

News & Notes

Happy Thanksgiving. It's a good time to be reminded of the joy and the importance of being thankful. For what are you grateful?

Welcome and Thank You to the **Klemm family**. We appreciate Mitchell and Karl volunteering to lead singing and Lord's table.

New Hymnals and Bibles: We are grateful to the Mississauga Church for passing their song books on to us since they have stopped gathering as a congregation. You are welcome to take one or two home for your personal use.

Food Cupboard: Donations are always welcome.

A new **cleaning sign-up sheet** is available in the foyer.

Scheduled to Serve:

	Today	Oct 16	Oct 23
Chair	Chad	Art	Tony
Preaching	Art	Chad	Chad

Contributions: send to churchcollege@yahoo.com or leave in box in foyer.

Key to the Kingdom – Fridays 8:30 am on Vision TV

Bulletin: If you have news you would like to see shared in the bulletin, please get it to Art by Thursday noon (kingstonchurchofchrist@yahoo.com or 613-876-4605).

Kingston Church of Christ

Meeting at 446 College St., Kingston, ON K7L 4M7
www.kingstonchurchofchrist.ca
613-546-5409
KingstonChurchofChrist@yahoo.com
Every member a minister

Email kingstonchurchofchrist@yahoo.com for zoom link to Bible study at 7:00 pm Wednesdays.

October 9, 2022

“Quote” of the week

"Christ is a substitute for everything, but nothing is a substitute for Christ."

—H.A. Ironside

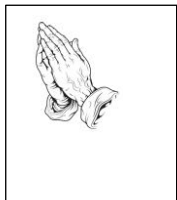
Visitors, Welcome to our gathering! Join us in worship and fellowship.

Please join us in worshipping God as we sing, pray and read the Bible. We also share communion each Sunday remembering the sacrifice of Jesus who gave himself to die for our sins. If you wish to partake with us, you are free to do so.

We hold the Bible to be God's inspired message for us and hold it in highest esteem.

If a question comes to mind, please ask it. We will try to help you find answers from God. Please let us know of any way we can serve you.

Let's Keep Praying For



- Chad's friend Jeff weak after stem cell transplant
- Benny, out of hospital
- Tohey's Mom in hospital
- Ron C facing heart issues
- The people of Ukraine & other war-torn areas
- Betty
- Dale and Marion's health
- Brian as he struggles with health issues
- Cancer patients: Shaun, Tim F, Chad's cousins Grace & Harold, Laura Lynn, Patti-Anne
- Anne as she faces more chemo

He Loves Forever (Part 1)

What I never understood as a younger disciple/preacher was that grace is a function of God's love/hesed. Grace is granted because love is already there. Years ago, I imagined the "Old Testament" was deficient because it did not talk about "grace" as much as Paul did (I single him out on purpose because Jesus did not use the word 'grace.' Yet I assume all will grant that Jesus is indeed the Lord of Grace even if he never uses the word.).

But I did not understand. I had not spent time reflecting. I had not done as Jesus said, *"go learn what this means"* and *"if you had known what this means"* (Mt 9.13 & 12.7) where Jesus points his critics to the Prophet Hosea who said, *"I [Yahweh] desire mercy rather than sacrifice"* (Hosea 6.6).

It is difficult to find a more profound picture of unconditional love than that in the story of Hosea. God's love is depicted (figuratively) as "Hell will freeze over, I may go thru Hades because of you, but I will never give you up!" That is love. This pure "grace." The welcome back (=grace) is there because love was there all along.

People think Paul is the apostle of grace but he is really an apostle of love ... as is John. Love is the greatest of all says Paul (he got that from his Hebrew Bible). *Yahweh is love*. Grace is a function of infinite love.

There is no shortage of "love" in the Hebrew Bible, it shocks many to learn that Moses speaks of "love" more than any biblical writer save John. Deuteronomy speaks of "love" 21x while Romans only 14. Only the Gospel of John in the New Testament beats out Deuteronomy with 27. But it is Psalms that is King of Hesed with a whopping 150+ times.

The Exodus is, perhaps, the best example of "grace alone" in history (the Bible). The Hebrews were unbelieving pagans at best. They did not believe. Israel confessed her lack of faith for centuries in worship.

*"for they did not believe in God
or trust in his deliverance ...*

In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;

in spite of his wonders,

they did not believe" (Psalm 78.22, 32; the entire Psalm is worthy of serious rumination)

Our spiritual ancestors grumbled and cursed Moses at every turn. After the mighty displays of Yahweh over Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt, they still were afraid and wanted to go back. Yahweh told Moses to tell them to shut up and watch their God! (Read Exodus 14 till we get it).

The crossing of the Red Sea was the result. Israel did not "contribute" to her salvation anything but unfaith. It is a shame that so many disciples fail to recognize the "Exodus Pattern" through the rest of Scripture ... including the work of Jesus himself.

Israel's relationship with God was based upon *"love [Hesed] alone"* (love is greater than grace! Or we say better, grace is the expression of love). God loved Israel so God rescued Israel from the land of slavery, the land of death. *"It was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery ... keeping his covenant of love ..."* (Deuteronomy 7.8, 9).

(to be continued next week)