

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

December 23, 2018

Saved by Grace

by Frank Himmel

The Bible affirms that we are saved by God's grace (Ephesians 2:5). How so?

By grace, God made a plan for our salvation before He even created us: "who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity" (2 Timothy 1:9).

By grace, God sent His Son to die for us. "But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9).

By grace, God invites us or calls us to receive the blessing of salvation in Christ. "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ..." (Galatians 1:6).

By grace, God forgives us in Christ. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us" (Ephesians 1:7-8a).

By grace, God instructs how to live. "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:11-12).

By grace, God provides gifts to help us learn and grow. "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift... And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:7, 11).



By grace, God gives us gifts to use in His service. "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly..." (Romans 12:6).

By grace, God provides the help we need along the way. "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 5:16).

By grace, God will one day take us to heaven. "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:13; cf. vv. 3-5).

"And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain" (2 Corinthians 6:1).

Dear Brethren,

This is the last issue of PathLights for 2018, so I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

Thank you to those who read PathLights each week. Realistically, I know that not everyone who receives it does, but I appreciate those of you who take a few minutes each week to make this effort part of your spiritual menu. I hope it is of some benefit. And thanks for passing it along to others whom you think it would help.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for your love for the Lord and for each other. It is heartening to be associated with others who share the faith and are concerned for brothers and sisters. Thank you for your prayers, for your financial support, for your words of encouragement, and for your cooperative, united spirit. And thank you for signs of growth. Nothing means more to a preacher than seeing people, young or old, grow in knowledge and personal application of the truth.

Thank you to Brian, Clifton, and Gary for serving as shepherds of this flock. It is a huge responsibility. Shepherding has joys and sorrows all its own. I hope we'll all work to make it more of the former! And thanks to Angie, Jessica, and Holli for the support and help they give their husbands in this work. They sacrifice, too.

Thank you to Carlos, David, John, and Sam for their work as deacons, and to their wives, too. Deacons who take charge of their tasks keep things running smoothly. They greatly relieve the spiritual leaders to focus on their vital work. Much of what deacons do is "behind the scenes," but it is important and much appreciated. Thanks to all of you who work with the deacons in carrying out specific assignments.

Thank you to our Bible class teachers, both on the adult and children levels. Some of us just expect there to be Bible classes but have little idea of the work that goes into preparing and teaching them.

Thank you, all of you, for everything you do. I don't know about it all, and neither does anyone else here. God does. And He promises that our toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Looking forward to a good year of service together in 2019, I say again to all, "Thank you."

Frank

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday	Wednesday
GREETER	Greg Winget	Bruce Williams
SONG LEADER	Bruce Williams	Brian Wilson
OPENING PRAYER	Albert Harrison Sr	
LORD'S SUPPER		
BREAD	Gary Hagler	
CUP	Mike Zachry	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Jason Chandler	
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella	Kerry Gray