can do for the tranquility and prosperity of that war-torn nation than to feed the positive.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ZIMBABWE TRIP

- A stranger approached Rev. Onwubiko in a restaurant in Zimbabwe and said: "Your face looks familiar." But Moses could not recall his face. The man said: "You look like a picture on the back of a book by Moses." Rev. Onwubiko humbly acknowledged that he is that person. The man said that Moses' books, *Biblical Doctrine of Salvation* and *God's Plan After Salvation*, have changed his life and his fiancé's! Before they parted ways, Moses introduced him to Thieme's ministry to obtain more study material.
- A restaurant server approached the table and Moses asked him his usual question: "if you were to die today, would you go to heaven?" The gentle man said he wants to but was not sure how. Moses then presented the gospel, and the server believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. He said with joy, "Now, I know why I stayed beyond my scheduled work time, because I have found God...that's the reason I stayed!" Our Lord says, "...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who [changes his mind about Christ]..." (Luke 15:7). And so there was great joy that day!
- 38 people who responded to Moses' previous missionary trip to Shangani, about 400 miles from Victoria Falls, came to the crusade and remained for its entirety. After GEM's crusade, Pastor John Gumbo expects his already large congregation to triple. Many believers are leaving their churches and are joining Pastor Gumbo's church to receive grace teaching. This growing church solicits your prayer as they seek larger accommodations.

- Gloria had great response from two sessions with children ages 7-11. She gave them the gospel and basic Bible teaching. Children's books from Thieme's ministry were distributed and welcomed!
- Moses and team witnessed on buses, taxis, shopping centers-all over. Most had the same answer when asked if they are going to heaven: "I am working towards that...I don't do bad stuff...I try to follow God's law." The issue of salvation by grace was made most clear in all instances.
- A missionary team from Colorado (not teaching grace salvation) came to Zimbabwe to evangelize and plant churches. They were assigned to the same hall as Moses' on his last night. Talk about divine intervention! This group decided to stay and listen to Moses. The Holy Spirit caused Moses to hammer home: Faith Alone in Christ Alone! The reason became clear when one of them, later, handed Moses their gospel pamphlet which reads: There are four things one must do to be saved:
 1. You must repent of your sins. Repentance means, "to feel sorry." Tell God that you are sorry.
 2. Confess your sins to God (1 John 1:9).
 3. Tell Jesus Christ to come into your life.
 4. And you must be baptized and tell others about it.

Obviously, the battle is the Lord's. False evangelism was thwarted once again-a reminder that Jesus Christ begins all and ends all. Onwubiko stated that they wouldn't have the same peace of mind, from here on out, when they preach their false message. He observed serious note-taking during his grace presentation.

BRIEF REPORT FROM THE CRUSADE ORGANIZER

(Complied and forwarded by Pastor John Gumbo-Zimbabwe)

It is amazing grace to witness the second missionary trip of Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko to Zimbabwe.

The program was interrupted the first night because the stadium's electrical bulbs were stolen, which made it difficult to proceed; they were replaced for the following nights. The gospel message that Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko delivered to unbelievers was lucidly relevant to the principles of grace, and there was good response. As a result, more than 100 people have joined our church.

Follow-up basic teaching commenced (Sunday morning) in the open field since the regular classroom would not contain the audience. It was indeed a blessed morning when Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko gave the whole congregation a clear picture of grace and the love of God. The evening meeting was moved to the stadium hall where grace teaching continued. It is tremendous to learn that the response was overwhelming. On the last night of the 12-day program, books were distributed to everyone. Many people were so delighted that they tried to persuade Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko to stay another month!

Gloria Onwubiko held a two-day meeting for children. Using visual aids, She taught the children about God and His salvation plan, on their level, and concluded with the essence of God doctrine. The next day she reviewed her previous lesson and asked the children questions. I was amazed that they remembered things taught the day before! We are truly grateful to God for allowing Rev. Moses and Gloria to visit us in Victoria Falls. We look forward to their next

visit.

REV. MOSES C. ONWUBIKO'S ITINERARY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2001

June 1 - August 2: U.S.A.

July 14 -15: Grace Bible Church of Frankfort, Frankfort, IN

July 27 - 29: Albany Bible Church, Albany, GA

August 3 - 17: Zimbabwe

August 18 - September 14: U.S.A

August 25 - 28: Berachah Church, Houston, TX

September 15 - 21: Switzerland (with George Mueller)

September 22 - 30: Germany (with George Mueller)

October 1 - 30: U.S.A

November 1 - 16: Nigeria

November 17 - 25: Gambia

November 26 - December 17: Cameroon (with George Mueller)

December 18 - 31: U.S.A

Letters to Grace Evangelistic Ministries

We would like to share some letters we received to show how your partnership is producing dividends for the glory of our merciful Father. As you read, please join us in giving thanks to God who does all the work: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

Dear ones in Christ,

The Scriptural literature and the gospel pamphlets you sent us are all finished. They were refreshment to many hearts. I believe it was God's divine purpose to bring into existence Grace Evangelistic Ministries to assist in the fulfillment of the Great Commission as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20.

Please send us more literature, Scriptural books, tapes, and gospel pamphlets. We are praying for the ministry and its workers.

Yours in Christ,

D. G., Harare, Zimbabwe

Dear Grace Ministries,

I have learned with delight how your ministry is growing, especially in my hometown. Your wonderful publication, "Riding the Death Train" has become a powerful tool in my evangelism. I have been distributing them for quite some time. And the tracts have made a handful of converts.

If possible, can you send me your books and tapes and a Bible with concordance? Would you also let me know how I can send my donation to you.

May God bless you in your endeavors to reach the whole world with the gospel message of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours faithfully,
P.S., Harare, Zimbabwe

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

Accept my greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, whom we serve.

I received the three parcels you sent to me. And I really thank God for the help you are rendering to the world and me. These books are of great help to me and many of the believers who have been derailed through false doctrine. "Riding the death Train" has helped unbelievers come to the saving knowledge of Christ. My prayer everyday is that ignorance should not be an excuse, but that everyone should come in touch with this sound Bible teaching. Your doctrinal teaching is so wonderful.

Presently, my support to you is my prayers; and I hope to support you in the future when I am in the position to do so.

I thank God for you.

In Christ,
S. E. Bamenda, Cameroon

Dear Rev. Moses,

My main reason of writing this letter to you is to let you know that since I read the book, "The Biblical Doctrine of Salvation" I have come to know my stand in Christendom. Before, I thought that going to church and keeping the Law, that is the Ten Commandments, are the only things that I need to do in order to go to heaven. When I read your conversation with a salesman, in your book, it was then that I realized that I am not yet saved. Thank God for that book.

It was God's plan for you to write that book for both unbelievers and believers alike. And it is really achieving the purpose for which you wrote it. I have given it to some friends, and to our pastor. Also my family is making use of it as daily guide for our morning devotion.

If there are some other books available, I would like to have them for my spiritual growth. I also want some tracts for my evangelism. I pray that God will see you through in your ministry.

Your son in Christ,
N.G., Abia State, Nigeria

Dear Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko,

I am so glad to have come into contact with you and Grace Evangelistic Ministries. I must admit that since my meeting with you in person and attending your teachings; I have never

been the same person.

I thought that I had arrived theologically until I met and heard your teachings; then I knew I was just starting. What would I have given out, as a pastor-teacher, if God had not brought me into contact with the truth communicated through your ministry?

I thank God for GEM in Africa; and I thank Him much more for locating the HQ here in Jos for Africa, because I live in Jos.

I am already using the opportunity for God to fulfill His plan concerning my life; and for all that He has used the ministry for to invest in me for His glory. I am confident that God will use me to accomplish His plan for my life. Because of this challenge, I have entered seminary for the necessary training, so that I can be equipped to service Him.

*In His grace,
Pastor S.T., Plateau State, Nigeria*

GRATITUDE TO GOD FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

Missionary trip to Zimbabwe: We are profoundly grateful to God for His provision for the trip, the success, and journey mercies.

Bible Doctrine for Thought

As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, what constitutes your life? What is most important to you in this life? What actually will you take with you should you die tonight? Does the Bema Seat (Evaluation Seat) of Jesus Christ concern you? Do you give thought to His final words, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its work (its contents: earthly structure, mansions, wealth, monetary assets, things we value most, even the insignificant) will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people (believer) ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness (spiritual integrity)" (II Peter 3:10,11).

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the [Holy] Spirit says to the churches. To him (every believer) who overcomes, I will grant to eat the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7). We pause to meditate on this truth. Would you meditate on these also?

Here is the Truth

Does Satan Go After A Carnal Believer?

To answer this question in one word, no! You have heard many believers say, "Pray for me, Satan is after me!" No! He is not after any self-defeated believer. The truth of the matter is this: If you are a believer in carnality, Satan automatically declares you a spiritual casualty. Your

suffering is self-induced-self-inflicted misery. Satan neither messes with believers who are already down on the battlefield of the angelic conflict, nor does he pay them any mind. Rather, he goes after those who are intense in their advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity—he goes after the invisible spiritual heroes who are glorifying God to the maximum—the matured believers. Thus we read in Acts, "And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus (the God-Man) I know, and Paul (a super-grace believer) I know; but who are you?'" (Acts 19:15--KJV Rainbow Study Bible). Satan doesn't even give them a thought!

What can we say to a believer who suffers unbearably and it's self-induced? We all have been in this situation and probably will be again, if we fail to be mindful of our spiritual lives. God, in His marvelous grace, has made a provision for restoration into the spiritual arena. The solution is for the believer to acknowledge sin(s) to God (I John 1:9; cf. Psalm 51:2-4, 32:5), and keep moving (Philippians 3:13b). When the believer is restored to fellowship, God can instantly remove the misery, or allow it to linger for a while. But in either case, it is for the believer's blessing. The Psalmist sang, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Thy statutes (Bible doctrine)" (Psalm 119:71). Once a believer is restored, God knows how to mix his spiritual failures and his self-induced misery to come up with blessing. Only God can do that!

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Our African office in Jos is having difficulty meeting the demand for doctrinal literature. Many are turned away because of shortage in supplies. Our desire is to establish a small printing shop to assist them in meeting the daily demand of those who are positive to sound Bible doctrine.

NEWS ALERT

The Muslims in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria attacked Christians On August 7, 2001, which caused many casualties on both sides. Many churches and Christian homes were burned. Some Christians reacted by burning Mosques and Islamic homes.

God in His matchless grace shielded GEM headquarters and its workers!

AMERICA UNDER SEIGE

CLIENT NATION: U. S. A. is currently God's client nation. One may ask, "What's client nation?" A "client nation" is God's elect nation designed to serve His purpose in the formation of spiritual integrity through accurate expository Bible teaching, perception and application, massive personal evangelism, worldwide missionary engagements, and to be a haven for the Jews. Keep in mind that God selects one nation at a time to have this privilege.

Another question might be, "What is the true mark of a client nation?" God causes the client nation to stand aloof amongst all nations—in all aspects! (Deuteronomy 28:10, 12, 13).

ISRAEL: We begin with Israel. God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt in 1441 BC and made them a client nation, or in her case, a priest nation. The basis for their blessing and cursing was

concretely defined in Scripture, especially in Leviticus chapter 26 and Deuteronomy chapter 28. Often, Israel went into reversionism, abandoned her assignments and in each case, God warned them through cycles of discipline that underscore His grace policy. Occasionally, due to her failure to rebound as a nation, God allowed her enemies to defeat and enslave them. The last blow was wrought in 70 A.D. when Judah, Israel's last client nation to God, was conquered. That brought the time of the Jews to a screeching halt and opened the door to the time of the Gentiles (Luke 21:20-24; Romans 11:25). As a result, God set the Jews aside until the millennial reign of Christ. And in 70 A.D., or thereafter, the Roman Empire became the first Gentile client nation in the Church Age.

ROMAN HISTORY: Roman history shed some light about the affect of Christianity during the rise and fall of Rome. Notwithstanding, God caused Rome to stand tall for nearly ten centuries. Spiritual integrity among Christians was the norm in those days-a reflection of Paul's work along with other apostles. Rome became a channel through which evangelism spread worldwide. God blessed Rome beyond measure!

On the other hand, we learn from Roman history that the downfall of Christianity also affected the Roman Empire. This underlines the principle: When spiritual integrity is elevated in a nation, evil is subdued; when spiritual integrity is subdued, evil is elevated. "Righteousness [spiritual integrity] exalts a nation, But [a lifestyle of] sin is a disgrace to any [nation-especially God's client nation]" (Proverbs 14:34). Rome failed God as a client nation, thus God removed them and set up another nation that enjoyed similar blessings as Rome once did. Throughout church history, a handful of nations served as God's client nations. These nations are no longer under the spotlight as they once were.

ENGLAND: England, at one time, enjoyed this privilege of representing God. They also failed God, and God set her aside. Today, England is still in existence without its glamour; the same is true for Rome and other nations that once served God's purpose. Just think about it, England once colonized the United States of America.

GOD'S CURRENT CLIENT NATION: Today, America remains God's client nation. It goes without saying that America was established on Christian principles. When one closely looks at American history, he would undoubtedly come to the conclusion that God was behind the erection of this great nation, through which He could reveal His grace to the rest of the world.

ESTABLISHMENT: From the onset, believers in America had one purpose, namely the glorification of God! Many podiums in local churches were used for expository Bible teachings; believers grew in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The passion for national evangelism and worldwide missionary work was immense and incalculable!

Because of America's unquenchable passion for God's work, some prestigious institutions like Yale, Harvard, and Princeton were established with emphasis on training and equipping missionaries. Almost every Christian was on fire! Spiritual integrity was a banner; evil was under control. What a haven back then! Stemming from that, God blessed the nation in abundance because believers utilized His grace provision: Bible doctrine, the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, and serving God's purpose.

As one follows the trend of history, he can clearly see that the early fire is merely a flicker. Spiritual integrity has shrunk drastically, or almost disappeared. Evil, in all facets, has skyrocketed. Emotionalism has overshadowed true spirituality, and passion for missionary work is almost non-existence! The list goes on from there. Indeed, America, as God's current client nation, has embarked upon the same rugged road that God's other client nations

traversed in the past and were, subsequently, removed by God's Sovereignty. The compelling question is how far has this great nation gone in the wrong direction? Only the Supreme Court of Heaven has the answer. Can the country be reversed? Again, only God knows.

JUDGMENT: God is the gracious One who gives grace in a series of warnings before final judgment. In the past, God warned the nation with unusual storms, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tornados, and recession. Media statements such as, "This type of flood has never happened in US history-It is the worst calamity," are ignored by believers. Moses poignantly affirmed, "But if you [My client nation] do not obey Me and do not carry out all these [client nation assignments]...I, in turn, will do this to you: I will appoint over you a sudden terror... And I will set my face against you so that you shall be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when no one is pursuing you [or you will be buying gas masks, anti-biological attack medicines when no one is attacking you]" (Leviticus 26:14, 16, 17).

On September 11, 2001, God momentarily lifted His protective wall of fire (Zech. 2:5) around America and authorized the nation to be struck by a small group of terrorists! This was His way of saying, "America, may I have your attention!?" "What in the world are you doing? What kind of picture are you showing the world? Have you forgotten the reasons I chose you? Have you forgotten the source of your prosperity and protection? Why is evil on the horizon? What happened to personal evangelism? What happen to your passion with regard to worldwide missionary endeavors? This may be the last warning bell before America joins the rest of God's suspended client nations!

SOLUTION: "[If] My people...humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14). A change of heart regarding God's plan and using I John 1:9 must precede offering of prayer; otherwise the prayer will not be answered.

DIVINE SOLUTION-THE ONLY SOLUTION: You are to pray for an extension of grace. If God answers your prayer, you are to:

- Pause, reexamine, reshape, and refocus your mission in life as a believer, and return to God in a hurry!
- Make daily intake and application of Bible doctrine your highest priority! After all, without national tranquility, your other programs, which you may consider most important, would be futile.
- Have passion and thirst to utilize your ambassadorship privilege to witness to unbelievers as opportunity presents itself.
- Make it a point of duty to pray and support missionaries.
- Refrain and desist from any form of anti-Semitism.

Dear Heavenly Father, we realize that our nation is under siege and under fire in the hands of terrorists. We also know from Scripture that man proposes, but that You alone can approve or veto man's intentions. Far more disheartening, we as a nation have failed You in every sense of the word. We thank You for what happened on September 11, 2001, because You ask that we thank You in everything. Thank You for the wake-up call. Father, every believer knows that if we are destroyed today, You would be justified. Evil reigns in our country. We are asking for what we do not deserve-an extension of Your grace.

And may every believer in this country know that Your broom is poised, ready to sweep us out as Your client nation, should we continue in the direction that we are heading. Like King

David prayed, "Direct our heart to Thee."

*We pause to remember those who were personally affected by the September attack. We pray that they may be consoled. We are clay in Your hands; therefore, mold us and make us according to your mercy and infinite grace. May the former flame of those whom You used to establish this country be re-ignited in our souls, so that we may serve Your purpose. We pray for president Bush...that his decisions will glorify You in America and abroad. We pray that You may return the "wall of fire" for the protection of America, its citizens, and guests within and around the world.
This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.*

The Good News

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, He had you on His mind. All sins, including those you have not yet committed, were poured out on Jesus Christ, and He was judged for each and every one in your place (I Peter 2:24). The penalty has already been paid. He endured the judgment for all the sins of the world to pave the way for you to have eternal life through faith in Him. No matter how sinful you have been, you can be forgiven and your slate wiped clean by God. How? By telling God right now that you are believing in His Son, Jesus Christ. The moment you do this, you share God's eternal life forever. The Bible says, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Will you believe in Him today? Or will you reject Him? The decision is entirely yours.

Financial Policy

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funds. We believe that God in His grace will continue to meet our financial needs as they arise.

We do not charge for books or audiotapes. No money is requested. Anyone desiring to receive our books, tapes, or other spiritual materials can receive them at absolutely no cost.

When gratitude for the Word of God and understanding of the need to reach the unsaved souls with the simple grace gospel and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God (II Corinthians 9:7). This is a grace ministry.

Would You Join Us in Prayer?

GRACE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES' PRAYER GROUP

The importance of prayer cannot be over-emphasized!

The God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, gave us an unprecedented and perfect example to follow. His life and earthly ministry was encapsulated in a lifestyle of prayer, occupying a place of singular importance in His own life and teaching. In time of decision and crisis, He gave himself to prayer. Thus our Lord prayed when He was baptized (Luke 3:21,22); when he chose his twelve apostles: "It was at this time that He (Jesus Christ) went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12,13); when he was transfigured (Luke 9:29); when He was engaging in sustained and exhausting service: "In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there" (Mark 1:35-39); when He called forth Lazarus from the grave (John 11:41-43); when He was burdened for Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32); when He faced betrayal, execution, and divine abandonment (Mark 14:32-42); when he thought of His disciples and their future ministry (John 17); and when He was dying (Luke 23:46). Therefore, if you are a believer who takes prayer lightly, sin no more. "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you..." (1 Samuel 12:23).

If Jesus Christ, perfect God and perfect man, spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12), imperfect man (you and I) should spend all year in prayer!

WOULD YOU JOIN US IN PRAYER

As we pray for:

- More open doors for our ministry
- The student-pastors in seminary
- The sustenance and growth of the churches we formed
- U.S.A (that president Bush's would make the right decisions in handling the terrorists etc)
- Israel and the Middle East conflict
- Partners-that God would continue to meet their needs
- R. B. Thieme Jr., and his ministry
- Success in our missionary endeavors in this year of our Lord 2001
- Protection as we travel
- Success in our next missionary trip to Nigeria, Gambia, and Cameroon
- Continued provision for our ministry and others that serve Him faithfully
- Men and women in the military

Our Grace Ministry Has No Limits

Therefore, if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue, "Grace News Today", or other materials of spiritual value, please write to the following address:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries

P. O. Box 17246

Nashville, TN 37217-7246

or

call us at **(615) 365-0015**

or

you may visit our web site

on the Internet at:

<http://www.gracemissions.org/>

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