



## Fast and Easy Giving

Grace Romanian Church



„Wherever riches have increased, the essence of religion has decreased in the same proportion.”

„Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

„Whosoever will reign with Christ in heaven, must have Christ reigning in him on earth.”

„What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.”

„We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others.”

„Reading Christians are growing Christians. When Christians cease to read, they cease to grow.”

„I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field.”

„Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame, if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago.”

„My talent is to speak my mind. God won't object if you bury that talent.”

„Cleanliness is indeed next to godliness.”

„As to matters of dress, I would recommend one never to be first in the fashion nor the last out of it.”

„When you set yourself on fire, people love to come and see you burn.”

John Wesley's Quotes

Let's wish them a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**GOD BLESS YOU!**

„For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

2 august	Ana Chira	17 august	Jennifer Zaha
6 august	Viorel Popa	26 august	Levi Todos
7 august	David Stamate	29 august	Nicolas Catalan
15 august	Dana Vizitiu	29 august	Dan Sandu
16 august	Iulian Jecu	30 august	Rozalia Filimon

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

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# AUGUST 2025

## GRACE CHURCH, YPSILANTI MI

## The Good War Against Moods, How Stubborn Faith Overcomes Feelings

desiringgod.org

Christian Hedonism emphasizes the importance of feelings. The Bible commands us to delight in the Lord, to love mercy, to fear God, to rejoice in hope. Emotions are essential to the obedient Christian life.

At the same time, Christian Hedonism recognizes that not all emotions are godly emotions. Not all feelings are faithful feelings. Not all affections are holy affections. Emotions aren't always our friends. Far from serving worship of God, they can hinder and undermine it. It's my growing conviction that we need to develop (or recover) a more robust vocabulary for describing various categories of feelings and emotions. In particular, it seems good to distinguish between immediate and impulsive feelings that are rooted in the soul but closely tied to our bodies, on the one hand, and deeper, more stable emotions that are exercises of our will, on the other. The former we can call passions; the latter we can call affections. With a little help from the apostle Peter and C.S. Lewis, we can see the value of making this type of distinction between immediate (and superficial) passions and deeper (or higher) affections.

**Set Your Hope on Grace** - First, consider Peter's exhortation in 1 Peter 1:13–16.

„Preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Notice the three phrases in verse 13: (1) “preparing your minds for action,” (2) “being sober-minded,” and (3) “set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you.”

The first phrase literally means “girding up the loins of your mind.” To use a modern image, we might say, “rolling up the sleeves of your mind.” Peter calls them to get ready to do some serious mental work, the kind that takes effort. This isn't roll-out-of-bed-in-your-pajamas work. This is get-your-work-clothes-on, make-sure-your-shoes-are-tied, get-your-game-face-on work. The second phrase refers to the opposite of drunkenness. Be sober-minded. Now, drunkenness impairs our perception, our judgment, our reaction times. So the opposite of drunkenness is an alertness, a clarity of mind, a steadiness. So roll up the sleeves of your mind, get clear and steady, and then what?

The final phrase calls for a particular affectionate response. Hope is a future-oriented affection. It is a glad-hearted expectation of something good that is coming. We don't yet possess it; we don't hope for what we already have. And Peter knows it is far too easy to be distracted by the cares and anxieties of this world, to look to the future with fear rather than faith. And so he exhorts us: Roll up the sleeves of our mind, get clear and steady, and then set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you. You've been born again to a living hope, an imperishable inheritance (1 Peter 1:3–5). Now set your hope fully on the tidal wave of coming grace.

**What Are Passions** - Now, why is setting our hope in this way so necessary? The next verse expresses the danger. “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance” (1 Peter 1:14).

Passions are the immediate and intuitive and impulsive exercises of the soul that are closely tied to the body. Passions can be good. Paul desires to depart and be with Christ (Philippians 1:23), using the same word translated as passions in 1 Peter 1. However, frequently the word passions in the Bible refers to sinful and ungodly passions. Elsewhere in 1 Peter, they are called “passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul” (1 Peter 2:11). They are linked with vices like sensuality, sexual immorality, drunkenness, and lawless idolatry (1 Peter 4:3). As human passions, they are opposed to the will of God (1 Peter 4:2). And these passions want to lead. They want to take us somewhere. If we follow them, then we indulge or gratify our passions, and they begin to conform us to their image.

## Joi - 7pm - Midweek Service:

7	Moise Z.	Cântarea de biruință în așteptare	Apocalipsa 15
14	Iulian J.	Demolare finală	Apocalipsa 16
21	Pavel P.	Istoria a două cetăți: Babilon și Ierusalim	Apocalipsa 17
28	Iulian J.	Distrugerea Babilonului	Apocalipsa 18

**Biserica Lui, pasiunea mea - Cuvântul Lui, pășunea mea!**

**Studiu biblic în 2 Petru & 2 Ioan & 3 Ioan**

Duminică, 3 Psalmul 8 Communion

10 am: îndemn Florin C. & Pavel P.

mesaj Moise Z. Provocările zilelor din urmă 2 Petru 3:1-13

5 pm: prayer & fellowship at the new location 1800 S Huron St. Ypsilanti

Duminică, 10 Psalmul 9

10 am: îndemn Richard P.

mesaj Adrian P. Preoccupations of an authentic Christian 2 Peter 3:14-18

5 pm: prayer & fellowship at the new location 1800 S Huron St. Ypsilanti

Duminică, 17 Psalmul 10

10 am: îndemn Iulian J.

mesaj David P. Biblical Principles of a Healthy Church 2 John 1-13

5 pm: prayer & fellowship at the new location 1800 S Huron St. Ypsilanti

Duminică, 24 Psalmul 11

10 am: îndemn Philip H.

mesaj Iulian J. Povestea a patru oameni 3 John 1-14

5 pm: prayer & fellowship at the new location 1800 S Huron St. Ypsilanti

Duminică, 31 Psalmul 12 Labor Weekend

10 am: îndemn Moise Z.

mesaj Iulian J. Luptați pentru credința sfinților Iuda 1-25

5 pm: prayer & fellowship at the new location 1800 S Huron St. Ypsilanti

So Peter depicts a conflict between an affection (hope) that requires serious mental effort, and the fleshly passions that wage war against our soul. And this is where Lewis is so helpful.

**Blitz Against Belief** - Lewis knows that the human mind is not completely governed by reason. There's often a conflict between what we know to be true and what our emotions (or passions) and our imaginations tell us is true. He says once someone has accepted the gospel, here's what will inevitably happen: „There will come a moment when there is bad news, or he is in trouble, or is living among a lot of other people who do not believe it, and all at once his emotions will rise up and carry out a sort of blitz on his belief. Or else there will come a moment when he wants a woman, or wants to tell a lie, or feels very pleased with himself, or sees a chance of making a little money in some way that is not perfectly fair: some moment, in fact, at which it would be very convenient if Christianity were not true. And once again his wishes and desires will carry out a blitz. I am not talking of moments at which any real new reasons against Christianity turn up. Those have to be faced and that is a different matter. I am talking about moments when a mere mood rises up against it.” (Mere Christianity, 140) Lewis knows that our moods pose a real danger to our faith. Elsewhere he says, „Our faith in Christ wavers not so much when real arguments come against it as when it looks improbable — when the whole world takes on that desolate look which really tells us much more about the state of our passions and even our digestion than about reality. . . . (Christian Reflections, 43)