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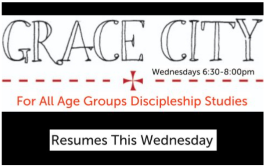
Grace Community Church of Topsail

Sunday, March 1, 2026: Gospel Grace Increases the More We Need It: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

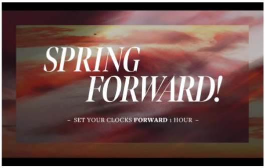

GRACE CITY
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm
For All Age Groups Discipleship Studies
Resumes This Wednesday

Journey to Heal Ministries
Hope Run
Fun for the family
April 26th at 5pm
Walk or run the 8th Annual Journey to Heal 5K/1.5 Mile run or walk in support of survivors of sexual abuse!

Local: Long Leaf Park, Shelter 6 - Wilmington.

Join the GCT Team

www.runsignup.com/jthmhoperun

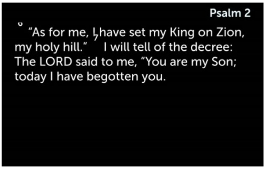

SPRING FORWARD!
– SET YOUR CLOCKS **FORWARD** 1 HOUR –

CALL TO WORSHIP **Psalm 2**

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? [2] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

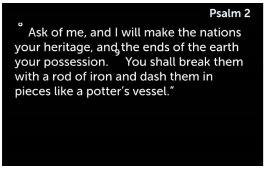
Psalm 2

[3] "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." [4] He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. [5] Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,



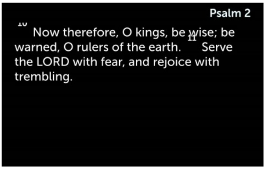
Psalm 2

[6] “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” [7] I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.



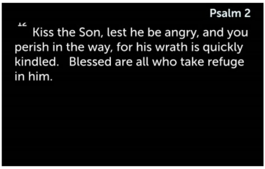
Psalm 2

[8] Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. [9] You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”



Psalm 2

[10] Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. [11] Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

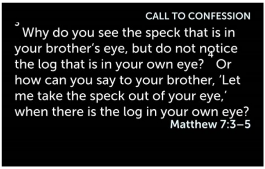


Psalm 2

[12] Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

♫ **Rise With The Sun**

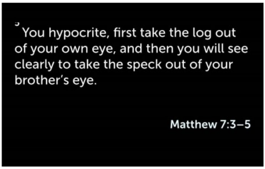
♫ **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**



CALL TO CONFESSION

[3] Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? [4] Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?

Matthew 7:3–5



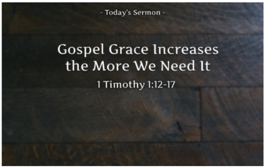
[5] You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

Matthew 7:3–5

♫ **How Deep The Father's Love For Us**

♫ **I Stand In Awe**

FOR THE CHURCH


- Today's Sermon -

Gospel Grace Increases the More We Need It

1 Timothy 1:12-17

1 Timothy 1:12–17 ESV

> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in...

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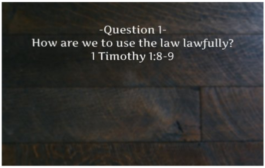
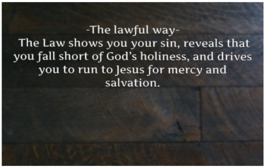

-Question 1-
How are we to use the law lawfully?
1 Timothy 1:8-9


-The lawful way-
The Law shows you your sin, reveals that you fall short of God's holiness, and drives you to run to Jesus for mercy and salvation.

1 Timothy 1:8–9 ESV

> Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers...

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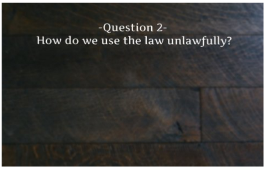
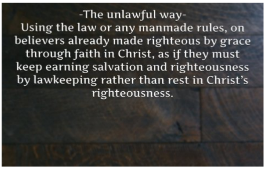
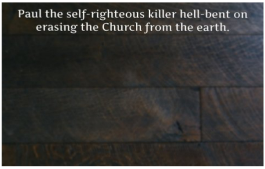


-Question 2-
How do we use the law unlawfully?



-The unlawful way-
Using the law or any manmade rules, on believers already made righteous by grace through faith in Christ, as if they must keep earning salvation and righteousness by lawkeeping rather than rest in Christ's righteousness.



Paul the self-righteous killer hell-bent on erasing the Church from the earth.

Acts 9:1–2 ESV

> But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to...

Continue reading »

Acts 26:9–11 ESV

> "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to...

Continue reading »

Acts 9:3–6 ESV

> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said,...

Continue reading »

Acts 9:15–16 ESV

> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

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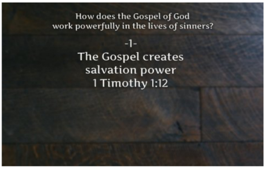


How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-1-

The Gospel creates
salvation power
1 Timothy 1:12

1 Timothy 1:12 ESV

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,

Continue reading »

Acts 9:22 ESV

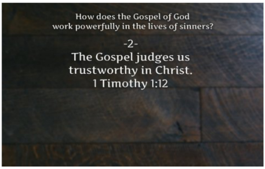
But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Continue reading »

Philippians 4:12–13 ESV

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Continue reading »



How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-2-

The Gospel judges us
trustworthy in Christ.
1 Timothy 1:12

1 Timothy 1:12 ESV

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,

Continue reading »

John 14:26 ESV

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Continue reading »

John 16:13 ESV

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

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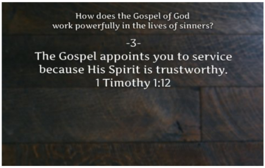

How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-3-

The Gospel appoints you to service
because His Spirit is trustworthy.
1 Timothy 1:12

1 Timothy 1:12 ESV

> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,

Continue reading »

Galatians 1:11–17 ESV

> For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life...

Continue reading »

2 Corinthians 3:5–6 ESV

> Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit...

Continue reading »

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 ESV

> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of...

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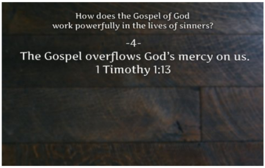

How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-4-

The Gospel overflows God's mercy on us.
1 Timothy 1:13

1 Timothy 1:13 ESV

> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,

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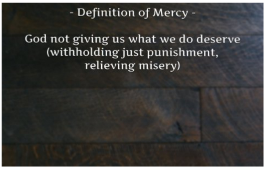
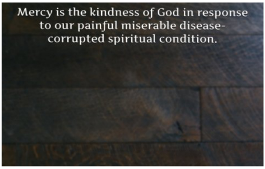
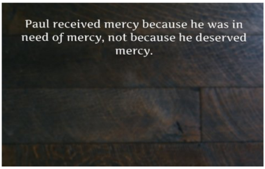


- Definition of Mercy -

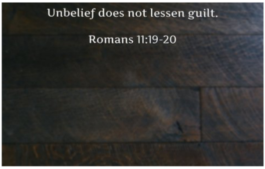
God not giving us what we do deserve (withholding just punishment, relieving misery)



Mercy is the kindness of God in response to our painful miserable disease-corrupted spiritual condition.



Paul received mercy because he was in need of mercy, not because he deserved mercy.



Unbelief does not lessen guilt.

Romans 11:19-20

Romans 11:19–20 ESV

> Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.

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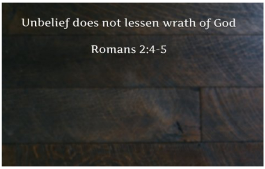

Unbelief does not lessen wrath of God

Romans 2:4-5

Romans 2:4–5 ESV

> Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath...

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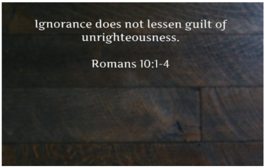
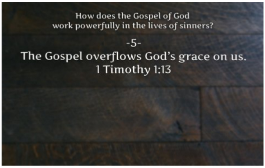


Ignorance does not lessen guilt of unrighteousness.

Romans 10:1-4



How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-5-

The Gospel overflows God's grace on us.
1 Timothy 1:13

1 Timothy 1:13 ESV

> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,

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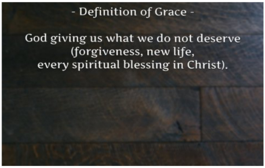


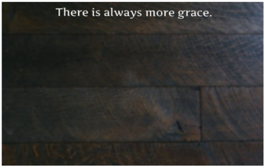
- Definition of Grace -

God giving us what we do not deserve
(forgiveness, new life,
every spiritual blessing in Christ).

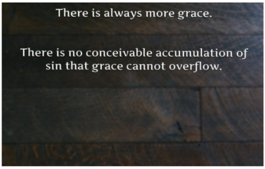
Romans 5:19–21 ESV

> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin...

Continue reading »

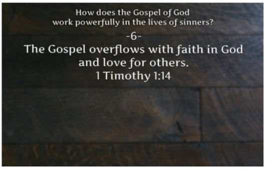


There is always more grace.



There is always more grace.

There is no conceivable accumulation of sin that grace cannot overflow.



How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-6-

The Gospel overflows with faith in God and love for others.
1 Timothy 1:14

1 Timothy 1:14 ESV

> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Continue reading »

Ephesians 1:15–16 ESV

> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

Continue reading »

2 Thessalonians 1:3 ESV

> We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

Continue reading »

Philemon 4–5 ESV

> I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,

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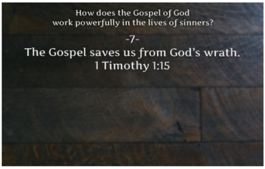


How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-7-

The Gospel saves us from God's wrath.
1 Timothy 1:15

1 Timothy 1:15 ESV

> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Continue reading »

John 3:17–18 ESV

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the...

Continue reading »

John 3:36 ESV

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Continue reading »

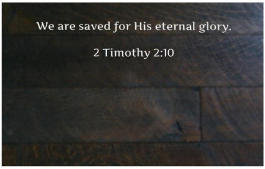
We are saved for the heavenly kingdom.

2 Timothy 4:18

2 Timothy 4:18 ESV

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Continue reading »



We are saved for His eternal glory.

2 Timothy 2:10

2 Timothy 2:10 ESV

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

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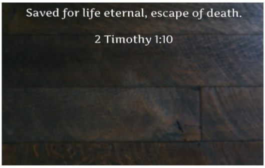


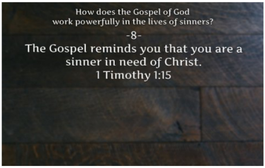
Saved for life eternal, escape of death.

2 Timothy 1:10

2 Timothy 2:10 ESV

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Continue reading »



How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-8-

The Gospel reminds you that you are a
sinner in need of Christ.
1 Timothy 1:15

1 Timothy 1:15 ESV

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."

Continue reading »

1 Corinthians 15:9 ESV

"For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

Continue reading »

Ephesians 3:8 ESV

"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,"

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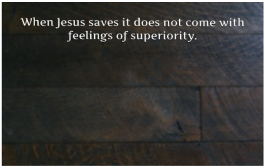
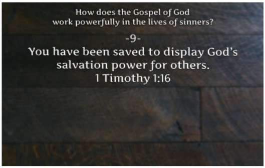


When Jesus saves it does not come with
feelings of superiority.



How does the Gospel of God
work powerfully in the lives of sinners?

-9-

You have been saved to display God's
salvation power for others.
1 Timothy 1:16

1 Timothy 1:16 ESV

"But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life."

Continue reading »

FOR THE CHURCH

We Receive

Hope Run

Journey to Heal Ministries

Fun for the family

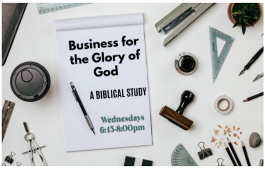
April 26th at 5pm

Walk or run the 8th Annual Journey to Heal 5K/1.5 Mile run or walk in support of survivors of sexual abuse!

Local: Long Leaf Park, Shelter 6 - Wilmington.

Join the GCT Team

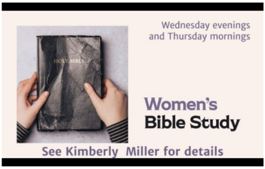
www.runsignup.com/jthmhoperun



Business for the Glory of God

A BIBLICAL STUDY

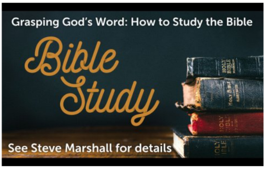
Wednesdays 6:15-8:00pm



Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings

Women's Bible Study

See Kimberly Miller for details



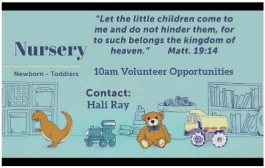
Grasping God's Word: How to Study the Bible

Bible Study

See Steve Marshall for details

Classical Christian School

For details see Evan Head



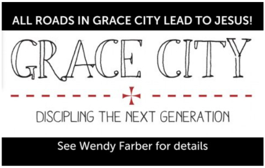
Nursery

Newborn - Toddlers

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14

10am Volunteer Opportunities

Contact:
Hali Ray



ALL ROADS IN GRACE CITY LEAD TO JESUS!

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

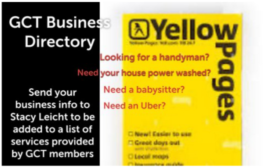
See Wendy Farber for details

Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
A Taste of Sunrise Coffeehouse

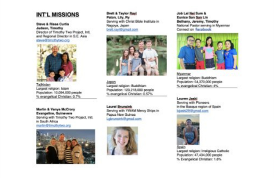
Discussions on Biblical Manhood



GCT Business Directory

Looking for a handyman?
Need your house power washed?
Need a babysitter?
Need an Uber?

Send your business info to Stacy Leicht to be added to a list of services provided by GCT members



INT'L MISSIONS

Steve & Rissa Curtis
Judson, Timothy
Director of Timothy Two Project, Intl. and Regional Director in S.E. Asia
steve@timothytwo.org

Tajikistan
Largest religion: Islam
Population: 10,094,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.7%

Martin & Vanya McCrory
Evangeline, Guinevere
Serving with Timothy Two Project, Intl. in South Africa
martin@timothytwo.org

Brett & Taylor Rayl
Paton, Lily, Ry
Serving with Christ Bible Institute in Nagoya, Japan
brett.rayl@gmail.com

Japan
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 123,218,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.57%

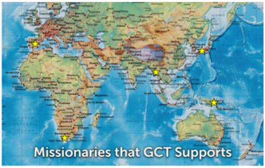
Laurel Brunsink
Serving with YWAM Mercy Ships in Papua New Guinea
Lgbrunsink@gmail.com

Job Lal Nei Sum &
Eunice San San Lin
Bethany, Jeremy, Timothy
National Pastor serving in Myanmar
Connect on facebook

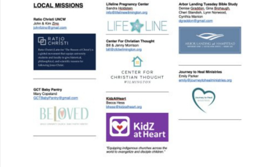
Myanmar
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 54,370,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 4%

Lauren Jaski
Serving with Pioneers
in the Basque region of Spain
lojaski29@gmail.com

Spain
Largest religion: Irreligious Catholic
Population: 47,434,000 people
% Evangelical Christian: 1.6%



Missionaries that GCT Supports



LOCAL MISSIONS

Ratio Christi UNCW
John & Kim Zino
johnfzino@gmail.com

GCT Baby Pantry
Mary Copeland
GCTBabyPantry@gmail.com

Lifeline Pregnancy Center
Sandra Holdstein
info@lifelinewilmington.org

Center For Christian Thought
Bill & Jenny Morrison
bill@cfctwilmington.org

KidzAtHeart
Becca Hess
bhess@kidzatheart.org

"Equipping indigenous churches across the world to evangelize and disciple children."

Arbor Landing Tuesday Bible Study
Denise Graddon, Gina Brohaugh,
Cheri Standish, Lynn Norwood,
Cynthia Manion
dgraddon@gmail.com

Journey to Heal Ministries
Emily Parker
emily@journeytohealministries.org

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9AM in Media classroom. Open to all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Malachi 3:16 Prayer Group

Meets Fridays @ 10am

Hampstead Baptist Church, Room 208

Resumes on Friday, January 9th