

# *Grace Bible Church Connection*

*October 2010*

## *Being thankful!*

*By Pastor Larry Rupp*

Being truly thankful is a challenge for most of us. Too often we see the glass half empty rather than half full. We don't seem to take much time being thankful to God for all He has done and all He is doing in our lives. The other night I was watching the television show **60 Minutes**. They were doing a report on individuals who were unemployed and have been unemployed for almost two years! Most of these folks were only ten to fifteen years from retirement and they were losing their homes, savings, retirement accounts, and hope for the future. I can't imagine how hard it is for some people during these difficult economic times!

It made me realize that my life is not very tough at all. Not only am I not going through these financial difficulties but, when I think about it I have been so blessed by the things that are really important in life, like my wife, children, grandchildren, friends, and the most important thing in life, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Christ gives us the hope for the future that so many people are missing today. He gives us real hope even in difficult circumstances.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18:  
***“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*** It has been a challenging year for many of us and many of our circumstances have not been pleasant, but we still have much to be thankful for. As a church we will be coming together for our annual **Harvest Dinner** on November 6th at 6:00pm. Together we can share what God has done in our community and church. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us!



Take time this month to be thankful for all that God has done for you and encourage others by sharing examples of God's faithfulness with them.

***Have a Great Thanksgiving!***

**What does it look like to “study the Bible?”** It seems like such a simple question, but how often do we actually take the time to define, to show, what it means to study the Bible? Oftentimes, as a pastor, one question that pops up again and again is something along the lines of “where do I start in the Bible?” or perhaps “I’m not getting much out of my Bible study, what can I do?” Sometimes, the questions take on a different tone, “I don’t read my Bible much because it seems so foreign and hard to understand - it’s just too difficult!”

Indeed, the Bible can be a daunting book - composed under the direction of the Holy Spirit over a number of centuries by various inspired authors who have different styles of writing, different vocabularies and write in different genres - let me be the first to agree that the Bible is a massive book, not just in number of pages, but in the topics that it covers and in the God that it reveals. Because of this, we have a choice to make: do we give up and just hope that whatever we hear on the radio or read in a popular book will be accurate? Do we give up on the idea that God has preserved the Scriptures so that individuals (you and me!) can seek to understand Him directly? Or, on the other hand, do we rise to the challenge? Do we tackle the task before us - even though we will sometimes struggle with what the Scriptures say?

For those of the second persuasion, let me offer a bit of hope - stick with it! Honestly, like so many things in life, reading - and reading a theological book like the Bible at that - is a skill that must be sharpened and honed. The only effective way to do this is to work at it. I can remember first learning to ride a bike - once the training wheels were off it seemed so difficult and I worried that I would never get the hang of it. But, with encouragement from my parents, I kept at it. Even through the falls, scrapes, and crashes. And you know what? Just like all of you, I can now ride a bicycle today without too much drama. Our study of the Bible is similar - it takes hard work, practice, and will sometimes result in frustration. And yet, when a thought finally comes together, or when you see God in a different light because you read something in the Scriptures that further clarifies and refines who He is - then you find that all of the effort has been worth it and is indeed a bargain price for what you have learned in return.

So - how to begin? First, let me encourage you to read the Bible. By that I mean that you should read the words for yourself. While there are many wonderful commentaries, study notes, and other helpful resources out there, discipline yourself to not utilize those until you have first studied the passage for yourself. In this, we follow the Berean model shown in Acts 17:11. Did the Bereans not have good teaching? Certainly that isn’t the case - they had Paul after all! And yet they understood that the Bible was the ultimate authority for faith and life. After you’ve read the text for yourself, then - and only then - should you feel free to use other resources to draw on the wisdom that God has given to others. Embrace the struggle.

Second, when you are reading the Bible, read with a purpose. One of my seminary professors wrote a book on what he calls the “OIA” method which is simply that for any given text of scripture, we should first **observe**, that is, to ask ourselves “what does this say? Why is that detail here? Why is this repeated?” Then, we are to **interpret**, which means that we should ask ourselves “What is God communicating to us throughout the ages? What does this text mean?” And finally, we are to **apply**, which is to ask and answer the question of “so what? What do I do now?” Start with these straightforward principles, stick to them, and I believe that you will begin to understand the scriptures better and - as a result - have a better understanding of the God who inspired them and sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins. And that great truth is worth our every effort! -Pastor Kevin

## *Men's Ministry*

*Every Tuesday starting*

*September 28, 2010*

**6:30 - 7:30am**

### *"The Measure of a Man"*

Join us for a time of Bible study, prayer, fellowship, laughter, and encouragement!

*All Men Welcome!*



(The book will be available at the first meeting)

## *Women's of Grace*

Monday nights at  
7pm

Beth Moore series on  
the Book of Esther  
"It's tough being a  
woman."

Questions?

Call:  
Cheryl  
Rupp



232-2821

## **P.F.C. (Prayer, Fellowship, and Communication)**

October 20, 2010 (Third Wednesday of each month)

6:00pm: Meal & Fellowship

6:30pm: Prayer Time (Church, Country, & each other)

7:00pm: Church Communication Meeting

8:00pm: Elders and group meetings

*All are Welcome and encouraged to attend!*

**CHANGING LIVES  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

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

Leadership Team

*Larry Rupp - Lead Pastor*

*Kevin Miller - Pastor of Discipleship & Community Engagement*

*Amanda Jennings - Worship Director*

Elders Deacons

*Cal Dunshee 233-1397*

*Tom Lorntson 232-2371*

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



**Service Times:**

*Sunday Morning Prayer: 8:30am*

*Bible Study for all ages: 9:00 a.m.*

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

**Doug and Roberta Moore at Grace Bible Church!**

**Tuesday October 5th at 7:00 pm**

**Join the Moore's for dinner at 5:30pm at Valentino's**

The Moore's will share their ministry at *River of Life Home* in Romania with us

**Please join us!**

*There will be a Soup & Sandwich fundraiser for Dave & Cathie Rocke's*

*Mission's trip to Africa on October 24th after church more details will follow!*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	<b>Treats</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>
10-03-10	Karen & Fran	Cal & Seth	Knutson	Becker's
10-10-10	Carol & Heather	Dave R. & Kirk	Ashby	Cindy & Annette
10-17-10	Susie & Cindy	Wade & Annette	- ? -	Lorntson's
10-24-10	Jan & Anita	Trent & Joseph	- ? -	Dunshee's
10-31-10	Edith & Michelle	Marvin & Dick	- ? -	Miller's

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!