

Friday, March 29th, 2024

Dear Fellow Herald of the Power of the Cross & Empty Tomb,

“Always keep the cross within arm’s reach!” were the encouraging words of an older man who mentored me early on in my walk of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The finished work of Calvary and the triumph of the resurrection, which we especially remember and celebrate this week, is the all-glorious power of God to salvation for everyone who believes (Rom.1:16). This is the heart and soul of Biblical Christianity that renders it distinct among all world religions. **God’s love, mercy, and grace collided at the cross with His holiness, justice, and righteousness as the Person and finished work of Christ is the blazing center of the glory of God.** Understanding the doctrine of penal substitutionary atonement (the vicarious nature of Christ's ultimate sacrifice) is at the heart of Biblical Christianity and the gospel of grace which teaches that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor.15:3 cf. Is.52:13-53:12).

Almighty God Himself became a Man and bore the undiluted wrath that rebel sinners guilty of treason and sedition deserved. Christ asked God the Father, “if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Matt.26:39 NKJV). It was at the cross that the Father’s fury exploded upon the Son and He drank that cup to the dregs crying out amidst unfathomable darkness, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt.27:45-46 NKJV). Whereas King David testified that, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of the death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me” (Ps.23:4 NKJV), Christ was unable to do so Himself because He walked that valley alone being forsaken by the Father when He “died for our sins” at Calvary (1 Cor.15:3 NKJV). Three days later, He rose again, is alive forevermore, and in Him the people of God have Living Hope for time and eternity! **Hallelujah, what a Savior!**

Thank you for upholding my family and I in prayer as we have embarked upon this new adventure of **Grace Family Ministries**. Our mission is ***“Advancing the Cause of Christ to the Ends of the Earth...Beginning Right at Home.”*** We believe that God has raised up this ministry to be a catalyst toward positive change beginning on the grass roots level where we live every day.

Since launching this ministry initiative last fall, the Lord has blessed us with the opportunity to serve at churches in six different states around the country including a recent trip to Florida. Highlights include presenting the mission of **Grace Family Ministries**, sharing special music as a family, leading congregational singing, recording ***Grace Family Strategies videos*** with pastors/ministry leaders, teaching a ***Men’s Leadership Seminar***, coordinating a ***Grace Family Equipping Conference*** on the Gulf Coast, and especially the preaching of the Word of God with practical relevance to family discipleship and cultural engagement.

Besides these “boots-on-the-ground” ministries, a brother in Christ from Arizona built us a website at **www.GraceFamilyMinistries.org** and another friend from Tennessee has put his video editing expertise to work as reflected by some of the professional content on the **GFM YouTube channel**. Please check out both resources as there are new articles and videos being added regularly to equip the church and family for such a time as this.

We are also grateful for our home church here in Indianapolis, ***Grace Point***, who is processing our financial support, from ministry partners like you, as **we serve as missionaries to the American church and family as a catalyst toward reformation, revival, and revitalization to the praise of God’s glory in Christ Jesus.**

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for ministry at churches in IN, IL, and WI including the **"Fight for Your Family!" *Raising Up Courageous Generations*** event hosted by ***Grace Bible Church*** in Oshkosh, WI. This is a *Grace Family Equipping Conference* and features multiple speakers with proven life experience addressing such intensely practical topics as *"Fight for Your Marriage!"*, *"Fight for Your Kids/Grandkids!"*, & *"Fight for Your Faith & Freedom!"* with resolute Biblical conviction from the Word of God. More information about this event is available online.

Just as I was encouraged to do as a young man, **"Always keep the cross within arm's reach!"** May you and your family be grateful to God, magnify His glory, and always herald the power of the cross and the empty tomb not only this Resurrection Sunday but any given Sunday for our Savior is worthy of all praise because of who He is and what He has done. 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 Blazing Center of God's Glory,

Pastor Timothy Board
GFM Co-Founder & Director