

Brother Epaphras

Paul had co-worker named Epaphras with whom Paul labored and loved in the Lord (Colossian 1:7). Let's see what we as Christians can learn from this man.

First, the Colossians learned the truth of the gospel from Epaphras (Colossians 1:5-8). We have similar opportunities to minister to others the hope of heaven in the gospel (2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 5:12).

Second, the Colossians were saluted (greeted) by Epaphras (Colossians 4:12). We need to be self-less and concerned more for others and we need to "get out of our little world" and greet others.

Third, the Colossians were prayed for by Epaphras (Colossians 4:12). We need to pray for others (1 Timothy 2:1) and we need to "strive" in our prayers for others (Romans 15:30).

Fourth, Epaphras wanted the Colossians to be "fully assured in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12). We could all do more to proclaim the whole counsel of God to others (Acts 20:27).

Fifth, Epaphras had "much labor" or "great zeal" for the Colossians (Colossians 4:13). We should be known for having the same labor and pain for our brethren.

Oh, that there would be a brother Epaphras in every pew, in every church today! - *Chris Reeves*

News & Notes

Please mark your calendar with the following important dates...

March 18: Song practice; 5 pm; church building

April 5-8: Gospel meeting with John Gentry

June 4-8: VBS

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

March 11, 2018



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Lord is Gracious and Merciful

He has made his wonderful works to be remembered: The Lord is gracious and merciful — Psalm 111:4

The story of God's grace and mercy begins with man's sin in Genesis 3 and runs throughout the Bible. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were in need of God's grace and mercy (Genesis 3:21-24). Later, in the time of Noah, God showed his grace and mercy again by giving Noah and his family a plan to be saved from the coming flood (Genesis 6:5-12).

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" - Genesis 6:8

Still later, God showed his gracious and merciful favor toward Israel's sin (Exodus 33:19; 34:6; Nehemiah 9:17,31; Isaiah 30:18; etc.). God was even gracious and merciful at this time toward the sin of non-Israelites like the people of Nineveh in Assyria. He sent Jonah to preach to them so that they could repent and be saved (Jonah 4:2).

"And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray you, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was in my country? Therefore I hastened to flee unto Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness, and you repent of the evil" - Jonah 4:2

God is sovereign in granting his grace and his mercy – he bestows it as he see fit and upon whom he will. This is taught by Paul in Romans 9:15-23 and 11:32. God's grace, in fact, is given to all men (Titus 2:11). Also, grace is God's unmerited favor shown in action. God offers (gives as a gift) salvation from sin as a "free gift of God" (Romans 6:23).

"For the grace of God has appeared bring salvation to all men" - Titus 2:11

Mercy is God's sympathetic feeling shown in action toward the sin of mankind in particular and toward his well-being in general (Mark 5:19; James 5:11). Let us now consider four great Bible truths concerning God's grace and mercy:

First, God granting grace and mercy does not negate the consequences of one's sin here and now. For example, when David sinned, he was in need of God's mercy and forgiveness (Psalm 51:1). However, after David sinned, there would still be consequences that he would have to suffer like trouble in his family (2 Samuel 12:10-12).

Second, God's grace and mercy are not cheap. A price has to be paid for the gift of God's grace. Jesus paid the price on the cross for God's justice, allowing his grace and mercy to be offered to all (Isaiah 53:4-12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:24-26). Therefore, in order to benefit from the gift

of God's grace, one must be "in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-9). The sinner is placed "in Christ Jesus" when he or she is baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).

Third, God's grace and mercy are unmerited, but not unconditional. Certain divine conditions must be met by the sinner before anyone can benefit from God's grace. For example, God's mercy demands repentance (2 Chronicles 30:9; Joel 2:13) and God's mercy demands baptism or "the washing of regeneration" (Titus 3:5). Thus, God's grace and mercy demand that a person "repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38).

"...but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly, through Jesus Christ our Savior" - Titus 3:5-6

Fourth, God's grace and mercy are to be seen his children. Christians are to show grace and mercy just like their heavenly Father shows grace and mercy (Romans 12:8). To receive mercy from God (Luke 18:3; Hebrews 4:16), Christians must be merciful to others around them (Matthew 5:7; 6:14-15; James 2:13; 3:17; Jude 21-23).

Praise the Lord for his grace and mercy! - Chris Reeves