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Grace Community Church of Topsail

Sunday, August 10, 2025: Sanctification Over Stagnation. Philippians 2:13-14

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Wednesday Nights Start back up September 3rd!

Bible Study

Every Wednesday 6:45-8pm

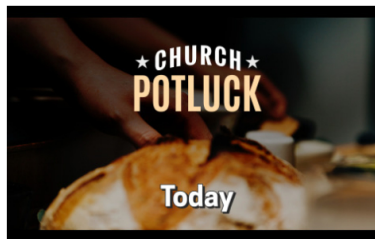
GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

Meet 'n' Greet
Parents, students, teachers
August 27th, 6:30-8pm
Kiwanis Park



Landscaping Needs for South Topsail Elem:
- Weeding flower beds
- Pruning Crepe Myrtles



The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

Psalm 148 ESV

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

praise him, all his angels;
Praise him, all his hosts!

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!...



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🎵 Praise His Name (Psalm 148)

🎵 I Want To Know You

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you do not change. You have revealed yourself to us in Your Word. You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth. But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be. We too often ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless. Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want, instead of shaping us into what you want.

📖 Romans 5:8-10 ESV

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were...



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🎵 How Deep The Father's Love For Us

🎵 How Great Thou Art

- Today's Sermon -

Sanctification Over Stagnation

Philippians 2:12-13

📖 Philippians 2:12-13 ESV

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.



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-Stagnation-

is a loss of passion for God's Word and His people with no desire to do spiritual things, while enjoying sinful habits and worldly distractions without desire or progress of defeating them.

-Sanctification-

is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

- Westminster Shorter Catechism Q35

How do you become more like Jesus?

-1-

Know that God is the One working in you to make you more like Him.

Philippians 2:12

Philippians 2:13

Philippians 2:13 ESV

for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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God always acts first –
He is the forerunner of
you becoming more like Christ.

1 John 4:19

1 John 4:19 ESV

We love because he first loved us.

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God works in you to change
your will – desires.
Your desires will then cause you to
work (produce) for His Good pleasure.

Hebrews 13:20-21
Ezekiel 36:27

Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV

Now may the God of peace who brought again
from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of
the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do
his will, working in us that which is pleasing in
his...

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Ezekiel 36:27 ESV

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you
to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my
rules.

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How do you become more like Jesus?

-2-

Know that God's work doesn't
reject your work,
He empowers it.

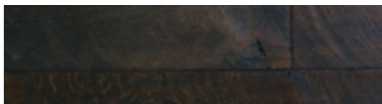
Philippians 2:12

Philippians 2:12-13 ESV

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed,
so now, not only as in my presence but much more
in my absence, work out your own salvation with
fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you,
both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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Positionally - Christians at
justification have been "set
apart" (made Holy) to be God's own
possession. You have been declared
to be holy positionally in Christ.



Practically – Christians are still a mess and need to be increasingly “set apart” (made holy) from sinful actions and relations to live out their positional holiness.



Work “for” assumes that salvation is a goal or reward for which you are laboring or striving.

Work “out” assumes that salvation is already in place; salvation has already been accomplished and experienced and you are now unpacking it, exploring it, laboring so that it might experience it in its fullness.

■ **Philippians 3:12** ESV

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ”

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■ **Romans 14:19** ESV

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. ”

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■ **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** ESV

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run... ”

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■ **Hebrews 12:1** ESV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ”

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■ **1 Timothy 6:12** ESV

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ”

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■ **Ephesians 2:8-10** ESV

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand,... ”

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How do you become more like Jesus?

-3-

Do your work of sanctification
with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12

■ **Philippians 2:12** ESV

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

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We will all be held accountable for
our obedience to God's work of
making us more like Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:9-11

■ **Philippians 2:9-11** ESV

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the...”

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■ **2 Thessalonians 2:13** ESV

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.”

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■ **Romans 6:20-23** ESV

“For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin...”

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God produces holiness in us
through certain tools, experiences,
and means that he has ordained
and it always involves struggle and
effort and focus and sacrifice and
energetic commitment on our part.

How does God do His work?

A. Suffering, struggle, and troubles change us.
God works on us in the midst of trouble,
because trouble catches our attention.
Difficulties make us need Him. Faith has to sink
roots, as our faith deepens into reality.
Hardships make Scripture and prayer come
alive. People change because something is hard
—not because everything goes well.

Philippians 1:29-30

■ **Philippians 1:29-30** ESV

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. ”

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How does God do His work?

B. Wise brothers and sisters in Christ change us. Godly growth is most frequently mediated through the gifts and graces of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Philippians 2:1-8

■ **Philippians 2:1-8** ESV

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from...

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How does God do His work?

C. God and His Word changes us. God communicates messages to us. Scripture speaks with a true voice into a world churning with false voices. Scripture reveals God's person, purposes, will, promises, and actions. Scripture clarifies every facet of human experience.

Philippians 2:13

■ **Philippians 2:13** ESV

for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ”

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How does God do His work?

D. We change. We turn from darkness to light, from false gods to the only true God. We ask for help because we need help. We repent. We believe and trust. We seek. We take refuge. We are honest. We remember, listen, obey, fear, hope, love, give thanks, weep, confess, praise, delight, walk in Christ-likeness.

Philippians 2:12-13

■ **Philippians 2:12-13** ESV

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ”

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■ **Philippians 1:29-30** ESV

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. ”

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■ **Philippians 2:1-18** ESV

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from...

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🎵 All I Have Is Christ

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Landscaping Needs for South Topsail Elem:

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★ CHURCH ★
POTLUCK

Today



GCT Business Directory

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




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

- ☐ New! Easier to use
- ☐ Great days out
- ☐ Local maps

Elliott Roberts
Date of Birth: 12/28/83
Living donor team: 919-613-7777
Website: duke.donorscreen.org
www.livingdonorassistance.org



INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE SAFETY TEAM?



"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

See John Newber for details

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"Raising religious children across the world to integrity and discipleship"

**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

Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
A Taste of Sunrise Coffeehouse

Discussions on Biblical Manhood



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