# Our Practical Plan for Personal & Congregational Growth in 2013

"The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

(1 Timothy 1:14)



"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

the

## Laurel Canyon church of Christ

409 McNaughten Road Columbus, OH 43213

614.868.1375

www.LCCOC.net

# 1 Peter 5:5-12

<sup>5</sup>Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives **grace** to the humble."

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>12</sup> By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true **grace** of God. Stand firm in it.

# Our Aim in 2013

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph 1:2)

Our prayer and goal for 2013? To "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet 3:18). This booklet outlines a practical plan to help us focus and remain accountable as we strive for personal and congregational growth. This plan is built on 10 key words that reveal a logical, God-breathed flow of development and progress that ultimately leads to his glory.

THE SOURCE: The God of all grace (1 Pet 5:10)

THE SAVIOR: Grace upon grace made available in Jesus (John 1:16)

THE GOOD NEWS: The gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24)

CHRISTIANS: Those who through grace believe (Acts 18:27)

**OPPORTUNITY:** To have our hearts strengthened by **grace** (Heb 13:9)

**RESPONSIBILITY:** To stand firm in the true grace of God (1 Pet 5:12)

**EVANGELISM:** Bearing witness to the word of God's grace (Acts 14:3)

EDIFICATION: Partakers as brethren of God's grace (Phil 1:7)

BENEVOLENCE: Serving others as stewards of God's grace (1 Pet 4:10)

THE REASON: To the praise of God's glorious grace (Eph 1:6)

May the Lord bless us all as we seek to know him, glorify him, and share our knowledge of him with others in 2013.

"To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Pet 3:18)

<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

# Calendar of Opportunities

## SCHEDULED ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

## Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m:

January - March:

1 & 2 Peter / Jude: Growth in Grace and Knowledge (J. Hardin)

April - June:

The Nature of God (J. Hardin)

July - September:

Grace: God's Power to Overcome Sin (J. Hardin)

October - December:

The Holiness of God (J. Hardin)

## Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m:

January - March:

One-Another Christianity (G. Price / D. Campbell / D. Pike) Men's Training Class (J. Hardin)

April - June:

**12 Life-Changing Decisions** (J. Budd / Campbell / Lord / Tustin) **Marriage Matters** (E. Moore)

July - September:

Prayer and Providence (J. Hardin)

**Common Threads of False Doctrines (D. Pike)** 

October - December:

**Common Threads of False Doctrines (D. Pike)** 

Prayer and Providence (J. Hardin)

"May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

- ⇒ **Assemblies of worship** on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ **Bible classes** for people of all ages on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ **Daily Bible Reading Calendars** made freely available every first Sunday of the month
- ⇒ March 17 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ March 23 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ April 13 (Saturday): Singles Day-in-the-Word with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ April 21-24 (Sunday-Wednesday): Spring Gospel Meeting Overcoming Adversity, presented by Don Wright
- ⇒ May 18 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ June 30 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ July 7-12 (Sunday-Friday): Vacation Bible School

  From Faith to Fruit in the Knowledge of Jesus (2 Pet 1:5-11)

  sermons for adults presented by Doug Roush
- ⇒ August 9-11 (Friday-Sunday): Youth Lectureship with lessons presented by Jason Hardin & Neil Tremblett
- ⇒ September 14 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ September 29 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ October 12 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ November 3-6 (Sunday-Wednesday): Fall Gospel Meeting Jesus is Coming Soon, presented by Jeremy Joy
- ⇒ December 15 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin

<sup>&</sup>quot;Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

# THE SOURCE

## The God of all grace

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet 5:10-11)

We are able to enjoy things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise in 2013 because of the God of all grace. Without him, there would be no hope.

His throne is a throne of grace (Heb 4:16) to which Christians are encouraged to draw near in search of mercy and grace. We have been promised that we will not be disappointed in what we find there. "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). In the midst of the darkest nights of the soul, God's children take refuge in this promise: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

One of your greatest challenges in 2013 will be to remember this straightforward fact: it's not about me. "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet 5:5). He is worthy of your worship (Heb 10:24-25). As your Creator he has every right to command you, "Do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance... be holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet 1:14-15).

In accordance with "the riches of his grace" (Eph 1:7), he recognizes your desperate need for help. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5).

Walk with God in 2013. Come year's end, you won't regret it.

# THE SAVIOR

## Grace upon grace made available in Jesus

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:14-17)

In Romans 1:4-5, Paul points his pen of praise toward "Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations." This theme echoes throughout Paul's writings:

- "Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace, in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom 5:2).
- "Much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many" (Rom 5:15).
- "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 5:20-21)
- "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9).
- "We see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone" (Heb 2:9).

One acronym that has been offered for GRACE is God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Deliberately and consistently remind yourself in 2013 of the cost involved in even having the offer of grace available.

<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

# THE GOOD NEWS

## The gospel of the grace of God

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)

Grace was "given" to men like Paul (Rom 12:3) that they might serve as instruments of God's revelation to mankind. "On some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus" (Rom 15:15). This fact is demonstrated perhaps most clearly in Ephesians 3:1-6.

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

According to Colossians 1:4-6, it is the gospel that causes fruit to be borne and growth to be experienced. Do you want to understand the grace of God in truth? Listen to the gospel! Do you crave hope that will not disappoint? Look to the gospel! It is "in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord" that "grace and peace" is "multiplied" to believers (2 Pet 1:2).

Bring every aspect of life in 2013 into orbit with the gospel.

# **CHRISTIANS**

## Those who through grace believe

And when [Apollos] wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus. (Acts 18:27-28)

Men like Paul and Peter "received grace and apostleship" through Jesus Christ with a specific aim in mind—"to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations" (Rom 1:5). Paul brings his letter to the Romans to a powerful conclusion with these words:

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (Rom 16:25-27)

Paul highlights the blessings of the grace of God in Titus 3:4-7.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Anchor your life to this wonderful news in 2013.

<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

# **OPPORTUNITY**

## To have our hearts strengthened by grace

Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace. (Heb 13:9)

The grace of God, properly understand and applied, undoubtedly has a strengthening effect on the heart of the Christian. In the language of Paul to Timothy, "You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim 2:1).

But Paul also asks some vital questions in Romans 6:1-2. "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"

In light of the grace of God which is able to strengthen you, having set your aim on growth and progress to his glory in 2013, take some honest inventory:

- ⇒ What old-self-practices am I continuing to selfishly gratify?
- ⇒ What aspects of discipleship have I been leaving undone?
- ⇒ Where am I slipping into conformity with the world?
- ⇒ Who or what am I allowing to come before God in my life?
- ⇒ What areas of my daily life need specific attention in 2013?
  - •
  - •
  - •
  - •

## To stand firm in the true grace of God

I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. (1 Pet 5:12)

If 1 Peter 5:12 speaks to our responsibility, 1 Peter 1:13 is one of the first steps we must take in fulfilling that responsibility. "Preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Having been reconciled by the grace of God in responding to the gospel, Christians are called to grow and mature that they might "continue in the grace of God" (Acts 13:43).

If the Lord wills, 2013 will abound with opportunities to help you make progress in your relationship with the Lord.

- A new Bible reading calendar each first Sunday of the month
- 104 assemblies of worship
- A wide variety of Bible classes for all ages
- Men's / Women's / Singles Days-in-the-Word
- Gospel Meetings with specific themes in April and November
- A Vacation Bible School in July
- A Youth Lectureship in August

Opportunities to enhance spiritual growth are available. Take advantage of them! You will need strength and maturity in 2013.

Ours is a dark world where "the grace of God is perverted" (Jude 4) and the "Spirit of grace is outraged" (Heb 10:29) by those who disregard the Creator. In 2 Corinthians 6:1, Paul pleaded with Christians "not to receive the grace of God in vain." As a disciple of Christ, your responsibility is to stand firm in the true grace of God. Don't squander the many opportunities to strengthen your resolve.

<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

# **EVANGELISM**

## Bearing witness to the word of God's grace

So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace. (Acts 14:3)

Witnesses are those who see, hear, or know by personal presence and perception. In the first century, Jesus bore witness to the word of his grace by granting signs and wonders to be done by men like Paul and Barnabas.

How do *we* bear witness to the word of God's grace today? With our mouths and by our examples. This world desperately needs good news, and we have found it! "The grace of God has appeared" (Tit 2:11-14), and we are enjoying it! In 2013, Jesus uses those who are willing, based on their own experience, to "testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). He tells us to speak up on his behalf, "so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God" (2 Cor 4:15). To this end:

- Walk in wisdom toward outsiders (Col 4:5)
- Remember that you are a representative of Christ and that people are always watching and listening (2 Cor 3:2)
- Be unashamedly vocal about your faith and your hope (1 Pet 3:15)
- Pray for opportunities, wisdom, and boldness (Acts 4:29-30)
- Regularly encourage others to "Come and see" (John 1:43-46)
- Strategically leave advertisements and invitation cards (Luke 8:5)
- Leverage our 4 Bring-a-Friend Sunday opportunities (John 4:29)
- Welcome and encourage all who visit our assemblies of worship and Bible classes (1 Cor 14:23-25)
- Spread the word about our website—www.LCCOC.net—available 24 hours per day / 365 days of the year / all around the world.

# **EDIFICATION**

## Partakers as brethren of God's grace

It is right for me to feel this way about you, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace. (Phil 1:7)

One of our focal points in 2013 is the "one another" aspect of Christianity. YOU can be a difference-maker for good this year by:

- Being mindful of the needs around you (Phil 2:3-4)
- Acting in love toward your brethren (Rom 14:19). For example:
  - \* College students away from home (1 Thes 5:11)
  - \* New converts just beginning their journey (Rom 15:1)
  - \* Elderly Christians who could use some help (1 Thes 5:14)
  - \* Those who are shut-in, unable to assemble (2 Cor 1:3-4)
- Refusing to gossip (Eph 4:29)
- Using your home as a center of hospitality (1 Pet 4:8-9)
- Following the lead of our overseers (Heb 13:17; 1 Thes 5:12-13)
- Thanking our deacons for their hard work (1 Cor 16:17-18)
- Praying for those who preach the gospel (1 Thes 5:25)
- Complimenting those who lead in our assemblies (1 Thes 5:11)
- Recognizing the dedication of our class teachers (Eph 4:11-12)

And don't forget to actively participate in our weekly Care Groups:

- 1st Sundays (last names A-C) led by Eric Tustin & David Pike
- $2^{nd}$  Sundays (last names D-G) led by D. Campbell & J. Hardin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays (last names H-P) led by Kevin Joy & Gordon Price
- 4th Sundays (last names R-Z) led by David Lord & Ed Moore

<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

# BENEVOLENCE

Serving others as stewards of God's grace

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Pet 4:10)

Benevolence is not only the *desire* to do good to others, but *active* good will, contribution, and kindness. In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul describes the generosity of the churches of Macedonia in meeting the needs of believers in Jerusalem as a powerful manifestation of the grace of God in their lives.

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. (2 Cor 8:1-2, 6-7)

Paul provides details of his plans to travel to Jerusalem "as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will" (2 Cor 8:19).

In 2013, "as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal 6:10). "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them" in ways that glorify God (Rom 12:6). "On the first day of every week" (1 Cor 16:1-2) we have opportunity to set money aside for the believers who are less fortunate than us. Let us do so, not reluctantly or under compulsion, "for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7).

# THE REASON

To the praise of God's glorious grace

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (Eph 1:3-10)

Our Father in heaven has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing... that we might be a blessing to those around us.

He has shown us perfect, never-ending love... that we might learn to selflessly love each other.

He has made known to us the mystery of his will... that we might share the "good news"—the best news—with those who are lost and wandering.

He has lavished his grace upon us... that we might be overflowing channels—not reservoirs—of grace to others.

Why? What is the ultimate reason? That his glorious grace might be praised. In 2013, "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt 5:16). That is why you are still here. That is why you exist. That is what all of Creation is all about.

<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

In an effort to serve others through hospitality, why not invite

# Making It Personal

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

You know dozens of people in desperate need of responding to the gospel. Your heart grieves as you think of brothers and sisters who have turned away from God in unfaithfulness. **But have you prayed for them?** What could happen if you did? Remember, it is prayer that plugs us into the awesome God of the universe. With that truth in mind, throughout 2013, pick a different person each month and pray for them every single day. Pray for receptive hearts, for opportunities, for wisdom and boldness. Pray that God might use you to help save them.

January:
February:
March:
April:
May:
June:
July:
August:
September:
October:
November:
December:

someone each month into your home or out for a meal?

January:
February:
March:
April:
May:
June:
July:
August:
September:
October:
November:
December:

As you look around, are there opportunities to serve? Where can you make a difference? Can you host a singing or small-group Bible study? Can you help an elderly brother or sister around their house? Can you visit someone who is shut-in? Which member could use an extra dose of encouragement? Who can you help by serving in...

January: \_\_\_\_\_

February.

Tebruary.
March:
April:
May:
June:
July:
August:
September:
October:
November:
December:

<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

## Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-two reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2013.

### January

6<sup>th</sup> To Bear the Curse of Sin for Us (Gal 3:10-14)

13<sup>th</sup> To Fulfill the Will of His Father (Isa 53:10)

20<sup>th</sup> To Learn Obedience and Be Made Perfect (Heb 5:7-10)

27<sup>th</sup> To Show the Wealth of God's Love and Grace for Sinners (Rom 5:6-8)

#### **February**

3<sup>rd</sup> To Show His Own Love for Us (Eph 5:1-2)

10<sup>th</sup> To Cancel the Record of Debt Against Us (Col 2:13-15)

17<sup>th</sup> To Become a Ransom for Sinners (1 Tim 2:5-6)

24<sup>th</sup> For the Forgiveness of Our Sins (Eph 1:7-10)

#### March

3<sup>rd</sup> To Provide the Basis for Our Justification (Rom 5:9-11)

10<sup>th</sup> So That We Might Be Made Righteous (Rom 5:18-19)

17<sup>th</sup> So That There Might Be No Condemnation For Those Who Are In Him (Rom 8:1, 34)

24<sup>th</sup> To Make Us Holy, Blameless, Above Reproach (Col 1:21-23)

31<sup>st</sup> To Purify our Consciences (Heb 9:13-14)

#### April

7<sup>th</sup> To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good (Rom 8:31-32)

14<sup>th</sup> To Bear Our Griefs and Carry Our Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3-4)

21st That By His Wounds We Might Be Healed (Isaiah 53:5)

28<sup>th</sup> That We Might Not Perish But Have Eternal Life (John 3:16)

#### May

5<sup>th</sup> To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age (Galatians 1:3-5)

12<sup>th</sup> To Reconcile Us to God (2 Cor 5:17-20)

19<sup>th</sup> To Bring Us to God (1 Pet 3:18)

26<sup>th</sup> So That We Might Belong to Him (Rom 7:4)

#### June

2<sup>nd</sup> To Give Us Access to the Holy Places (Heb 10:19-22)

9<sup>th</sup> To Become the Place Where We Meet God (John 2:18-21)

16<sup>th</sup> To Replace the Old Testament Priesthood (Heb 9:15-24)

23<sup>rd</sup> To Become the Eternal High Priest (Heb 7:23-27)

30<sup>th</sup> To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest (Heb 4:14-16)

## July

7<sup>th</sup> To Free Us From Our Futile Ways (1 Pet 1:17-19)

14<sup>th</sup> To Free Us from the Slavery of Our Sins (Rev 1:4-6)

21st That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness (1 Pet 2:24)

28<sup>th</sup> To Enable Us to Live for Jesus and Not Ourselves (2 Cor 5:14-15)

"Do this in remembrance of me."



<sup>&</sup>quot;May grace and peace be multiplied to you."

## Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-three reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2012.

#### August

4<sup>th</sup> To Make His Cross the Ground of Our Boasting (Gal 6:14)

11<sup>th</sup> To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him (Gal 2:20)

18<sup>th</sup> To Create a People Passionate for Good Works (Tit 2:11-14)

25<sup>th</sup> To Call Us to Follow His Example of Humility (Phil 2:5-8)

## September

1<sup>st</sup> To Create a Band of Crucified Followers (Luke 9:23-25)

8<sup>th</sup> To Free Us From the Fear of Death (Heb 2:14-15)

15<sup>th</sup> So That We Would Be with Him After Death (1 Thes 5:9-11)

22<sup>nd</sup> To Secure Our Resurrection From the Dead (Rom 8:9-11)

29<sup>th</sup> To Destroy the Works of the Devil (1 John 3:7-8)

# "This is my body, which is given for you."



#### October

6<sup>th</sup> To Unleash the Power of the Gospel (1 Cor 1:18)

13<sup>th</sup> To Gain His Joy and Ours (Heb 12:1-2)

20<sup>th</sup> So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor (Heb 2:9)

27<sup>th</sup> To Show That the Worst Evil Can be Used by God for Good (Acts 4:23-28)

#### November

3<sup>rd</sup> To Serve as a Fragrant Offering to God (Eph 5:1-2)

10<sup>th</sup> To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy (1 Pet 1:10-12)

17<sup>th</sup> To Serve as our Passover Lamb (John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:6-8)

24<sup>th</sup> To Fulfill the Charge of His Heavenly Father (John 10:17-18)

#### December

1st To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning (Eph 5:25-32)

8<sup>th</sup> To Create in Himself One New Man in Place of Jews and Gentiles (Eph 2:11-16)

15<sup>th</sup> To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation (Rev 5:9-10)

22<sup>nd</sup> To Rescue Us from the Fear of Judgment (Heb 9:27-28)

29<sup>th</sup> That We Might Regularly Examine Ourselves and Remember Him (1 Cor 11:23-28)



"This is my blood of the covenant."

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and

establish them in every good work and word." (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17) THE REASON: To the praise of God's glorious grace (Ephesians 1:6) BENEVOLENCE: Serving others as stewards of God's grace (1 Peter 4:10) EDIFICATION: Partakers as brethren of God's grace (Philippians 1:7) EVANGELISM: Bearing witness to the word of God's grace (Acts 14:3) **RESPONSIBILITY:** To stand firm in the true grace of God (1 Peter 5:12) **OPPORTUNITY:** To have our hearts strengthened by **grace** (Hebrews 13:9) CHRISTIANS: Those who through grace believe (Acts 18:27) THE GOOD NEWS: The gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24) THE SAVIOR: Grace upon grace made available in Jesus (John 1:16) THE SOURCE: The God of all grace (1 Peter 5:10)