Grace Community Church of Topsail

September 20, 2026: Jesus' Holiness is Greater Than Our Uncleanness: Matthew 8:1-4

GRACE
GROUPS

Ready to Grow in GRACE Together? Contact any of our Grace Group Leaders for More Information

Matthew 6:9–12 ESV

Pray then like this:

> “Our Father in heaven,
> hallowed be your name.
> Your kingdom come,
> your will be done,
> on earth as it is in heaven.
> Give us this day our daily bread,
> and forgive us...

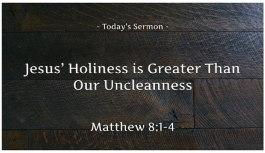
Continue reading »

♫ **Your Grace Is Enough**

♫ **Boldly I Approach**

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

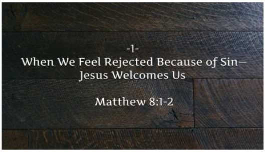
Kingdom
Culture
HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH
SERMON ON THE
MOUNT SERIES


- Today's Sermon -
Jesus' Holiness is Greater Than Our Uncleanness
Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 8:1–4 ESV

When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.”...

Continue reading »



-1-

When We Feel Rejected Because of Sin—
Jesus Welcomes Us

Matthew 8:1-2

Matthew 8:1–2 ESV

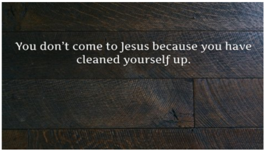
When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”

Continue reading »

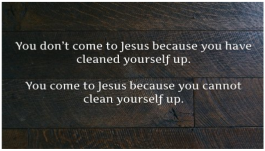
Leviticus 13:45–46 ESV

“The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall...

Continue reading »

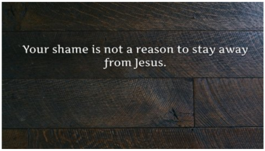


You don’t come to Jesus because you have cleaned yourself up.

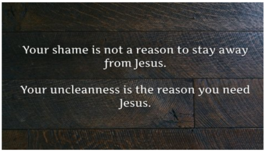


You don’t come to Jesus because you have cleaned yourself up.

You come to Jesus because you cannot clean yourself up.

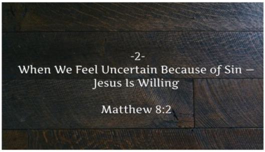


Your shame is not a reason to stay away from Jesus.



Your shame is not a reason to stay away from Jesus.

Your uncleanness is the reason you need Jesus.



-2-

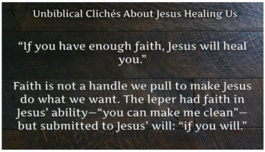
When We Feel Uncertain Because of Sin — Jesus Is Willing

Matthew 8:2

Matthew 8:2 ESV

“And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.””

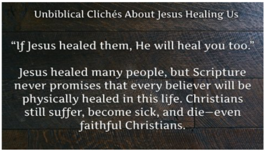
Continue reading »



Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

“If you have enough faith, Jesus will heal you.”

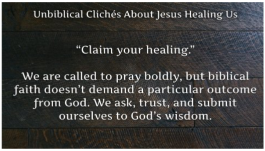
Faith is not a handle we pull to make Jesus do what we want. The leper had faith in Jesus’ ability—“you can make me clean”—but submitted to Jesus’ will: “if you will.”



Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

“If Jesus healed them, He will heal you too.”

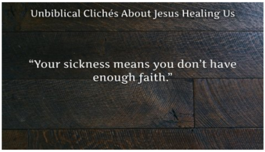
Jesus healed many people, but Scripture never promises that every believer will be physically healed in this life. Christians still suffer, become sick, and die—even faithful Christians.



Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

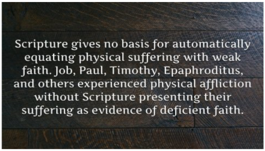
“Claim your healing.”

We are called to pray boldly, but biblical faith doesn’t demand a particular outcome from God. We ask, trust, and submit ourselves to God’s wisdom.

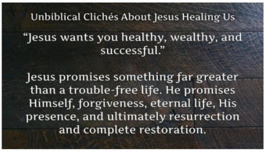


Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

“Your sickness means you don’t have enough faith.”



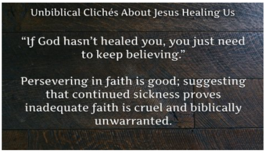
Scripture gives no basis for automatically equating physical suffering with weak faith. Job, Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus, and others experienced physical affliction without Scripture presenting their suffering as evidence of deficient faith.



Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

“Jesus wants you healthy, wealthy, and successful.”

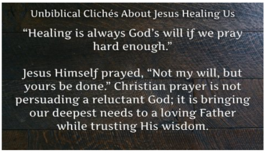
Jesus promises something far greater than a trouble-free life. He promises Himself, forgiveness, eternal life, His presence, and ultimately resurrection and complete restoration.



Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

“If God hasn’t healed you, you just need to keep believing.”

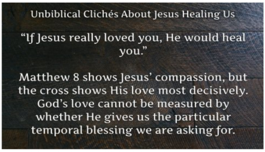
Persevering in faith is good; suggesting that continued sickness proves inadequate faith is cruel and biblically unwarranted.



Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

“Healing is always God’s will if we pray hard enough.”

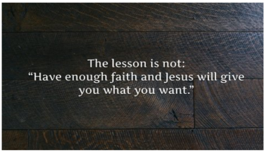
Jesus Himself prayed, “Not my will, but yours be done.” Christian prayer is not persuading a reluctant God; it is bringing our deepest needs to a loving Father while trusting His wisdom.



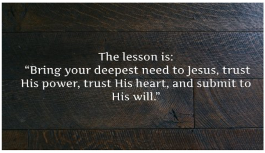
Unbiblical Clichés About Jesus Healing Us

“If Jesus really loved you, He would heal you.”

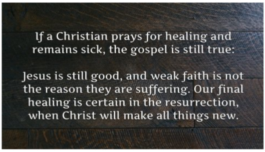
Matthew 8 shows Jesus’ compassion, but the cross shows His love most decisively. God’s love cannot be measured by whether He gives us the particular temporal blessing we are asking for.



The lesson is not:
“Have enough faith and Jesus will give you what you want.”

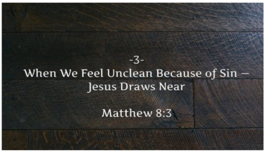


The lesson is:
“Bring your deepest need to Jesus, trust His power, trust His heart, and submit to His will.”



If a Christian prays for healing and remains sick, the gospel is still true:

Jesus is still good, and weak faith is not the reason they are suffering. Our final healing is certain in the resurrection, when Christ will make all things new.



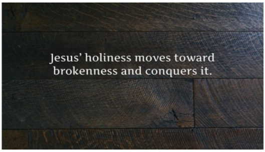
-3-
When We Feel Unclean Because of Sin –
Jesus Draws Near

Matthew 8:3

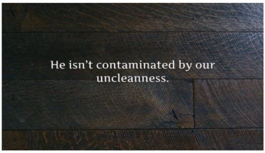
Matthew 8:3 ESV

> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

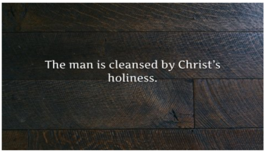
Continue reading »



Jesus’ holiness moves toward brokenness and conquers it.



He isn’t contaminated by our uncleanness.



The man is cleansed by Christ’s holiness.

And that is the heart of the Gospel.

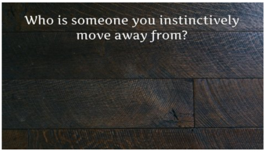
-4-
When We Need Restoration –
Jesus Makes Us Clean

Matthew 8:3

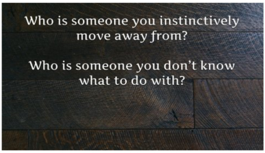
Matthew 8:3 ESV

> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Continue reading »



Who is someone you instinctively
move away from?

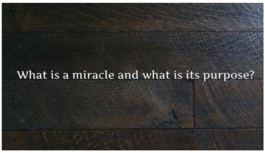


Who is someone you instinctively
move away from?

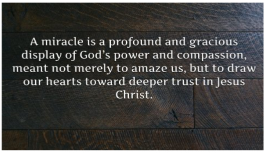
Who is someone you don’t know
what to do with?

-5-
When Our Lives Are Changed –
Jesus Gets the Glory.

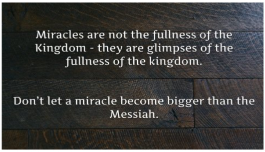
The miracle is wonderful,
but the miracle isn’t the ultimate message.



What is a miracle and what is its purpose?



A miracle is a profound and gracious display of God’s power and compassion, meant not merely to amaze us, but to draw our hearts toward deeper trust in Jesus Christ.



Miracles are not the fullness of the Kingdom - they are glimpses of the fullness of the kingdom.

Don’t let a miracle become bigger than the Messiah.

Kingdom Culture
HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH
SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES

♫ My Jesus I Love Thee

♫ Oh Lord You're Beautiful

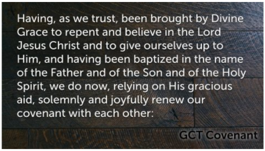
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
your role in the body of Christ

Welcome New Members!

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

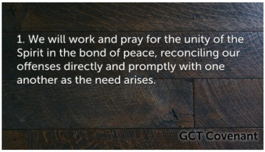
This is how we are committed to living.

GCT Covenant



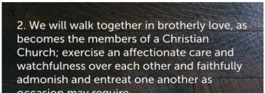
Having, as we trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give ourselves up to Him, and having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other:

GCT Covenant

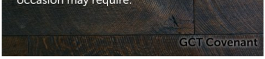


1. We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, reconciling our offenses directly and promptly with one another as the need arises.

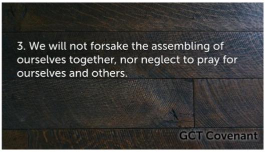
GCT Covenant



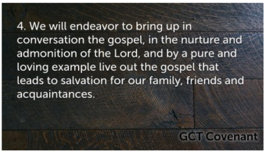
2. We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Church; exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require.


occasion may require.

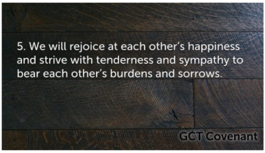
GCT Covenant


3. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.

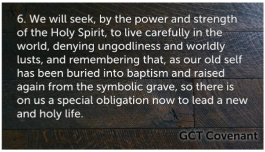
GCT Covenant


4. We will endeavor to bring up in conversation the gospel, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example live out the gospel that leads to salvation for our family, friends and acquaintances.

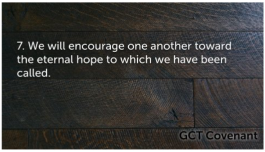
GCT Covenant


5. We will rejoice at each other's happiness and strive with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

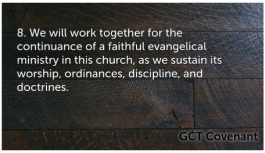
GCT Covenant


6. We will seek, by the power and strength of the Holy Spirit, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as our old self has been buried into baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life.

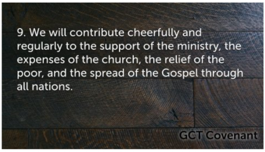
GCT Covenant


7. We will encourage one another toward the eternal hope to which we have been called.

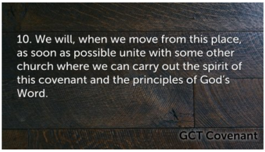
GCT Covenant


8. We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

GCT Covenant

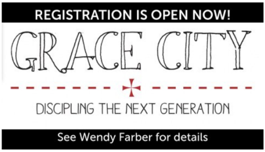

9. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

GCT Covenant



10. We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

GCT Covenant

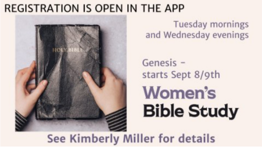


REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

See Wendy Farber for details



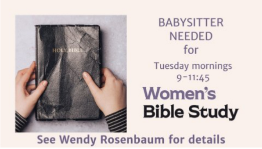
REGISTRATION IS OPEN IN THE APP

Tuesday mornings
and Wednesday evenings

Genesis -
starts Sept 8/9th

Women's
Bible Study

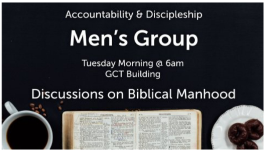
See Kimberly Miller for details



BABYSITTER
NEEDED
for
Tuesday mornings
9-11:45

Women's
Bible Study

See Wendy Rosenbaum for details



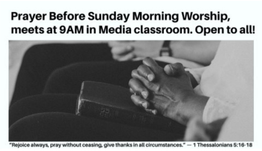
Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
GCT Building

Discussions on Biblical Manhood

Volunteers Needed for Monthly Baby Pantry Ministry



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

GCT Business Directory

Looking for a handyman?

Need your house power washed?

Need a babysitter?

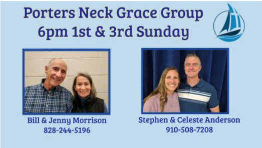
Need an Uber?

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

GRACE GROUPS

Ready to Grow in GRACE Together? Contact any of our Grace Group Leaders for More Information

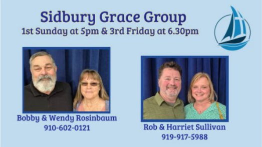


Porters Neck Grace Group

6pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bill & Jenny Morrison
828-244-5196

Stephen & Celeste Anderson
910-508-7208



Sidbury Grace Group

1st Sunday at 5pm & 3rd Friday at 6.30pm

Bobby & Wendy Rosinbaum
910-602-0121

Rob & Harriet Sullivan
919-917-5988

Washington Acres Grace Group

6pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

David & Shawna Hirt
630-301-2953

Warren & Miriam Rich
910-622-1711

Country Club Drive Grace Group

6pm Every Friday

Tom & Kimberly Miller
920-737-6445

Max & Melissa Luke
910-619-0168

North Hampstead Grace Group
6pm 1st & 3rd Friday

Jim & Deborah Farmer
910-470-0424

Evan & Micaela Head
910-547-1999

North Belvedere Grace Group
5pm 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bob & Necey Highet
910-785-1247

Tom & Barbara Sheldon
410-610-7123

Surf City/Holly Ridge Grace Group
6pm Friday, Every 2 weeks

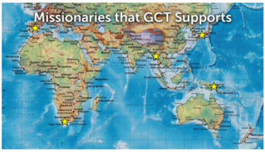
Joey & Tianna Rutledge
309-202-2189

Sneads Ferry Grace Group
6pm Friday, Every 2 weeks

Stephen & Teresa Smith
360-969-9288

Joshua & Kay Sanders
910-741-9004

Missionaries that GCT Supports



Pray for our Missionaires

Brett &
Taylor Ray
Japan

Steve &
Rissa Curtis
Asia

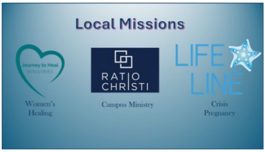
Job & Eunice
Mayanmar

Pray for our Missionaires

Lauren &
Pablo
Spain

Meghanne
Brunsink
Japan

Laurel
Brunsink
YWAM

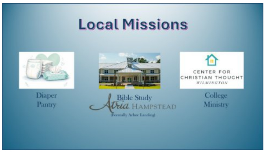


Local Missions

Journey to Heal Ministries
Women's Healing

RATIO CHRISTI
Campus Ministry

LIFE LINE
Crisis Pregnancy



Local Missions

Diaper Pantry

Bible Study
Atria HAMPSTEAD
(Formally Arbor Landing)

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
WILMINGTON
College Ministry

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

Grace Community Church of Topsail

11 members