

February 2021

Church Life

- If you are a guest with us today, we want to **WELCOME** you! If you haven't done so already, we invite you to stop by our Guest Reception Center in the lobby at the scooter table following the service. Someone will greet you, answer any questions you may have, and give you a gift as a thank-you for worshipping with us today!
- Want to know what is going on at Grace? Weekly, we email out the E-news. The E-news is a sermon summary written by one of our amazing attenders. Please fill out your connection card if you would like to receive this!
- Ladies, **Woodbridge Moms in Prayer** invites you to join them in praying over the teachers, students, and families in the Zeeland area. This group meets at Grace, the first and third Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am. Please come and join them if you are interested!
- Have you ever spoke to someone about something you, as a Christian, believe about God, Jesus, the Bible, life, death, Heaven, Hell, etc., and they look at you like you're from a different planet? What do you do or say? Don't walk away! Don't give up! Instead, prepare yourself. **1 Peter 3:15** says, "Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." Beginning on February 2 at 6:30 pm, Grace is starting a 12-week course titled, "**You Believe What?**" This study will explore some of the questions that skeptics have and some answers to those questions. Please join us at Grace and learn why you believe what you believe. Become a more confident witness.
- The **year-end giving statements** should arrive in your mailbox in the upcoming days. Please contact us if you have not received this.
- **Calling all Hunters!** If you are not aware, Grace plans a few men's hunting trips each year! This year we are planning a bear, antelope, and deer hunt! If you would like to get on the email list for future hunting trips, please place your name and email on your connection card.



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The Best is Yet to Come

Matthew 9:16-17, "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Luke 5:38-39, "No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"

Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"



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Are you open to the fresh move of God?

1. Do you have a Biblical world view? What does this mean to you?
2. Do you like change?
3. Has God ever spoken to you in a way that really made you re-evaluate your mindset?
4. Pastor Adam, heard the Lord say to him,

"I have seen your ministry; now walk beside me and see mine."

5. Do you believe that God sees the way you do things? God has seen you do what you think is best. Have you considered that He may be saying: "I have seen your ministry; now walk beside me and see mine."

READ: Matthew 9:16-17

6. What does this short passage say to you?
7. Pastor Adam talked about what this meant regarding our youth and young adults walking away from their faith... 80 percent, GONE by the age 29. No interest in being in a relationship with Jesus. They call themselves the "Nones." What is your reaction to this?
8. 73% of Nones came from religious homes; 66 percent were described by the study as 'de-converts' from Christianity. Does that make you pause?
9. Is it possible that we are trying to force a new generation into what our generation liked? Do you see this working well?
10. We do not have this problem at Grace but that does not mean we do not need to be aware of it. Why?
11. What the church at large is doing is not working around this country. However, the way our culture is reaching out to the next generation is clearly working quite well. Why is this a problem?

READ: Luke 5:38-39

12. What does it say about the old? So, what does this tell us?

*A Quote from Pastor Adam... Think about what Jesus said from this perspective, People love the old wine because it is BETTER! People love the way we have always done ministry because the new forms, new skins, new ways, are **new**, and we are not used to them yet, so we resist them. Do not miss what Jesus says, he says we cannot refuse the existence of new wine because the old is superior in flavor. We drink the old, but carefully preserve the new. Why? Because the reality is that the old will be exhausted and gone one day! And the new, however harsh it seems today, will get better with age. And one day might actually be BETTER or SUPERIOR in flavor to what we have now! And remember, this is NOT about wine, it is about ministry...it is about church traditions!*

READ: Pastor Adam's Quote, Discuss.

13. Do you believe we are called to follow the fresh new move of the Holy Spirit and embrace God's moving in a new way or to remain firm in tradition? What if it hinders the present move of God?
14. Balance in this process is critical, how do we find that internal balance?
15. Discuss the men and women Jesus surrounded Himself with. Jesus gave the future of his church into the hands of the most unlikely people ever! He committed the spreading of His kingdom to: Fishermen —A tax collector —A Zealot ----
16. In that culture how were these men New wine skins? Do you think this was hard on traditionalists? Is it now?

Pastor Adam said: These men, these disciples, these New wine skins brought change, and that change did not align with how people viewed church or church leaders growing up. Change is hard, but never ever forget this change led to you and me sitting in this room!

READ THIS: Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

God is crying out in our modern world asking, who shall I send, Who be new wine skins and who will accept new wine skins?

What do you say?

