

# GRACE CHURCH NEWS



Grace Geared to the Times!

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## The fruit that needs producing.

**Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:2**

Timothy loves looking out for a train when we go out for our daily walks. Its part of our daily routine of training him to be aware when he crosses the tracks. Sometimes this causes him to have a one track mind. He has noticed with some concern that some of the old tracks are lying discarded next to the new track. In my pondering of how to explain the repair, replace and discard. My thoughts turn to the idea of pruning. Often we as believers are stuck in a rut of unfruitful thinking and meditation. Our “stinking thinking” needs to be overhauled.

As we pray and ask God to help us, He brings out His pruning instruments and proceeds to remove those painful wasteful branches. Old habits, painful memories, bad feelings for certain people who have wronged us etc. In essence we need to upgrade our thinking to fruitful thinking. As we pray we ask God for an “upgrade” and “maintenance” for our journey ahead seeking his destination for our lives.

We learn that we need to desire pruning and daily maintenance just as Timothy needs to be taught to be aware of how he interacts with train tracks. As his parents we desire what is best for him and his future. So too do we pray for you, seeking what is God’s best for you in this seasonal journey along Gods train tracks for your life. Don’t climb off, stay the path, God knows what stations are ahead. Let Him drive the train and choose the track.

**Our Journey in Gods hands, “Fruitful, we will be”.**

**Love & Hugs from Your Grace Church Family!!!!**

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# The Best Bible Verse?



Pastor Don

Come on! How can anyone pick the best verse in the Bible? Well, I did.

(Drum roll) Romans 7:25. There. Now you know.

“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.”

You may be scratching your head by now –He’s finally cracked up. Who even knows this verse? Who has memorized it?

This verse is the best verse because it answers the plaintive plea in verse 24.

“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Great, isn’t it? Jesus delivers wretched people bound for death. But wait. There’s more!

This verse connects wretches bound for death to...Romans 8:1

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

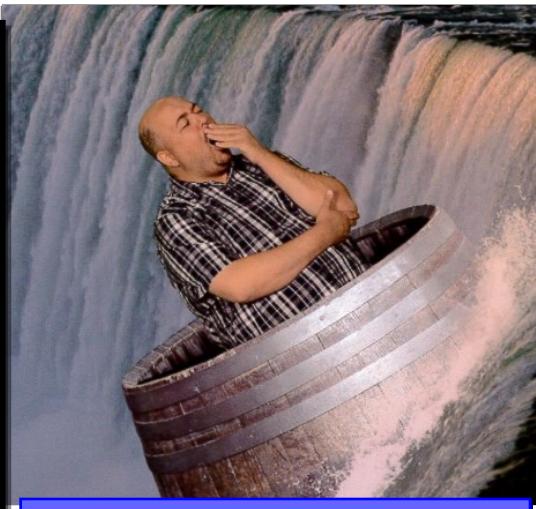
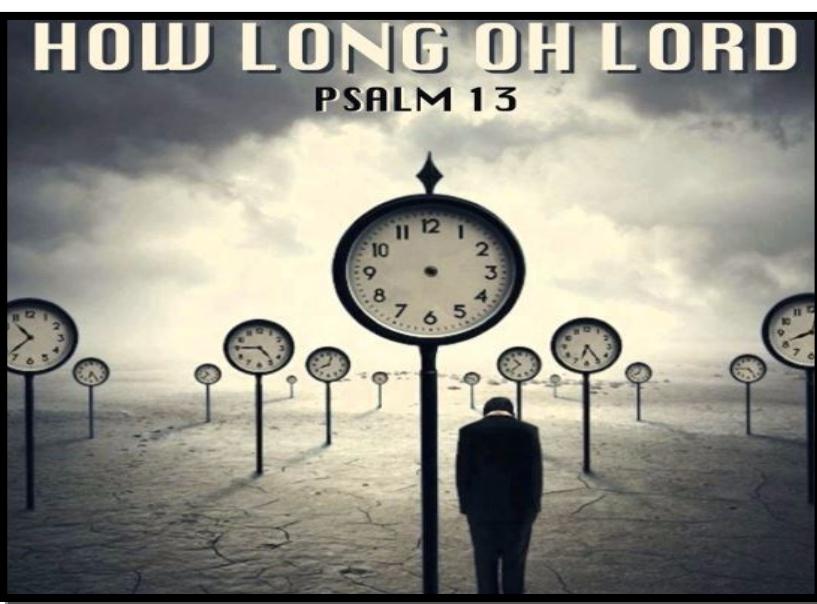
Therefore through Jesus Christ, I serve the law of God in my heart – there is no condemnation for me.

Admit it. Is that not the best verse? Jesus is the lynch pin between wretchedness and peace. Jesus delivers us from death. Jesus took away our condemnation.

We’ve heard Folgers Coffee Motto – “The best thing about waking up is Folgers in your cup.”

The best thing about waking up for my little brain is the verse “There is therefore no condemnation...” and I get that through Jesus. God’s wake-up call for us? You’re not wretched but delivered from death and are under no condemnation.

Praise God for Jesus every morning. *That’s better than Folgers. Way better.*



Pastor Darren

**“O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?”**

Like many of David’s psalms, Psalm 13 begins like this - A lament, a passionate expression of grief or sorrow. When I was in my final semester at Bible College, I had a choice in my “Music in Christian Worship” class to write a paper or a song for my final project. I was encouraged, as a music major, to choose the song. I’d never written one before, nor have I done so since then, but I based it off this text. I’ve heard many other songs that use this passage of scripture, and they are all better than what I did. It’s the Psalm that stands out to me the most, though.

Right now especially in a world of Covid-19, the recent mass shooting in Nova Scotia, and now flooding in Fort McMurray, AB, and more, it may seem to some of us that God has forgotten us. I know that I often struggle with my cancer and the problems it causes me. That’s not including the concern I have for my parents and my sister’s family in all the troubles they are going through. The pain that I go through some days almost, yes, ALMOST, makes me want to give up. But then I remind myself of the end of the Psalm.

**“But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me.”** He is good to me, to you, to all of us. He has already set us free from the pains we are suffering, from our troubles we are facing and will still face. Yeah, I know, it’s tough. All we want to do is sit and lament like David. Just remember, in the end, David turns it around and trusts that God will get him through it.

*This is why I sing. I encourage you to do the same.*



**Nora Ellis**

## **Proverbs**

**22:6**

**Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.**

# **Communion Remembered**

As a child in Northern California, we did a lot of camping. The Pacific coast and the Redwoods were favorite places to go. I have many pleasant memories of our family on agate beaches and in giant forests. Among those memories are the Sunday morning worship times we had after breakfast.

On Saturday evening after supper, my mother would get out the cast-iron skillet and prepare unleavened bread for Sunday morning. My job was to score it with a fork so it could easily be broken into four pieces - one for each of us.

Sunday morning my dad would read scripture, we would pray and have communion. At that time, we would reflect on that last supper when Christ instituted a rite that would remind his disciples and Christians throughout the ages, of the sacrifice made on our behalf. I felt very connected. I felt connected to all the people who had gone before us, and all the Christians who would follow us. I felt connected to all Christians who were sharing communion on that particular Sunday.

During this period of “Distancing”, one way we can all feel more connected is to share communion with one another from our homes. We were not seated together in the Sanctuary, but we can be drawn together in prayer. We can remember Christ’s great sacrifice and victory over death, and what that means to us and to our Grace Church family. We pray that everyone found comfort and encouragement as we communed last Sunday.