

## THE CHARACTER OF NOAH

Notice how Noah's character contrasts with the world he lived in. **"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."** (Gen. 6:8-9). Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. In the midst of an immoral society, Noah stood out. Notice what we read about him.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This is the first time the word "grace" is used in the Bible and Noah did not earn God's blessing — he was given God's favor. Without grace Noah could not have been saved from the destruction of the world. God's grace benefited Noah. First, God revealed His intentions to Noah (6:13,17).

Second, God gave commands to Noah that, if he obeyed, would save him and his family (6:14-16). Third, God promised Noah salvation from the flood (6:18). The grace extended by God was not "cheap grace," but included hard work by man in obeying God. Also, careful attention to detail to what God had said and how He had said it was essential. We are living in a world where folks have disregarded God's details; such action is not the means of obtaining the grace of God. Further, the complete judgment of God against all that was evil and sinful is expressed. Noah trusted God. In so doing, Noah stood alone in grace and favor with God.

Noah was a just man. To be "just" means to live a righteous life and to treat others in a fair and just way, despite the circumstances. It means to be upright, honest, and virtuous, never to cheat or steal from others. Noah lived a just and moral life both before God and man. Noah's righteousness exceeded that of the people. **"For I**

**say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."** (Matt 5:20). Noah's mindset was to do only that which God wanted him to do. He allowed God's standards to affect and direct his life. Noah was unafraid to live differently from the status quo. What a lesson for Christians! The child of God is to live that holy and just life that is different from the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17). The Christian life is a constant that is not robbed by circumstances. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil. 1:21).

Noah was a perfect man. The Hebrew word for perfect is to be without blemish or to be blameless, to be moral, a person of purity, of integrity, of honesty; to be whole and complete. Not that he was sinless (Gen. 9:24), but that there were no blatant faults. He was a man of moral integrity among his generation. In that godless society, no one had any charges against Noah. We can conclude that he had a good relationship with his friends and neighbors. No one wondered if Noah was dealing honestly with them. They knew his ethics were solid. No one had to question whether Noah was cheating on his wife. They knew Noah was committed to her. No one questioned Noah's methods. They knew he was not seeking to manipulate them. No one questioned Noah's sincerity. They may have questioned his sanity, but not his heart. Jesus expects His church to be perfect (blameless) when He delivers it to God the Father, **"a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"** (Eph. 5:27).

Noah walked with God. Noah's conduct and his walk of life are emphasized. The same thing was recorded

about Enoch; it is the essential element we need. Noah's walk with God was threefold. First, it was a walk that continued individually. Second, it was a walk that preserved a family. Third, it was a walk in contrast to the disobedient world. The present generation could use a change of heart so we can walk with God instead of walking with the world. It requires a change of attitude. The imaginations and thoughts of the heart cannot be evil continually while yet we expect to walk in God's favor. We must have a walk of life that corresponds with our profession.

Note that when the Christian walks with God, it is also a circumspective walk. **"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil"** (Eph. 5:11-16).

The circumspective walk of the child of God is about an awareness of one's surroundings. Christians should behave like Noah by walking with God through a very dark and dying world.

How can we find grace in the eyes of God? By being just, perfect, and walking with God. Character does matter with God! May we be encouraged by the example and life of Noah.

**Glenn Hitchcock from The Encourager**

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## ANNIVERSARY

Dave and Joy Parish, 06-14.

## BIRTHDAYS

Steve Brown, 06-14; Monica Nemechek, 06-20.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Joy Parish.

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

Cleo Stone and Ralph Franklin are recovering from their recent falls. Barbara James had cataract surgery on June 10 and was recovering at home Wednesday evening. Steven Schleif had tests in Topeka on Wednesday.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Vic Cuney; Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards is away on business in Chicago for two weeks. Tammy and Sarah Marcum were on a school trip on the East coast week before last. Clara Scott was visiting relatives last Sunday. Steve Brown and Jeff Nemechek were vacationing in the Las Vegas area part of last week. Leah D. Thrasher was vacationing in Miami a few days last week.

## MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, June 14th following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 46; Sunday PM, 41; Wednesday PM, 28.

# Those To Serve

June 14, 2009

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brown**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher**  
**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... George Thomas**  
**PRESIDE..... John Dodson**  
**ASSIST..... Chris Edwards**  
**ASSIST..... Dave Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jared Nelson**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson**

### WEDNESDAY 17th

**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**INVITATION ..... Jared Nelson**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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