

# Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

July 2024

## A Christian American

The Rev. John Witherspoon (1723-1794) played a key role in our nation's War of Independence. Few Americans have heard of him, but he is worthy of our attention for several reasons.

First, Rev. Witherspoon was a genuine Christian sound in the faith. He was a Calvinist whose theology resonated with the themes of human depravity, the free grace of God, and justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone apart from works.

Second, Rev. Witherspoon was an exemplary educator. He was president of the College of New Jersey (Princeton) for over twenty-five years. His graduates included a president of the United States, a vice-president, six members of the Continental Congress, twenty-one U.S. Senators, twelve governors, thirty judges, three Supreme Court judges, six members of the Constitutional Convention, and thirteen college presidents.

Third, Rev. Witherspoon was a great patriot and statesman. He was a member of the Continental Congress and the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence. His reputation as a "fiery" patriot was so well known that the British leadership, as late as 1778, considered him the chief leader of the revolutionary cause. As one member of the British Parliament put it, "cousin America has run off with a Presbyterian parson."

Fourth, Rev. Witherspoon was a serious churchman. He took a leading role in the formation of the American Presbyterian Church. For instance, at the Third General Assembly (1791), over two-thirds of the ministers were graduates of the College of New Jersey (Princeton), and nearly half had been his personal students.

Fifth, and most importantly, Rev. Witherspoon correctly balanced earthly and heavenly priorities. He was committed to the cause of independence and worked hard to achieve that aim, but he understood this political goal paled in comparison to spiritual and eternal causes. Thus, in his sermon titled, "The Dominion of Providence" he pleads with his hearers as they prepare for war:

I do not blame your ardor in preparing for the resolute defense of your temporal rights; but consider, I beseech you, the truly infinite importance of the salvation of your souls. Is it of much moment whether you and your children shall be rich or poor, at liberty or in bonds? And is it of less moment, my brethren, whether you shall be the heirs of glory or the heirs of hell? ... I beseech you in the most earnest manner, to attend to 'the things that belong to your peace, before they are hid from your eyes.' I would therefore earnestly press the apostle's exhortation, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." There can be no true religion, till there be a discovery of your lost state by nature and practice, and an unfeigned acceptance of Christ Jesus, as he is offered in the gospel ... Believe it, "There is no salvation in any other." "There is no other name under heaven given amongst men by which we must be saved."

The Rev. John Witherspoon was a devout Christian of the Revolutionary era. He was an exemplary educator, a serious churchman, and an earnest pastor. He was a great patriot and statesman, committed to the “resolute defense” of American “civil and religious liberties.” He played a key role in the founding of this nation. Yet his ultimate commitment was to Jesus Christ and his eternal kingdom. May God grant our nation leaders like Rev. John Witherspoon. We are in dire need of men like him today.

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I appreciate the many prayers, calls, visits and tasty foods that have been shared as I heal from hip replacement. God has richly blessed me through out this process and He is due great praise for his compassion and mercies.

Yours in Christ,  
 Toni (Don) Andries



**Blessed**  
*Is the nation whose God is the Lord, the  
 people whom he has chosen as  
 his heritage!*

Psalm 33:12 ESV



**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

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



**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

### *Calendar of Activities for the Month*

**Session Meeting:** Sunday, July 7, 12:00 pm  
**WIC Circle Meeting:** Tuesday, July 9, 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.



### *Pennies for Missions*

Every month we remind everyone about the penny jar in the vestibule and the sunday school rooms. Just to let you know what that money is used for, and how important it is.

One of the ministries of we are supporting is going to Ellen Barnett in Acapulco for the New Horizon School. Every little bit of change adds up quickly and the ministries are so thankful.

Please keep praying for this ministry, and continue to add your change from your pockets to our "Penny Jar" (dollars are accepted too!)



### *The Lord's Supper*

Grace PCA will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion during the morning worship service, Sunday, July 7, 2024.

Everyone should spend time during the week before preparing your hearts and minds to partake in this sacrament.

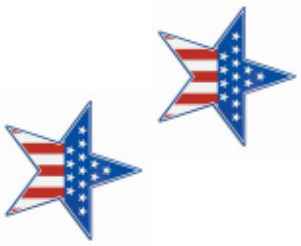


### *Gratitude Cabinet*

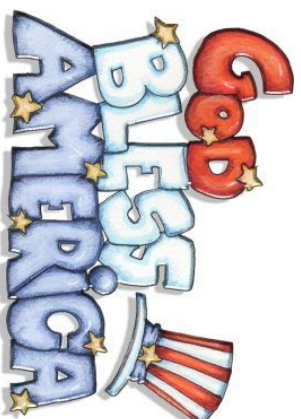
If there is something that you are thankful for this summer, please remember to take a couple of photos so that we can included them in the Gratitude Cabinet.

*"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, July 7, 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 know.



# July 2024



Blessed is the Nation  
 Whose God is the Lord, and  
 the people whom he has  
 chosen as his own  
 inheritance.  
 Psalm 33:12

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	1	2	3 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	4 <i>Happy Fourth of July!</i>	5	6
7 <b>Communion</b> <b>Session Meeting</b>	8	9 <b>10:00 am</b> <b>WIC Circle</b> <b>Meeting</b>	10 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	11	12	13
14 <b>July Celebration</b> <b>After Morning</b> <b>Services</b>	15	16	17 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study</i>			

Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship



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

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*July 2024*



## “July Celebration”



Sunday, July 14th after morning worship services

This will be a picnic style lunch with hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill.

Please plan to attend and invite your family and friends for food, fun, and fellowship.

The church will provide the meat and fixings. If you would like you may bring a side dish or a dessert.

A sign up sheet is provided in the narthex for your convenience.

