

Unpacking the Suitcase of Grace

Since airlines have started charging to check baggage, it is amazing how skilled travelers have become in packing everything into one small carry-on bag. But nobody ever packed more into a smaller space than our God. Into the container of GRACE he has packed everything we needed or will ever need. In Romans 5, Paul unpacks that glorious suitcase-of-grace.

By grace we have peace with God. In this state we stand so strong, that not even suffering can take away our joy nor erase our hope. Christ handed us this all-in-one package right when we needed it. We had nothing.

“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!” (Rom. 5:10). We owed a million-dollar debt we could never pay. When Christ showed up with his suitcase-of-grace he didn’t just square us with God to even things out. Far beyond that he saved us eternally, promoted us to sonship, and enriched us beyond what we could have ever achieved. And he did this while we were acting like God’s enemies.

We could never have packed so much good into one bag. Because we pridefully want to earn our good fortune, God’s grace seems to us too generous. It’s true that we question the justice of how one man’s sin (Adam) got us into this mess. But God asks whether it is any less just for one man’s obedience (Christ) to make everyone right again. Sure, one man’s act got us into trouble, but then one man’s act got us out. But more than that, he saved us eternally. God fit a lot into his suitcase-of-grace. He packed enough for everybody!

God is like that landowner who when questioned about his impartial generosity replied, *“Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?”* (Matt. 20:15). Sometimes when you are handed a gift, it pays not to ask too many questions. God has handed us a suitcase-of-grace. In a lifetime—no, make that—in an eternity, we will never unpack it all. In it, there is enough for you and for anyone you meet who may have trespassed against you. You already have everything you need in your suitcase-of-grace!

Mark



NEW SERIES Starts This Week: “Too Busy NOT To Pray” Our Worship Messages and Sunday Adult Bible Class will focus on this theme in March and April. Books are available in the church lobby at cost, but as usual, take one for free if you cannot afford it. We want everyone to participate.

Haircuts for Missions: is this Saturday, March 11th.

Youth Group: Friday, March 10th, 7-10pm- Movie night at the Francoeur’s home.

Sunday, March 19th: Lunch after Worship and trip to Victory Church in Audubon, PA (near KOP) to see the *Compassion Experience* at 1:40. We will return for pick up by 4pm. 20 spots are reserved so confirm ASAP if you can go. A few parents are needed to help with transportation.

Fellowship Meal is March 19th: It will be a Tex-Mex theme. See the bulletin board for the sign-up list of foods to bring. Team 6 has set-up and clean-up.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Nelson Nuñez (Psalm 37:7-11)

Opening Prayer: Tim Jones

Lord's Supper: Dan Swinehart, Darren, Henry Duncan, Thanh Ly

Scripture Before Message: Gerry Hogan (Rom.12:4-8)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Rick Boyle

15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 27 Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain**
of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)



Joel has been saved because of his choice

to follow Jesus and obey his commands.

Matthew 28:19-20: Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Nursery: Norma & Layla Next Week: Margaret & Hannah

Pink Cleaning Team March 8-11, Howard & Donna coordinate

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn – Preacher

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876

Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276

Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969.....

Worship Total 120

Bible Class 84

Wed. PM..... 35

Contribution..... \$5,054

Budget Goal \$4,260



