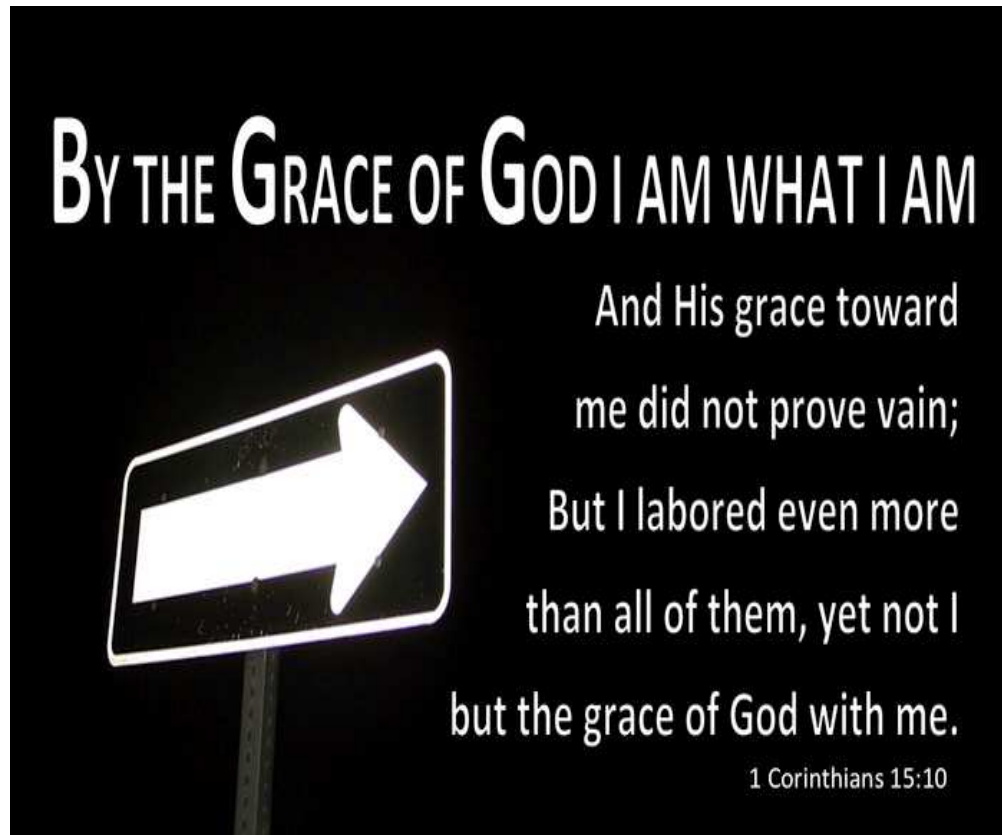


The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church.
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601
HiltonBaptistChurch.org / (757)595-3300



As we conclude our series this week on how to live “*Selfless*” lives, this verse beautifully captures the tension between God’s divine grace and our human efforts. Paul says first that in the exhaustive ministry to which he was called that he worked harder than anyone else. But then he quickly corrects himself and acknowledges that it wasn’t really his efforts but the grace of God which was with him.

Paul reveals the liberating truth that God’s grace is not idle; it moves us. Grace compels us to labor with joy and endurance. The effort we pour into serving God is not a contradiction to grace but a response to it. Our work becomes an act of worship, driven by gratitude in the midst of our effort for what God has done.

HBC Is Hosting The P.O.R.T. Ministry This Week!
Providing Food & Shelter For The Area Homeless
People To Help Serve Are Still Needed and Invited To Serve Contact Pam
Cooke or Church Office At (757)595-3300

P.O.R.T. - People Offering Resources Together.



By the Grace of God, I Am What I Am

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” 1 Corinthians 15:10

Anyone who knows anything about me at all, also knows that this scripture is certainly one of my favorite verses in the entire Bible. In this profound declaration, the Apostle Paul captures the essence of a life transformed by divine grace. These words echo the humility of a man who once sought to destroy the church but became one of its greatest champions. They reflect both the wonder of redemption and the mystery of God’s sovereignty in shaping us for His purposes.

Paul’s words remind us that grace is not merely a theological concept; it is the active, unmerited favor of God that changes lives. Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, was arrested by grace on the road to Damascus. This same grace not only forgave him but also empowered him to labor for the gospel. Grace does not simply excuse sin—it transforms the sinner.

How often do we, like Paul, wrestle with the tension between our unworthiness and God’s calling? Yet, it is grace that bridges the gap, enabling us to live and serve despite our past. Here we find Paul embracing his identity in Christ. His statement, *“I am what I am,”* is not a resignation to weakness or sin but an acknowledgment of God’s work in his life. It is a testimony that who he has become is entirely the result of divine intervention. Our identity in Christ is not self-made; it is crafted by the hands of a loving God who sees beyond our failures and potential into the fullness of His purpose for us.

This truth liberates us from striving to prove ourselves. We are not defined by the world’s standards or our past mistakes. Instead, we are shaped by the grace that calls us sons and daughters of God, heirs with Christ, and participants in His kingdom work.

Paul goes on to say, *“His grace toward me was not in vain.”* Here, we see the dynamic nature of grace—it is not idle or stagnant. Grace compels us to action. It fuels our perseverance and equips us for every good work.

So what is God’s grace empowering you to do? Perhaps it’s to forgive someone, overcome a struggle, or step boldly into a calling. Like Paul, we are invited to labor in response to grace, knowing it is not our strength but His that accomplishes the work.

Can you say, like Paul, *“By the grace of God, I am what I am”*? Let this truth anchor your identity, fuel your purpose, and fill your heart with gratitude.

On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

January 14, 2025

Budget Offering \$1568.00

Initial Offering \$20.00

Total Deposit \$1588.00

Calendar

Tuesday, January 14th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Wednesday– January 15th

PORT

Thursday, January 16th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

PORT

Friday, January 17th

PORT

Saturday, January 18th

PORT

Sunday, January 19th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sunshine Kids

Produce Giveaway after worship

PORT

Monday, January 20th

PORT

Tuesday, January 21st

PORT

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, January 22nd

PORT Ends this morning.

Thursday, January 23rd

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Sunday, January 26th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sunshine Kids

Product Giveaway after Worship

Happy Birthday in January


1/13 Cathy Childs

1/13 Dreama Johnson

1/18 Al Dillon

1/23 Barbara Michie

1/30 Carolyn Schaubach

THERE IS
no one like 
Jesus

Adobe Stock | 146189819

Schedules

Lock up/ Hall Monitor

1/19 Stan Langdon

1/26 Charles Vassar

Counter

1/20 Margaret Upole

1/27 Kathy Caskie

Kids Church

1/19 Lisa York

1/26 Debra Sink

Mennowood Retirement Community invites everyone to attend the following FREE Events

Tuesday, January 21st 12pm-1pm “Understanding Your Senior Living

Options” Presented by Dawn Michelle, Certified Advisor with Choice Connections of Virginia.

All events are free and open to the public but you need to make reservations.

RSVP to Michele at the Mennowood 757-249-0355 or mryba@mennowood.com



Missions Outreach

***If you have any questions on Missions Outreach Activities
call Pam Cooke 757-660-4226***

Pray for our Missionaries

TJ, John Randall (Asian Pacific Rim People) AH, EL (Central Asian People) Emily Ruble, DS (European People) KC, NK, JM (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) PT (South Asian People) Martin Chien , James Steven Westbrook (CA) Andrew Hirschy (IN) Price Wright (MO) Kyle Stewart (TX)

January's Community Dinner is Friday, January 31st

We need your help! We need help with preparation, serving and clean up. Please see Pam Cooke if you can help. If you want to help with the food bank giveaway, contact Tara. We need you to come and love and help with our

Community.

WMU Mission Project for January

PORT



Pray for PORT THIS WEEK! We have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the homeless of our city. Pray for Pam, Roger, all the workers and the partners that will be helping us. God has blessed us, so that we can bless others. If you would like to help, contact Pam at the number above and she will plug you in.

“Serving Our Community with the Love of Jesus”

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
for P.O.R.T. Homeless
Ministry!!!

(P.eople O.ffering
R.esources T.together)

HELPING THE
HOMELESS &
GIVING HOPE



January 15th - January 22nd

See Pam Cooke for Details or...
Call Church Office @ 595-3300

Guard Your Heart

The Bible says, *“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Pro 4:23)*

You are the overseer of your heart. Each day you must monitor what goes on there. You can't blame your bad attitude, resentment and unforgiveness on others. You are responsible!

When somebody offends you, it's up to you whether or not you let bitterness take root. You can't control what other people do, but it's the “inside” part – the part you can control – that God holds us accountable for. You get to decide whether or not irritation turns into anger, anger into resentment, and resentment into retaliation.

The reason weeds take over a garden is because the gardener doesn't pull them up fast enough. When your garden is choked by weeds you can't say, “I don't know how it happened!” “Look diligently,” you will see them moving in. The only way to stay free of the weeds the enemy wants to sow in your life is to be attentive to the condition of your heart.

When you're faced with a hurtful, offensive situation, refuse to let a wrong attitude take root and produce bad fruit. Instead, ask God to help you replace those destructive thoughts with mercy and forgiveness towards the people who hurt you.





Radiant Certainty

" You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

– John 16:20-22

There are some days when, frankly, I don't feel much like worshiping God. There are probably more days like that than I'd care to admit. But usually those are days are when I'm staring at my circumstances and making judgments about what I see around me. And I struggle with the God-truth that he is in the circumstances that surround me – all the circumstances.

Have you ever considered that heartbreak is part of God's plans for you, *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*? (Jeremiah 29:11) We put so much energy into avoiding the hurt when God would have us embrace it. He wants us to know that he can heal our hurts, even use our hurts for his benefit, and for us to faithfully believe that sometimes the circumstances we think are harming us are actually positive situations God is engineering.

As always, Jesus shows us the way – because he is the Way. Jesus embraced the pain of God's plan for his life, and he did it with full faith that God was still working the plan to bring a *"hope and a future"* to your life and mine. (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV) Christ was so sure that his grief would turn to joy that he showed a radiant certainty in God's faithfulness.

And we, too, can have this radiant certainty about God's hand in our lives. We can say, when it comes to God's faithfulness, *"I know because I know that I know."* That's radiant certainty. The Cross was Christ's glory, not His penalty – and the same is true of difficult circumstances in our lives!

A Final Laugh... "Tainted Money "

Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him. "You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"



Horrified, the little boy obeyed. After a few seconds he whispered,

"But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."



***Start Off The New Year Of 2025 Right...
With A Special Gift Of Faith!***

As we are beginning a bright and hopeful New Year, we want to plant our seed early on for the blessings we hope will receive during the next 12 months. To accomplish this, let us consider sowing a special seed in our giving at the very outset of the year in an expression of our faith in His faithfulness.

As this year lies before us, we are positioned as never before to blaze a fresh, new direction in both our worship and our facilities. The vision that Pastor Lynwood and Vision Team are mapping out will be a bold one and will be shared over the next few months.

Let us pray now and together for the wind of the Holy Spirit to stir up the flame inside each one of us for the faith we will need to accomplish what's set before us. Through His grace and through His goodness, we truly believe that HBC's best days are yet to come. Join your faith with ours to believe God for the same for your life as well!

**“Give Your Best To God And
Expect His Best Back To You!”
God provided for us through 2024...
Let's expect miracles in 2025!**

***In 2025 Remember And
Be Faithful in You Tithes
and Offerings...***

***Sow Abundantly and
Reap an Abundant
Harvest Back. Give God
the Glory!***

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Genesis 6-8)

10-06-2004

**GEE DAD ... I HOPE THAT PEOPLE IN THE
FUTURE WON'T BE LOOKING FOR THIS ARK**