

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

June 2024

Fighting the Enemy

The sixth day of this month marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day. On that day, June 6, 1944, victory was assured for the Allies when they successfully landed on the beaches of Normandy. However, it took eleven more months for the war in Europe to end when Germany surrendered on May 5, 1945. During the time between D-Day and V-E Day, tens of thousands of men lost their lives in some of the bloodiest battles of the entire conflict as the enemy, with no hope of victory, continued to fight.

In a similar way, when Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the grave for our justification, our enemy the devil was effectively defeated and his ultimate ruin assured, when he is thrown into the lake of fire and tormented day and night forever (Rev. 20:10).

However, as was true for the period of time between the Allies successful invasion of Normandy and Germany's surrender, the devil continues to wage war against God's people, though he has no hope of victory. The apostle Peter warns us of this truth when he writes, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pe. 5:8).

In other words, though the devil is a defeated foe, he is, nonetheless, still on the loose. Therefore, we must be clear-headed and vigilant, always aware the enemy of our souls is on the prowl like a hungry lion, eager to destroy us if given the chance. And we must not give him the chance. Rather, we must "resist him being firm in the faith" (1 Pe. 5:9).

That is the way we fight an enemy who continues to wage war and seek our destruction. We actively resist him by opposing his schemes to undermine and overthrow us.

Along these lines, the Puritan Thomas Brooks (1608-1680), has helpfully written on this topic in his treatise, *Helps Against Satan's Devices*, where he lists several ways to resist the devil (three of which I will mention) and cause him to flee. In Brooks' words:

First, walk by rule (God's Word). He that walks by rule walks most safely; he that walks by rule walks most honorably; he that walks by rule walks most sweetly. When men throw off the Word, then God throws them off, and then Satan takes them by the hand and leads them into snares at his pleasure. Those who keep to the rule, shall be kept in the hour of temptation.

Second, keep a strong, close, and constant watch. That soul that will not watch against temptations will certainly fall before the power of temptations. Satan works most strongly on the imagination when the soul is drowsy. Our whole life is beset with temptations. What need have we then to be always upon our watchtower, lest we be surprised by this subtle serpent. Therefore, it does very much concern us to stand always upon our guard.

Third, be much in prayer. Prayer is a shelter to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to the devil. There is nothing that renders plots fruitless like prayer; therefore, says Christ, “Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation” (Mt. 26:41). You must watch and pray, and pray and watch, if you would not enter temptation.

Our enemy the devil is a defeated foe. Christ, by his death and resurrection, has won the victory for us. Yet, as Peter reminds us, the devil is still on the prowl seeking whom he may devour. One day the war will be over and the devil and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire. But until that day arrives there are still battles to be fought. So being clothed in the armor of God, let us not shrink from the day of battle, but let us resist the devil in the power of the Spirit and the strength of his might, and watch our enemy flee (Jam. 4:7).

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.

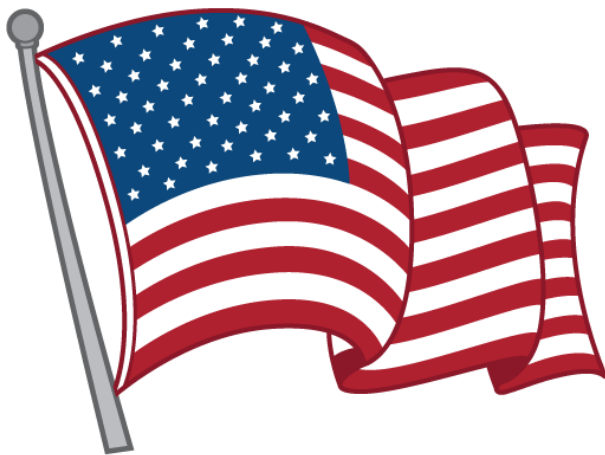
The money will be used to help the Missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.



byFaith is now Digital-Only

byFaith is now digital-only. Instead of a quarterly print magazine delivered to your church, readers can now subscribe at byfaithonline.com to receive e-news in their inbox. Visit byfaithonline.com for the news and articles you've read for years.

FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2024



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BE STRONG

& COURAGEOUS

DO NOT BE AFRAID

DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED

— FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD —

Will Be

WITH YOU

WHEREVER YOU GO

JOSHUA 1:9

Randy's
DESIGN

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.”

(I Timothy 2: 1-2)



Please pray for the following physical concerns and spiritual needs of each, individual.

Physical Well-being of Members and Friends:

- Marsha Allison
- Don Andries
- Toni Andries
- Ronney Arnold
- Julia Benoit
- Donna Blanchard
- Gerri & Kit Bonvillian
- Shirley Croxton
- Warren George
- Rev. Jim Gorski
- Keith Jackson
- Marge Jackson
- Opal Neusetzer
- Stella Price
- James Sievers
- Susan & Charlie Wimberly

Safety of Our Servicemen

- Rev. Troy Milliken
- Patrick McGehee (Son of Dennis & Emary McGehee)

Missionaries We Support:

- Richard & TC Bailey (MTW) - Perth, Australia
- Ellen Barnett (MTW) - Acapulco, Mexico
- Margaret Frisbee (PEF) - Conyers, Georgia
- Matt Roelofs RUF @ Tulane (PCA) - New Orleans
- John & Cathy Rug (MTW) - Chile
- Kenton Wood (MTW) - Guadalajara, Mexico
- Julian Zugg (MINTS) - International
- CSF—(Bebo Elkin)



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.



What do you know about Jonah?
This book of the Bible is more than just about a man and a fish!!
What do you know about Habakkuk?
It is a book of the Bible also!
These questions are being answered the second Tuesday of the month at our Circle Meeting.
God is teaching us how we can use these examples and events in our every day life.
Please join us at 10am the second Tuesday of every month at Grace as we look at "God's Cranky Prophets".
We have a great time of study, prayer, and fellowship.
If you have any questions please contact Marsha Allison

Christian Inquiry

A Blog About Topics and Views of Interest to Christians from
Dr. Gaylan McLin, JD, ThD

www.christianinquiry.com

Recent Article:

The Fruit of the Spirit

Calendar of Activities for the Month

Session Meeting: Sunday, June 9, 12:00 pm
WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 10:00 am
Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am

REMINDER

Men of the Covenant will be in recess for the summer months, but will resume meeting in the month of September.



The Lord's Supper

Grace PCA will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion during the morning worship service, Sunday, June 2, 2024.
Everyone should spend time during the week before preparing your hearts and minds to partake in this sacrament.



Gratitude Cabinet

If there is something that you are thankful for this summer, please remember to take a couple of photos so that we can include them in the Gratitude Cabinet.

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107: 1

The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, June 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, Kit Bonvillian, or Cleve Chandler

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

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June 2024

A Father's Day Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

We pray this prayer, directly from your Word, for our earthly fathers and for men in our lives who have acted as our father by grafting us in to their families, as you have so graciously done for us:

“... I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:14-19, ESV

