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Pastor's Perspective

Grace Fellowship

anuary 2019

In Luke 2:25-38, there is a cameo of two interesting persons.... Simeon and Anna. They both were well up in years, and they both were waiting for "the consolation of Israel." For Simeon it says that the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. For Anna, it says that she was a prophetess who fasted and prayed continually and was in the temple almost every day. People seek a lot of things in life, and I see Simeon and Anna being as seekers of the Greater things of God's Glory, His will and purpose, and not seekers of the lesser things of this life or of this world. Have you ever stopped to think of all the time and energy that is spent in chasing after and seeking the lesser things of this life instead of those things that are eternal and the things that have to do with God's Glory, God's Purpose, and His Will? Those are the things that truly are worth seeking. We need to be exhorted by the life and testimony of Simeon and Anna to be seekers of God with all our hearts, and to have our priorities put in the right order by the Holy Spirit.

We don't know exactly how long they had been seeking and waiting for the revealing of the Messiah, but the scripture seems to indicate that their experience in the temple that day was not their first trip to town. They could have been going to the temple every day for years. Their waiting and perseverance certainly captures my heart. That's because we all know that waiting and persevering are not easy, are they? In fact, learning how to wait on the Lord, and on His purpose and the timing of His Purpose is an area that is challenging for most of us and an area we all need to grow in. The amazing thing to me is they had a little bit of revelation or illumination, but that was enough for them to be completely committed to wait. Isn't it true that most of us would prefer that God disclose to us more than just a little bit of revelation as to what we are supposed to do? Don't we all want a much bigger picture of what His direction, or His will and purpose is?

For Simeon and Anna all they knew was what it says here in Luke chapter two, and they waited, and they endured. As Christians we know that waiting can only be taught to us by the Holy Spirit. When we are learning to wait, it is then that our fellowship with the Holy Spirit becomes more than just surface depth. Learning to wait strips away the things that block our growth like pride. Prideful people are impatient and will not wait because they want what they want right now. Prideful people make their own determination whether waiting and enduring is worth their time. We need to be exhorted by the life and testimony of Simeon and Anna who learned from the Lord how to wait and persevere patiently. I believe that we very well might be the generation that sees the second coming of Jesus. May we wait patiently with Holy Spirit formed endurance for the days ahead and our Lords return.

From my heart to yours,

Pastor Ron

Prayer

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, there is a special time for prayer at the church, from

7 - 8 PM.

This month:

January 2nd & 16th



Ladies Ministry

The Ladies of Grace will have their monthly brunch at the church on *Saturday, January 19th* at *9:30 a.m.* This is a great way to build relationships with our Beautiful Ladies of Grace. Don't miss out!

Bring a portion of food to share!

There is a Ladies Prayer time on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Kim Neely. This time of prayer coincides with the weeks that the home groups meet. For the month of January, it will be *January 9th and January 23rd*.



Pregnancy Help Center



You're Invited!

What an excellent way to show support for our local Pregnancy Help Center. This is one of their most important fundraisers. For a donation of your choosing, come and enjoy the BBQ and fellowship or take your food to go. Hope to see you there!

God is building His Church one living stone at a time



1 Peter 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace Fellowship Church please contact the Church Office and let us know. Pastor Ron would like to meet with you asap.

Hymn Sing-Along

The monthly Hymn Sing Along at the Mariposa Apartment Homes, 121 River Bend Dr. will be on *January 26th at 2:00 PM*. The residents of Mariposa are blessed by the hymns and old-time singing, led by Pastor Jack. You are invited to come on out to join in the singing and fellowship with the Mariposa residents. Refreshments will be served!





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May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give

you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Home Fellowship Groups

Our home fellowship groups are an important part of our church life, providing growth, care, affection and mutual edification



Mike Milton's home group will meet on *Jan. 9th at 6:30 PM* at his home. Pastor Ron's group will meet at their home on *Jan. 9th at 6:30 PM*. Both groups will meet on *January 23rd at 5:30 PM* for a meal at the church.



The Friday home fellowship group is scheduled to meet at 7:00 PM on January 4th at the home of Bob & Kim Neely, 2601 Bob White Ln. and at Sam and Susan Nijmeh's, 304 W. Sequoia Spur, January 18th at 7:00 PM.

Let's Celebrate our Church Family

January Birthdays

Matt Milton

David Winters 1st Gary & Velma Mitchell 14th Jack Ender 10th David & Ali Winters 17th Sam Nijmeh 12th

18th

Men's Ministry

Monthly Breakfast: Regularly scheduled for 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30. Men, come enjoy fellowship, encouragement and sharing from the Word PLUS a hot cooked breakfast. This month: *on the* 12th.

Weekly Breakfast: Regularly scheduled every Tuesday at 8:30 AM at I-Hop. Feel free to stop in for a cup of coffee or breakfast. Begin the day with fellowship, encouragement and sharing.

January Anniversaries





Regular Schedule of Meetings

Sunday

9:30 – 10:15 AM Christian Education 10:30 – 12:00 noon Worship & Preaching

11:15 – 12:00 noon Children's Church Program

Communion: 1st Sunday of Each Quarter

Tuesday

8:30 – 9:30 AM Men's weekly breakfast & share group (IHOP)

4:30 - 6:00 PM Grace Girls, ages 7 - 12

Wednesday

2:00 PM Ladies' Prayer Time (in conjunction with Home Group meetings,

held at the home of Kim Neely.)

Call group leader Two home fellowship groups meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday

for time & location of each month. (Check with Pastor Ron and Mike Milton for times

and location.)

7:00 PM Prayer at the Church (1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month)

Friday

6:30 PM "Single with "Grace" home fellowship group meets on the 2nd &

 4^{th} weeks of the month. (Check with Julie Dominguez 512-632-9752

for location.)

7:00 PM Home fellowship group meets on the 1st & 3rd weeks of each

month. (Check with Sam Nijmeh 512-508-5087 for location.)

Saturday

8:30 AM Men's Breakfast on 2nd Saturday 9:30 AM Ladies' Brunch on 3rd Saturday

Church office is closed on Monday's. Tuesday-Friday office hours are 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Church Office: 512-863-7690 Email: gfsecretary@outlook.com