

GRACE IN CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2000

I continue to think a lot about preparing for a discipleship ministry to serve churches in the Greenville area.

God is transforming that obsession for a ministry into an obsession for Christ.

My perspective is being changed from "preparing for a ministry" to "ministering in the preparation."

Thank you for ministering to me by being a friend with whom to share my heart in this newsletter. Gregg

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3)

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

I helped teach a GraceLife Conference for the fifth time this year at Christ Life Ministries in Hendersonville, NC. This three-day Conference encourages growing in God's grace based on what Christ has already done for and in us through the cross, and is continuing to do in and through us now.

Fourteen men and women attended this most recent Conference, including three pastors. It was a wonderful time of sharing and feasting on God's truths for all of us. God is indeed the teacher! Each pastor is planning to participate in more training at Christ Life Ministries early next year. Following are written endorsements from each pastor:

"Every Christian needs to learn this as a foundation."

"I believe every serious Christian should avail themselves to this great resource.

You don't find answers, but the ANSWER – Jesus Christ."

**"Christians have not really grasped the concept of our true identity in Jesus! This has helped me as a pastor!
I now have a new vision for teaching and discipling my congregation."**

I met with the chaplain of the Hendersonville County prison to initiate planning for discipleship opportunities at the prison next year. He wants the GraceLife Conference to be the foundation for the prison's ministry.

I am excited to find out that people can now attend prison chapel services with me. I long for my friends and family to know more about God's discipleship ministry to which He has called me, and I would love for them to experience God at work in this prison. Thank you, God, for your gracious opportunities to share the life of Your Son!

I started discipling a new Christian who is 67 years old, and I am continuing to disciple a new Christian who is 16-years old. It's amazing to see the same transforming grace and truth apply to all ages!

I also started discipling a precious young Christian couple at church. This couple was drawn to Christ through grace in my pastor and another brother in Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS FOREVER

Many times I make the gospel too complicated as I try to be so thorough in teaching (*notice I said "...as I try..."*). I have a growing desire to **more simply share the simple truths with simple trust**, a trust that God will reveal His truths in His perfect timing and precious ways. His truths are simply profound, and profoundly simple! And it is not just learning about truths, it is all about getting to know the Person who is Truth! Here is an excerpt from the book Grace Works by Dudley Hall that has helped me focus on the heart of discipleship:

I died with Christ, I resurrected with Christ, and I am united to Him in covenant love. I am dead to the law. I no longer have to cringe at the reflection of my flaws, because I gaze only at Jesus. Because I am His, His perfections are mine too! As long as I look only at Christ, I am conscious only of Him and will reflect the glory of His face.

GRACE NOTE

Law tempts a person to seek God's blessings.

Grace enables a person to see he is already blessed with every blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), and to seek to bestow those blessings on others.

A tree's fruit is not for the tree, but is produced for others.