**Why Are We Here, Where Are We Going, and How Do You Fit In?**

**Matthew 16:17-18** - *And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”*

**Hebrews 1:1-4** - *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.*

**Matthew 28:19-20** - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

**Acts 1:8** - *…you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*

**Ephesians 4:11-13** - *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

**Colossians 1:28** - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

Core Values

Growing Stronger – We believe that God has a plan for every Christian's growth and that He wants godly lives and families built.

Reaching Out – We believe that a changed life enables us to reach those without Christ in a way that is faithful and creative.

Serving Together - We believe that God wants us to challenge and equip our members to serve Him, and that He wants every member serving.

Meeting Needs - We believe that our church should address community concerns by doing good works and sharing biblical truths.

Strengthening Others - We believe that God is pleased as we seek to strengthen other pastors, missionaries, and key leaders.

3 essentials to being a church family who finds grace together in 2015

**I. Understand the Source of Grace**

**Esther 4:11** - *All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days.*

A. Our great high priest

**Hebrews 4:14** - *Therefore, since we have a great high priest…*

B. Passed through the heavens

**Hebrews 4:14** - *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens…*

C. Son of God

**Hebrews 4:14** - *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God…*

D. One who can sympathize with our weaknesses

**Hebrews 4:15** - *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses…*

E. One who has conquered sin victoriously

**Hebrews 4:15** - *…but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

F. One who sits on a throne of grace

**John 1:14** - *…full of grace…*

**II. Anticipate the Effects of Grace**

A. We can receive mercy

**Hebrews 4:16** - *…so that we may receive mercy…*

B. We can find grace

**Hebrews 4:16** - *…so that we may…find grace…*

**Hebrews 4:1** - *Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.*

C. We can find help

**Hebrews 4:16** - *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**III. Perform the Action of Grace**

**Hebrews 4:16** - *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1) By increasing our ability to handle hard times well

2) By improving our soul care ministries to each church member

3) By integrating grace into each of our education ministries

4) By investigating the next steps in our community and world-wide outreach

5) By identifying ways to make each counseling ministry more grace-based

6) By involving each member in meaningful service for Christ

**2 Corinthians 8:1-6** - *Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.*