

Key Verses

John 13:35

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Eph 2:8-10

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

2 Pet 2:2

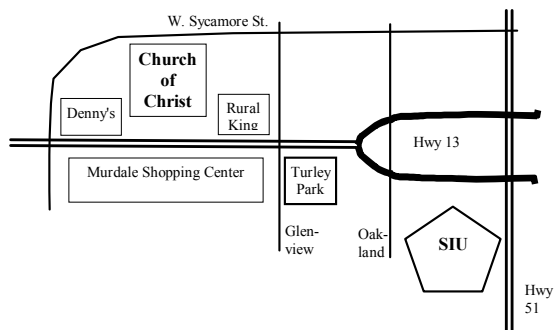
“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”

2 Cor 5:16-19

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”

Carbondale Church of Christ

We are an independent fellowship of Christians trying to follow God’s will as revealed in the Bible. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, was crucified on a cross, buried in a tomb, raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven. As a family of Christians we are committed to helping each person grow spiritually, to living as a family in rich relationships together, and serving others by loving them as our own. This all began for us when we became united with Christ in baptism. We invite you to join us in following Christ.



Sunday Meeting Times
Bible Class: 9:45 A.M.
Worship Service: 10:45 A.M.
**Teen Life Group, Children's
Worship, Adult Study 6 P.M.**
Wednesday Meeting: 6:30 P.M.

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2009 Embracing Grace



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Eph 2:8-10

www.Carbondalectoc.com

”...Bringing honor to God the Father by imitating his Son, Jesus Christ, and spreading the gospel message.”

Embracing Grace

Ephesians 2:8 says, “For it is by grace you have been saved...not from yourselves....not by works...but to do good works.”

Accepting this one verse changes a person’s life forever. We needed to be rescued because we suffer from the consequences of sin. Sin that prevents us from living with God eternally and consigns us to death. Although we have no trouble sinning by our own actions, we have no hope of overcoming sin through our own actions. That’s when God steps in and saves us, forgiving our sins, breaking the power of sin over our lives, and inviting us into an eternal relationship with Him. What we couldn’t accomplish for ourselves, or merit through our efforts, God gave us as a gift. The gift of grace.

God’s gift, although surprising and welcomed, sometimes leaves us feeling uncomfortable. We know we are forgiven, but we continue to feel guilty. We know we cannot work for our salvation, but we feel we “must.” We understand that salvation is secured through God’s efforts, but we continue to assure ourselves by what we do. Grace is hard to embrace.

Three Core Values

These three core values describe the kind of congregation we strive to be. Over the course of this year we will use these terms to describe why we do the things we do as a congregation.

Spiritual Formation

Life in Christ involves a continual process of transformation and growth. Transformation from an old way of life into a God-centered life. Spiritual growth that allows us to release everything into God’s hands for His purposes. Spiritual formation is the heart of our life in Christ and the center of our efforts as a congregation. We will never reach the place where we can say, “we don’t need to grow,” so we continue to “press on to the goal.” (2 Pet 2:2; Phil 3:14)

Authentic Faith Community

As a congregation we strive to live out God’s calling not just as individuals, but as a family. God’s people live in relationships that express the truth of the gospel in living flesh. We are authentic people who know how to love, forgive, confess, support, encourage, and work ...together. We are a community of faith, people who rely upon the power and promises of God rather than our human calculations of what is possible. (John 13:35)

Incarnational Ministry

Christ emptied himself, leaving his place and position as God to take on human flesh to serve humanity. His mission was to demonstrate God’s love in the most tangible form possible....in the flesh. He served others by becoming brothers with them. As a congregation we carry that same message following Christ’s example. We seek to serve others to demonstrate the love of God by leaving our safe-havens and taking the risk of loving those who are lost. (Phil 2:5f; 2Cor 5:16-19)

Learning Cycles

(Jan 4) Spiritual Growth

As an intentional congregation we want to begin 2009 with an emphasis on personal spiritual growth. We hope that everyone will prayerfully set specific spiritual growth goals for this year.

(Feb 15) Embracing Grace I

This study will examine the head and heart of the grace of God and several different ways we tend to resist it.

(Apr 5) Power Over Sin

Along with grace God gives us power to live righteous lives. We have salvation AND power over sin. This study will examine common misconceptions of our ability to live righteously.

(May 17) Colossians

This study will explore Paul’s letter to the Colossians.

(Jul 5) Jonah-Habakkuk

Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk are writings of the prophets. Join us in this study as we examine God’s character through the eyes of the prophets.

(Aug 16) John 1, 2, 3

The Apostle John wrote three letters to encourage Christians. These letters express the heart of John’s emphasis on love.

(Oct 4) Embracing Grace II

Continuing the study of grace we will examine the possibilities of living under grace. Answering the question, “If I accepted grace, I would...”

(Nov 15) Esther / Song of Solo

To close out the year we will look back into the Old Testament at two writings about love and commitment in two very different circumstances.