

# *Six weeks to Falling in Love with God!*

By Pastor Larry Rupp

*“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30*

As I shared last month, we will be going on a six-week journey to falling more in love with God. Our journey will begin March 28 and go through May 8, 2010. During this time we will be utilizing, our Sunday morning messages, E.K.G. small groups and a daily devotional to keep us focused. Our goal in doing this is: That the people of Grace Bible Church would truly be a people that would be in love with God and this would lead to true disciples and discipleship at Grace Bible Church.

The Rational for this is to:



1. To encourage and motivate Grace Bible Church to have a passionate love relationship with God.
2. To encourage each of us to not just love God but to fall in love with God.
3. To show how God's commands, disciplines, and structures can encourage us to be in love with God.
4. To encourage us to fall in love with Christ's church and to understand why the local church is important.
5. This series will not be about guilt or a to do list. Rather, it is about being truly in love with God.

## Sermon and Teaching Schedule

March 28, 2010 – Falling In Love with Worship: Palm Sunday

April 2, 2010 – God in Love with us: Good Friday

April 4, 2010 – Falling In Love with the Living God: Easter Sunday

Special Adult Sunday school time: Peter: Falling in Love with God!

April 11, 2010 – Falling In Love with God's Word

April 18, 2010 – Falling In Love with Prayer

April 25, 2010 – Falling In Love with your Neighbor

May 2, 2010 – Falling In Love with Christ's Church

*Please plan on fully participating in this six-week journey as together Grace Bible Church falls in love with God!*

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH CONNECTION**  
APRIL 2010

## Does God Exist?

### *A DVD Debate Video between Christopher Hitchens and William Lane Craig*

Come join us at 6:30pm on Friday, April 30th at GBC for a viewing of this informative and helpful debate between noted atheist author Christopher Hitchens and Biola University professor William Lane Craig. We'll view the debate and then have a brief time of discussion afterwards. Make plans now to attend - you won't regret it. More information will be forthcoming soon. Contact Kevin if you have any questions.

### **Summer VBS is coming soon !**

We are planning on holding our VBS program the week of June 14th-18th during the morning hours. Our theme this year will be "Saddle Ridge Ranch" and we're looking forward to a great week of western-themed Christian fun. We will begin holding planning meetings in April, so now's the time to start looking at your summer calendar. If you'd like to help out, please see the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or speak with Pastor Kevin - we would love to find a place for you to serve this coming summer.

**Yeehaw!**

### *LOVE TOUCHES DAY*

WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR SECOND LOVE TOUCHES DAY AT THE GILBERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMONS FROM **1-4PM ON APRIL 25TH, 2010**. FOR THIS ONE, WE WILL BE ASSEMBLING PILLOWCASES TO HELP OUT KIDS WHO ARE RECEIVING SERVICES FROM EITHER MARY GREELEY HOSPITAL OR THE AMES EMERGENCY RESIDENT'S SHELTER.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON COMING, PLEASE LET ANNETTE KNOW AND BRING 3/4 YARD OF FABRIC AND 1/4 YARD FOR A CONTRASTING BAND.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR JOINING US FOR THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN PRACTICAL WAYS IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY. SEE YOU THERE!



**Doctrine: The Christian Swear Word****Pastor Kevin**

The word "Doctrine" is one that we in the church don't like to throw around much anymore. It is seen as a dirty word...our own Christianized version of a four-letter curse word. And so we hear the cries all around us to seek out "deeds, not creeds" amongst other ideas because the very idea of agreeing with a doctrine is, by nature, seen as intolerant. By and large, this is exactly what many evangelical churches have done in the past several decades. Gone are the supposedly intolerant doctrinal statements. Gone are the sermons on the great themes of justification by faith alone, through Christ alone. In are the sermons on having "your best life now" and three ways to have a better marriage all the while helping you and I to reach our full "potential," whatever that is.

It is somewhat ironic that these sorts of people think they are saying anything new or adding to the discussion of how to live out Christianity. I say this not at all because I think myself smarter or more educated than these men - truth be told I am not. But rather I say this because all we need to do is take a short walk through the last hundred years of history and we'll see that serving the poor above all else, minimizing doctrine, and believing that the church is all about people here and now are not new thoughts. Truly, as we have been studying in Ecclesiastes, "there is nothing new under the sun" and so we have the same old idols of self and pride coming 'round again and again.

It was the year 1923 when Princeton professor J. Gresham Machen wrote his most famous book entitled "Christianity & Liberalism." Among other points, Machen's primary thesis was that Christianity is a fixed set of beliefs based upon what the Bible says. This is in contrast to what Machen calls liberalism (which has nothing to do with politics, as we might think of today) characterized by a minimizing of the Gospel and instead promoting good works for the poor and wholesome moral stories for the kids. Machen introduces his argument with a simple sentence, and yet it is one that we would do well to remember and consider here in 2010: "But if any one fact is clear, on the basis of the evidence, it is that the Christian movement at its inception was not just a way of life in the modern sense, but a way of life founded upon a message. It was based not upon mere feeling, not upon a mere program of work, but upon an account of facts. In other words, it was based upon doctrine." My friends, the Christian message is not simply a message about how to have a better marriage, how to raise your kids, and how to become a better you. The Bible speaks to all of those, but they aren't the crucial and primary point. Instead, the Christian message is the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world that we could be reconciled to a Holy God for the purpose of glorifying God forever. It's not about us, it's about God. Our purpose, as a church, is to spread that message first and foremost.

A more recent treatment (2005) is sociologist Christian Smith's work entitled "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers" in which he argues that most so-called Christian teenagers actually believe in "moralistic, therapeutic, deism" which is to say that if I am a good person, then God will want me to be nice to others and to have a good life, and that's about it. He isn't really involved day-to-day unless I ask Him for something to make my life better.

Both of these studies are getting at the same point: Christianity is defined by what the Bible says that it is. Not by what we may want it to say, not by what we hope it says, but by what the Word of God tells us it is, whether that is fashionable or not, or whether it is in style and trendy or not. Let's be a church that is known for proclaiming the Gospel and the Scriptures in ways that honor God before people and in ways that are faithful to God, rather than fearful of people. Let us serve others in physical and practical ways, certainly - just as we see in James, but not neglect to serve them what they need most: the Gospel - just as we see in the lives of Paul and ultimately Jesus.

**CHANGING LIVES  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

*Grace Bible Church*  
308 Mathews Drive  
P.O., Box 189  
Gilbert, IA 50105

*Larry Rupp - Lead Pastor*

*Kevin Miller - Discipleship & Community*

*Engagement Pastor*

*Amanda Jennings - Worship Director*

*Service Times:*

*Sunday morning prayer: 8:30am*

*Sunday School : 9:00 a.m.*

*Church Service: 10:30 a.m.*

*E.K.G. - Wednesday 6:00pm*

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*CONNECTING TO THE GILBERT AREA  
WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST*



## **Easter Season Special Events...**

Good Friday Service - April 2nd at 7pm

Easter Day Breakfast - April 4th at 8am

Bible Study for all ages - 9am

Worship service - 10:30am

### Ministering to the Lord, His Church, and One Another

Date	Nursery	Ushers/Greeters	Treats	Cleaning	EKG
04-04-10	Anita & Annette	Ed & Tom W.	(Breakfast)	Rupp's	Bonnie (3/7)
04-11-10	Ann & Jan	Rachael & Lindsey	Holck	Joan & Bakers	Gayle (3/14)
04-18-10	Edith & Bonnie	Jeremy & Seth	Cindy	Becker's	Sonya (3/21)
04-25-10	Karen & Rachael	Dave A. & Cal	Bakers	Cindy & Annette	Carol(3/28)

Reminder: Please clean up and do dishes after treats!

If you are unable to serve your date, please find a replacement to switch with or a substitute.

Thanks for serving - we appreciate you!