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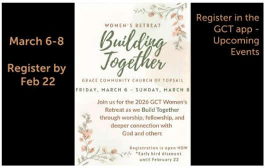
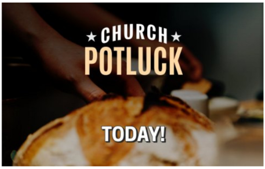
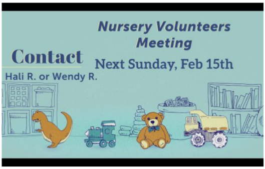
Grace Community Church of Topsail

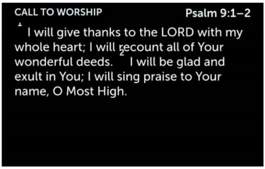
Sunday, February 8, 2025: Protecting Ourselves and the Church from Legalism: 1 Timothy 1:5-20


March 6-8
Register by Feb 22
WOMEN'S RETREAT
Building Together
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TOPSAIL
FRIDAY, MARCH 6 - SUNDAY, MARCH 8
Register in the GCT app - Upcoming Events
Registration is open NOW
*Early bird discount until February 22

Join us for the 2026 GCT Women's Retreat as we Build Together through worship, fellowship, and deeper connection with God and others







CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 9:1–2

[1] I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds. [2] I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

♫ **Blessed Be Your Name**

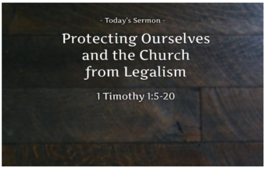
♫ **Praise His Name (Psalm 148)**

He Will Hold Me Fast

It Is Finished

I Exalt Thee

FOR THE CHURCH


- Today's Sermon -

Protecting Ourselves
and the Church
from Legalism

1 Timothy 1:5-20

1 Timothy 1:3–20 ESV

> As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the...

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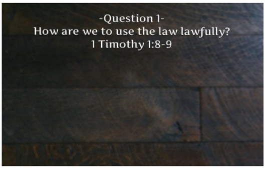
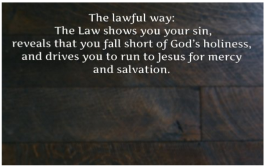

-Question 1-
How are we to use the law lawfully?
1 Timothy 1:8-9


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...

Continue reading »

Romans 3:20 ESV

> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Continue reading »

Romans 7:7 ESV

> What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

Continue reading »

Romans 8:1–4 ESV

> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending...

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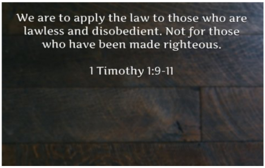
Galatians 3:24–25 ESV

> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,

Continue reading »



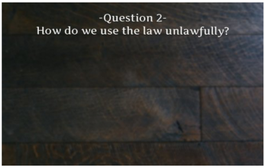
We are to apply the law to those who are lawless and disobedient. Not for those who have been made righteous.

1 Timothy 1:9-11

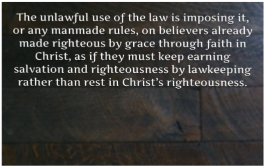
1 Timothy 1:9–11 ESV

> 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 and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who...

Continue reading »



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



The unlawful use of the law is imposing it, 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.

Romans 3:21–24 ESV

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have...

Continue reading »

Romans 4:5 ESV

And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

Continue reading »

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Continue reading »

Exodus 20:8–10 ESV

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female...

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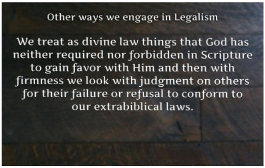
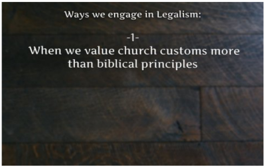


Other ways we engage in Legalism

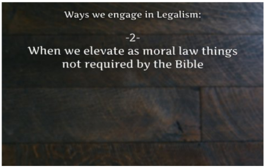
We treat as divine law things that God has neither required nor forbidden in Scripture to gain favor with Him and then with firmness we look with judgment on others for their failure or refusal to conform to our extrabiblical laws.



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-1-

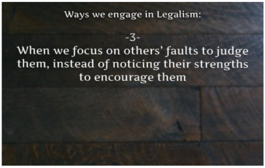
When we value church customs more than biblical principles



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-2-

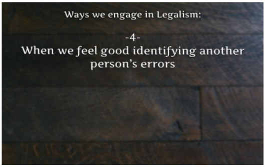
When we elevate as moral law things not required by the Bible



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-3-

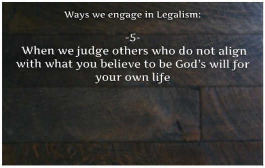
When we focus on others' faults to judge them, instead of noticing their strengths to encourage them



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-4-

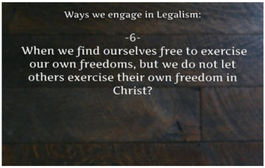
When we feel good identifying another person's errors



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-5-

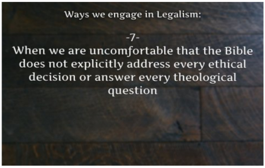
When we judge others who do not align with what you believe to be God's will for your own life



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-6-

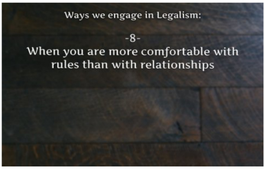
When we find ourselves free to exercise our own freedoms, but we do not let others exercise their own freedom in Christ?



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-7-

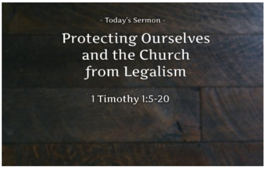
When we are uncomfortable that the Bible does not explicitly address every ethical decision or answer every theological question



Ways we engage in Legalism:

-8-

When you are more comfortable with rules than with relationships



- Today's Sermon -

Protecting Ourselves and the Church from Legalism

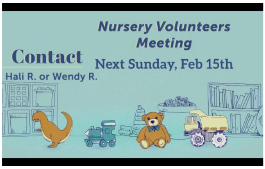
1 Timothy 1:5-20

FOR THE CHURCH

Remembering His Sacrifice

Take My Life And Let It Be (Hendon)

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

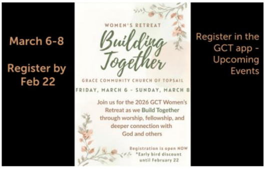


Nursery Volunteers Meeting

Next Sunday, Feb 15th

Contact

Hali R. or Wendy R.



March 6-8

Register by Feb 22

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Building Together

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TOPSAIL

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 - SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Join us for the 2026 GCT Women's Retreat as we Build Together through worship, fellowship, and deeper connection with God and others

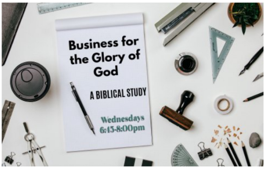
Registration is open NOW
*Early bird discount until February 22

Register in the GCT app - Upcoming Events

★ CHURCH ★
POTLUCK

TODAY!

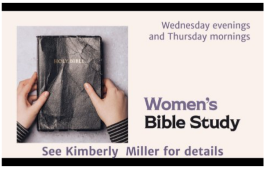
GCT Ladies Retreat
March 6-8, 2026
Register on the App
before Feb 22



Business for the Glory of God

A BIBLICAL STUDY

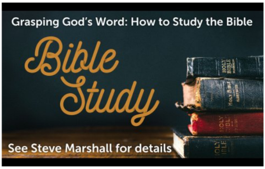
Wednesdays
6:45-8:00pm



Wednesday evenings
and Thursday mornings

Women's Bible Study

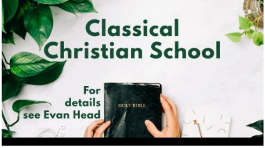
See Kimberly Miller for details



Grasping God's Word: How to Study the Bible

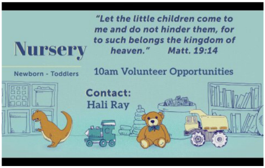
Bible Study

See Steve Marshall for details



Classical Christian School

For details see Evan Head



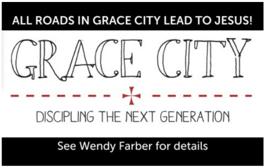
Nursery

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?

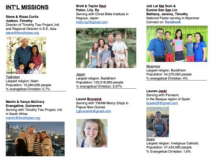
Need your house power washed?

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

Yellow Pages
☐ New! Easier to use
☐ Great days out
☐ Local maps



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

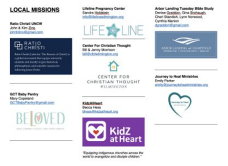
Job Lai Nei Sum &
Eunice San San Lin
Bethany, Jeremy, Timothy
National Pastor serving in Myanmar
Connect on facebook

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

Lauren Jaski
Serving with Pioneers in the Basque region of Spain
lcjaski29@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

RATIO CHRISTI

Ratio Christi (Latin for "The Reason of Christ") is a global movement that equips university students and faculty to give historical, philosophical, and scientific reasons for following Jesus Christ.

GCT Baby Pantry
Mary Copeland
GCTBabyPantry@gmail.com

BELOVED

Lifeline Pregnancy Center
Sandra Holdstein
info@lifelinewilmington.org

LIFE LINE

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

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
WILMINGTON

KidzAtHeart
Becca Hess
bhess@kidzatheart.org

KidZ at Heart

"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 Marion
dgraddon@gmail.com

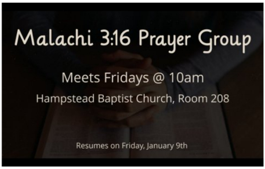
ARBOR LANDING at HAMPSTEAD

Journey to Heal Ministries
Emily Parker
emily@journeytohealministries.org

Journey to Heal Ministries

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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TOPSAIL

LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU!
Fill out a Connect Card and place in the donation box.

Grace Community Church of Topsail

9 members