

Wednesday, July 31st, 2024 A.D.

Dear Friends Rejoicing in the Mighty Hand & Outstretched Arm of the Most High,

“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles” (2 Chron. 32:7-8 NKJV). As God’s man at the helm of the Southern Kingdom of Judah in the 8th century B.C., Hezekiah was a leader whose heart had been ignited with resolute biblical conviction. In the face of Sennacherib’s Assyrian hordes threatening to lay siege to Jerusalem, Hezekiah infused courage into the hearts of his countrymen by upholding before them the sovereign majesty of the Most High God. Just as God’s people needed strong leadership in that day, we as members of the Church, the Body of Christ, in this age of grace today need to be reminded of the mighty hand and outstretched arm of the LORD of Hosts (2 Cor.2:14-16).

We are grateful and humbled that *Grace Family Ministries* has therefore been raised up by God for such a time as this. Thank you for standing with us in this initiative as there continues to be manifold open doors to come alongside the church and family. As you know, our mission is undergirded by our passion to serve as a catalyst to **1. “Magnifying God’s Glory & Grace...Through Revitalized Church & Family Life”, 2. “Strengthening Church & Family as Co-Champions...of the Next Generation”, and 3. “Mobilizing Church & Family to Engage Culture...with the Biblical Worldview & Gospel of Grace.”**

Looking back on the month of July, we have witnessed some of the most significant events in the history of our country (besides notable headlines on the world stage) and it is therefore our duty-bound stewardship responsibility before God to be the salt and light moral back pressure of truth amidst this present evil age. My family and I have been honored to minister in many ways at *Northern Grace Youth Camp* in Wisconsin. **Timothy** has gained tremendous experience as the Activities & Music Director, **Luke** labored for weeks in the trenches as a Cabin Counselor, **Elijah** served three weeks as a Maintenance Man, and the rest of us were there for Junior High Week as I ministered as the chapel speaker. At the Friday night campfire, I shared with everyone that speaking at NGYC is one of my favorite places to do so anywhere in our country or in the world. By the way, all of the chapel sessions are on *GFM’s YouTube channel* so please be sure to subscribe and help us spread the word. We’re glad to report that as of July 23rd we now have 100 subscribers!

Looking ahead to August/September, this time of year is the “Back 2 School” season as young and old adjust to a new school year with all of its accompanying freshness and challenges to shifting gears from summertime to hitting the books once again along with extracurricular activities. Regardless of your life situation and the educational context of your children and grandchildren, *GFM’s prayer* for you is that your heart is filled with the sobering reality that Almighty God has given you as parents (and grandparents) the responsibility to intentionally pass on the truth of the Christian worldview rooted in Holy Scripture to the next generation. This is one of the primary reasons why *GFM* coordinates family discipleship events around the country and is honored to minister at the annual *Grace Family Conference* originally launched over 20 years ago by Grace Bible Church in Tabor, South Dakota (9/5-8). We are also leading the **“This is the Fight of Your Life!” Men’s Advance** at NGYC on September 14th (check out the events page at www.GraceFamilyMinistries.org for more details).

Thanks be to God that whatever He calls His people to do, He gives us the grace in Christ Jesus to do it even as His mighty hand and outstretched arm goes before us to lead, guide, and direct the pathway of our lives to the praise of His glory. Once again, we’re grateful for your partnership in this endeavor as together we are **“Advancing the Cause of Christ to the Ends of the Earth...Beginning Right at Home.”**

Rejoicing in the Power & Majesty of the Most High GOD,

Pastor Timothy Board
GFM Co-Founder & Director

The Bible & Education

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
Proverbs 1:7 NKJV

The goal of education according to the Bible is moral & spiritual development & not academic aptitude, vocational success, financial security, or athletic prowess. An ancient Hebrew proverb says, **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Pr.9:10 NKJV)**. To have awe & reverence for the majesty of God’s holiness & to therefore love Him with your entire being & for that love to be translated into love for people in practical ways by sacrificially serving others at the point of their need is the goal of education.

The Bible teaches that the family is responsible for educating the next generation & that the mission of the church includes equipping the home to faithfully discharge its duty. Parents must therefore be very intentional in depositing Biblical wisdom into the hearts of their children. When Godly character & Christ-like attitudes are cultivated in the lives of children & young people, it lays a solid Christian foundation for pursuing all areas of academic study for the glory of God.

Students should understand that they have been created in the image of God, that the universe is not random, that the present is not without purpose, & that the future is not void because of Who God is & what the Lord Jesus Christ has done at the cross of Calvary. **This foundational knowledge stokes the natural curiosity & creative imagination of children & fuels the innovative ingenuity of young people to learn, grow, invent, & explore this world for the glory of God.**

To remove God & the Bible from the education process systematically trains students in the worldview of secular humanism. This is a philosophy that interprets everything through the lens of human reason because man is asserted to be the ultimate authority & therefore, he determines what he thinks is truth. The history of the 20th century is fraught with the testimony of the destructive consequences of this belief system.

Biblical Christianity is a superior worldview that affirms that God is & has revealed Himself to mankind. This God created everything about 6,000 years ago in six 24-hr. days & He has revealed Himself in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, fully God & fully Man, & in the pages of Holy Scripture.

The truthfulness of the Bible has been proved time & again & it is therefore a reliable historical document that is a sufficient guide to everything in life. Students need to be taught a comprehensive Biblical worldview which means that they learn how to view every arena of thought & practice through the lens of Holy Scripture. The Bible speaks of the character & nature of God who is the absolute standard of truth. It also speaks to philosophy, ethics, anthropology, biology, history, sociology, law, government, economics, & gives clear directions regarding what all this means for the communities in which we live. **The next generation must understand what they believe, why they believe it, & also be trained in how to defend the exclusive truth claims of Biblical Christianity** against the skeptical questions of the day in the context of a secular culture that is increasingly hostile to the truth. Hence the need for a Biblical worldview.

The goal of education according to the Bible is indeed moral & spiritual development. The intentional cultivation of Godly character & Christ-like attitudes is a process that is the responsibility of the family & should be taken with dead serious urgency in partnership with the local church as “co-champions” of the next generation. Having a heart on fire for God’s glory as ignited by His Spirit & courageously demonstrated in ministry to a depraved world in need of the light of truth is the goal of a genuine Christian education. Anything else will not honor God and will not resound throughout eternity to the praise of His glory in Christ Jesus.

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy & empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, & not according to Christ.

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

Colossians 2:8-9 NKJV