

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars...

1st Sunday night- Devotion: singing, prayer service
3rd Sunday – potluck – no evening service
4th Sunday Night - Youth Group
Dec. 18 - Kindness In Action: Love in a Box - Wed. 7:00pm
Jan. 19 - Congregational meeting - after potluck

Prayer List

Friend of Loretta - possible kidney cancer
Thad – foot surgery
Brenda’s (Regina’s friend) sister – car accident
Loretta’s mom
Marilyn Fitz –resides at the Laurels of Coldwater room 138
Lincoln - more surgery in December
Josh’s friend’s little brother – brain cancer
Amanda Spencer – Joyce Aker’s sister – possible dementia
Wendi Baker’s grandfather – stroke
Norman Arey – Wanda’s neighbor - cancer
Wendi Baker –insurance coverage – appealing denial
Georgette’s daughter, Leana – coming home soon

TV BIBLE STUDIES:

Know Your Bible – Charter - 10:30 pm - Mon-Fri. - channel 19
In Search of the Lord’s Way – Charter - 7:30 am - Sunday-channel 357

Website: coldwatercoc.com
e-mail: coldwatercochristoffice@gmail.com

Steps of Salvation

Hear Romans 10:14, 17 Believe Acts 16:31 Repent Acts 2:38
Confess Acts 8:36-37 Baptism Acts 2:38 Faithful Mt 7:21

Our Elders: Tom Cornett 269-719-5748
Dave Sherfield 517-227-8867 Huey Waites 517-639-8390

The Importance of Grace to the Soul

In Eph 2:8 Paul wrote, “*For by grace have you been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God.*” In this text, the inspired apostle tells us that grace plays a vital role in the salvation of mankind. God’s grace hits right at the heart and core of everything man is or ever will be. The importance of grace to the soul is elaborated on by the Apostle Paul in this text.

In Eph 2:1 the Apostle Paul wrote, “*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sin.*” In this verse Paul reminds the brethren in Ephesus that until Christ they were dead in sin and in a lost state. Ephesus was a Capital City, major seaport, and cultural center among the provinces of Asia Minor. As one would enter the city of Ephesus by ship, the first thing that would come to view was the Temple of Dianna. Dianna was the pagan goddess of love and fertility, and the central figure of idol worship. It is believed that some of the members at the church in Ephesus were once part of this idolatry (Acts 19:23-41), hence they “*walked according to the course of the world*”(Eph 2:2). Also, in Ephesus the problems of black magic or sorcery(Acts 19:19), sensuality, and sexual uncleanness were very rampant. Since Dianna was the goddess of fertility and love, it is no wonder the Apostle told the brethren they “*conducted themselves in the lust of their flesh fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath*”(Eph 2:3). In light of these passages not only were the Ephesians dead in sin, but you and I have also at one time been dead in sin.

“*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) (Eph 2:4-5).* In Eph 2:1-3, man had fallen into the quicksand of sin and was sinking fast, but in verses 4-7 **God intervenes by throwing in the life line of Grace.** Paul affirms in this passage that a combination of both God’s mercy (Heb 8:12), and His love (Jn 3:16) are the amazing grace of God. An overview definition for the grace of God is, His unmerited favor towards mankind. However, an even more accurate definition is, when God allows us to receive what we don’t deserve (heaven), and allows us to escape what we do (Hell). An acrostic way to remember grace is **God’s Riches At Christ Expense.** In essence it could be said that the grace of God ran through the veins of our savior and spilled on the ground at Calvary for all humanity (Titus 2:11-12).

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