

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

February 2025

Transformed From the Inside Out

*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day – 2 Cor. 3:18*

Super Bowl LIX takes place at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans on Sunday, February 9. For the past year the city of New Orleans has been busily preparing for the event. Streets have been cleaned, abandoned building have been razed, bright colored murals have been painted on downtown buildings, multi-colored lights have been strung on the Crescent City Connection spanning the Mississippi River, and the homeless have been moved off the streets into shelters. An incredible amount of money and effort has been expended to clean up New Orleans for the 100,000, or more, visitors who are expected to visit the city during the Super Bowl.

While this major cleanup and renovation of downtown New Orleans is not a surprise, after all, every city wants to put its best face forward when hosting a major event like the Super Bowl, the beautifying process is only skin deep. Behind the façade, everything that led to the city's brokenness and need for beautification, i.e., crime, poverty, prostitution, drugs, alcoholism, homelessness, etc., remains. The cleanup only covers the brokenness for a time.

In a similar way, what is true for cities is true for people. We live in an age where great emphasis is placed on external beauty. Countless dollars are spent each year on injections, creams, surgeries, special diets, gym memberships, and personal trainers in the hopes of improving one's appearance and maintaining a youthful look. While it is not wrong to improve our appearance and cultivate a healthy lifestyle that profits the body, if we do so at the neglect of our spiritual health, we are like the cleanup in New Orleans. The beautifying process is only skin deep and the main reason our bodies age and corrupt, that is, the sin within, is not being addressed. Sin is why our bodies get old and eventually die. And no amount of external beautification will change that process.

It is sad to see so many people devote so much time and money to improve their bodies but nothing on their souls. The body will eventually die and the spirit will depart to be with the Lord or be cast into hell. Our relationship with Jesus is what makes the difference. If we look to Christ in faith and trust him as our Lord and Savior, though our bodies outwardly corrupt, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. And when Jesus Christ returns, our bodies will be raised from the grave to newness of life. Never again will they be subject to the ravages of sin. Instead, like the body Jesus now has, they will be glorified and incorruptible.

So, while there is nothing wrong in devoting some time and money to maintain or improve our outward appearance and physical health, we must not do so at the expense of our spiritual growth. For by God's design, we are transformed into the people we will one day be in glory, from the inside out, by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Paul makes this clear when he informs the church in Corinth:

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18).

Therefore, let us do what we can to take care of our bodies and live a healthy life, but even more so, let us devote time to spiritual exercises like Bible reading, prayer, worship, and Christian fellowship, so we may grow strong spiritually as God transforms us into the image of Christ from one degree of glory to another. For as Paul once told Timothy:

...while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (1 Tim. 4:7).

Amen.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter will be available in the vestibule for you to pick up each month.

*Also the newsletter will be on our website:
www.gracepresbyterianbr.church*

The Lord's Supper

will be
observed on February 2 at the
morning worship service.

Everyone is
encouraged to be in prayer and
repentance in preparation to partake in this holy
sacrament.



"...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3: 17-19

Praying for our Nation...

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

“First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way.”

(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)



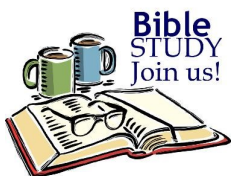
Blessed
is the NATION
whose
GOD
is the LORD.
Psalm 33:12



New Mailing Address :

Darrell & Stefanie Fletcher
6471 Cross Gate Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70817:

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,
and I will listen to you.”
Jeremiah 29: 12*



Please Join us every Wednesday

Time: 10:30

**Where: Fellowship Hall
Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book
“Survey of the New Testament”
By
Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.**

WELCOME to 2025 ! This past year we have been studying the books Of Jonah and Habakkuk.

In 2025 we will be using a book by Marci Ogrosky called "Looking to Christ.....Hebrews".

Marci is a pastors wife, Mom, and has a degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Special Education. She is a down to earth writer that we have enjoyed learning from. Hebrews has 13 chapters, and encouragement is the heart of the books purpose. Jesus sanctifies us for the true worship of God,so that we draw nearer to heaven.

Please join us on the second Tuesday every month at 10am at Grace. I think you will enjoy Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with loving Christian women. Bring a friend if you like. If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison.



Pennies for Missions

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you've been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.

Calendar of Activities for the Month

Men of the Covenant Thursday, February 6, 6:30 pm
Session Meeting: Sunday, February 9, 12:00 pm
WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 10:00 am
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant
Thursday, February 6

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant

We will have a time of fellowship, food, and a devotion from the Word of God.

The men gather around 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and the meal begins around 7:00 p.m.

*"As iron sharpens iron,
 so one person sharpens another."
 Proverbs 27: 17*

The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, February 9 at 12:00 p.m. If you have something you would like the Session to discuss, please let Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, or Cleve Chandler know.

"Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow"
Robert & MaryAnn Bennett are happy to announce the birth of their first Great Granddaughter
Ellis June Johns
Born: 1-17-2025
8lbs. 1oz—20"long
God Is Good!

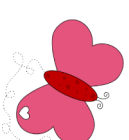
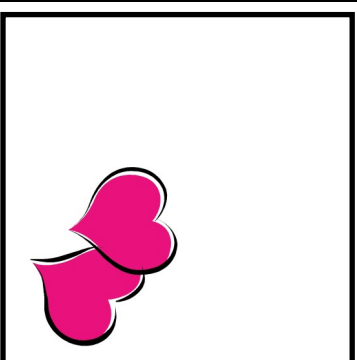


FEBRUARY 2025

FAITH HOPE LOVE
the greatest of these is love

	Morn	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Communion						3
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Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
John 13: 34-35

Grace Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America
9526 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

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February 2025

Love Accepts All Things

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

- 1 Corinthians 13: 7

Wouldn't it be nice if love were like a cafeteria line? What if you could look at the person with whom you live and select what you want and pass on what you don't? What if parents could do this with kids? "I'll take a plate of good grades and cute smiles, and I'm passing on the teenage identity crisis and tuition bills."

What if kids could do the same with parents? "Please give me a helping of allowances and free lodging but no rules or curfews, thank you."

And spouse with spouse? "H'm. How about a bowl of good health and good moods. But job transfers, in-laws, and laundry are not on my diet."

Wouldn't it be great if love were like a cafeteria line? It would be easier. It would be neater. It would be painless and peaceful. But you know what? It wouldn't be love. Love doesn't accept just a few things. Love is willing to accept all things.

from Grace for the Moment, Volume II, by Max Lucado

"We love because

