

# COVECHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

### Week of 5/5/2025

#### Theological Terms

Now let's return to my proposed definition of **grace**: God's favor through Christ to people who deserve His wrath. By His grace, we do not receive the wrath we deserve. Instead we receive the favor we don't deserve. Why is this true? The answer is found in the two words: through Christ. It is because of Christ's death in our place that we do not experience the wrath of God which we so richly deserve. Jesus satisfied God's justice and turned away God's wrath from us by bearing it Himself on our behalf. Now God can extend mercy to us without subverting His justice. Mercy and justice meet together at the cross. Jesus did more, however, than satisfy God's justice and turn aside His wrath. By His perfect obedience, He earned for us all of God's favor, all of His blessings... He did it all. He perfectly obeyed all the law of God, and He did it in our place. Just as He died in our place, so He also obeyed in our place. That is why those two words "through Christ" are so critical to the definition of grace. Without Christ's work for us, there could be no grace. We also need to realize that God's favor to us through Christ is bountiful... God receives us into His family as His sons and daughters and opens up the storehouse of His boundless riches to us. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ and promised to meet all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:19). He invites us to come with confidence to His Throne of Grace to receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16). How should we react to this definition of God's grace? We should respond, first of all, with a deep sense of humility. We really do deserve God's wrath. The awareness of that fact should not only humble us before God but also before one another. In the realm of grace, there is no place for the horrible sin of self-righteous comparing of ourselves with other people. Even with respect to the most flagrant sinners around us, we ought to say in all humility and absolute truthfulness, "There but for the grace of God go I." Then we should respond in profound gratitude. Not only have we been spared God's wrath, but we have also been given all His favor. Everything we are and everything we do that is of any value we owe to the grace of God. Dutch theologian G.C. Berkouwer said, "The essence of Christian theology is grace, and the essence of Christian ethics is gratitude." It is gratitude arising spontaneously from a heart filled with grace that motivates us to obey God and serve Him wholeheartedly.

-Jerry Bridges

#### Prayer Requests

- Nate Bauman - Please pray for increased missionary support.
- UPDATE: Chet Peterson - Thank you for your prayers and support for my recent trip to Southeast Asia. It was a beautiful time of prayer, encouragement, and sharing of the gospel. Please continue to pray for the darkness to be pushed back and the light of Christ to invade such a lost country.
- Misty Fowler - Please pray for my friend, Kaye, who was recently diagnosed with a life threatening illness. She is a believer and is married with 4 children. Please pray for discernment, strength, guidance, and wisdom.
- UPDATE: Please continue to pray for Ed Snipes as they navigate treatment of the seizures. Also, please pray for Ronna as she supports Ed through this season.

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#### Pray for the Unreached

Jebala People in Morocco

Population: 1,310,000 | Primary religion: Islam | Percent Evangelical Christian: 0.00%

Pray the Jebala community would be able to care adequately for their families and for good schools for their children. Access to these people is limited. Pray for creative ways for Christians to minister to them. Pray for the few followers of Christ to cling strongly to Jesus and not be discouraged as they face trials. Pray these believers would learn to speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Pray for them to be receptive to gospel radio and television.

#### Calendar

- Sunday: 9:45 AM - Prayer Time for the Lost at the church
- Sunday: 10:30 AM - Worship Service

#### Upcoming Nursery Workers

- 5/11/2025: Ronna Snipes and Ava Kate Snipes
- 5/18/2025: Nickie Sacco and Velina Netherton
- 5/25/2025: Keagan and Sarah Monteith
- 6/1/2025: Misty Fowler and Ava Kate Snipes
- 6/8/2025: Helen Coomer and Meghan Larose
- 6/15/2025: Chet and Bre Peterson

#### Scripture Reading

Consider reading Romans 8 in preparation for this week's service, including communion.