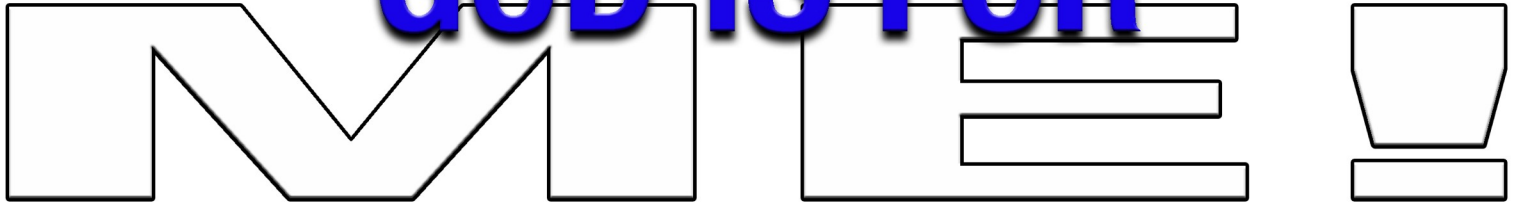




Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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GOD IS FOR



Series preached from September 19, 2021 to October 3, 2021

David was on the run! He found out in the preceding chapter that beyond doubt Saul was trying to kill him.

1 Samuel 21:10-12

- 10 And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.
11 And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?
12 And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

BASICALLY David acts as if he is insane and they leave him alone and he flees to the cave of Abdullum.

David is feeling pressure!

HOWEVER: While he is in this situation...he pens this Psalm.

Psalm 56:9-11 (the whole thing is good)

- 9 When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: ***this I know; for God is for me.***
10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.
11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

UNDERSTAND: When everything in David's life seemed unbalanced...David had ONE understanding...ONE piece of knowledge that balanced everything!

That got him back on track!

Romans 8:31,32

- 31 What shall we then say to these things? ***If God be for us, who can be against us?***
32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, ***how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

GOD IS FOR ME!

BELOVED: God was ON HIS SIDE!

No matter what the opposing force looked like...God wanted HIM TO PROSPER!

Psalm 35:27 – “Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which ***hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.***”

REMEMBER: God doesn't just put these SAINTS in the Bible to show us what He thought of them...but to be an example to us about what GOD thinks about us!

God isn't just on David's side...God is on our side!

GOD IS FOR US! He desires that we prosper!

3 John 2 – “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, **even as thy soul prospereth.**”

Ephesians 2:10 – “**For we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

(PASSION) – “We have become his poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny he has given each of us, for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it!”

(NLT) – “For we are God’s masterpiece.,.,,”

We are HIS MASTERPIECE...God wants us on display!

Psalms 31:19 – “How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. **You lavish it on those who come to you** for protection, blessing them **before the watching world.**”

“**Lavish**”- To waste; to expend without necessity or use; to squander;

So, as His masterpiece...lavish masterpiece...He wants to show us off!

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11 – “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”
Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd!

Here is the thing about a good shepherd (THE GOOD SHEPHERD)...

***A good shepherd is NOT DEFINED by his ability or skill (per se)...
but by the condition of his sheep.***

The best skilled shepherd with ratty, beaten up and diseased sheep would NOT fit this description.

Jesus didn't go around saying, “I am the Good Shepherd, I am the Good Shepherd!” And just expect and force everyone to believe Him.

John 10:10 – “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Psalms 23:6 – “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I **will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**”

The sheep of the Good Shepherd are identified by their **being beat up by** goodness and mercy!
I also want you to notice, they are identified by their STAYING in their place and not running away! THEY BE STAYING!

They recognize that GOD IS FOR THEM...therefore, **they are not straying they are staying!**

Why?

Psalm 66:12 – “Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; **we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.**”

God has brought us through battles and attacks...to our wealthy place!

Psalm 23:4 – walking through the valley of the shadow of death!

God is SO FORYOU...that He has taken you through a lot of things in your life and brought you to this place where you can prosper and increase!

God is not just casually hoping things are going to turn out good for us!

Psalm 23:5 – “Thou preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

He goes BEFORE us to make things CORRECT and RIGHT.

Isaiah 40:4; Isaiah 42:16; Isaiah 45:2 – crooked places straight

What has He prepared for us?

2 Peter 1:3,4

3 According as his divine power ***hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness***, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Ephesians 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

INSERT THIS: I am not just delivering some “feel good” message...that is meant to just make you smile and leave with goose bumps.

~ I am declaring what the WORD OF GOD has declared!

~ I am telling you what the disciples wrote to the churches.

~ I am tell you what DAVID, the man after GOD’S own heart...who fulfilled ALL of God’s will, declared and lived in!

AS A MATTER OF FACT: Most people fail to fulfill all God’s will and directions for their lives because they are NOT fully consumed with the understanding that GOD IS FOR THEM!

Too many Christians think God is for Himself, therefore, He uses us as pawns! He just is fine with however we turn out!

IMPORTANT UNDERSTANDING: God doesn’t love you for what you do for Him, He loves you because you are His!

He is for you!

The Temple

BELOVED: God is for us! He is on our side!

He has already done everything that is needed for our success.

How much does He think of us? How much does He expect FOR us?

1 Corinthians 3:17 – “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, **which temple ye are.**”

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

19 What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

God identifies US as HIS TEMPLE!

God does NOT take His types and symbols lightly...

He spent the whole OLD TESTAMENT revealing the temple and thinking about us!

BELOVED: The temple is more than just His permanent place to dwell...which would be enough. How about these identifiers of the temple (remember the comment about the sheep being the identifier of the Good Shepherd).

~ Yes, HIS PRESENCE lives in the temple.

~ The temple and everything in the temple was pure...in the midst of the impurity of the wilderness.

~ There was continuous praise and worship in the temple.

~ It was a place where His WORD resided (table of showbread).

~ It was a place where His LIGHT shined (lampstand).

~ His blood was in the temple.

~ No sickness or weakness was allowed in the temple.

~ Complete and immeasurable wealth was found in the temple.

~ OH, the glory in His temple!

Ephesians 3:20,21

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 **Unto him be glory in the church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

(**PERHAPS:** Insert the big house in Destin, or talk about the Met Gala, or rich people's houses... how we are in awe of them)

Queen of Sheba – After seeing the magnitude and majesty of the temple, it made a queen faint (1 Kings 10:5).

THINK ON THIS: Being able to compare us to anything in existence...anything that He could compare us too...He chose HIS TEMPLE!

He didn't say that we were LIKE HIS TEMPLE...He said we WERE HIS TEMPLE!

So, He has fully prepared us to have all of these things in us!

BELOVED: God is for us! He is on our side!

AGAIN: Most people fail to fulfill all God's will and directions for their lives because they are NOT fully consumed with the understanding that GOD IS FOR THEM!

Bond of Peace

UNDERSTAND THIS: Everything God has done for us is for our benefit. For us to prosper and look good! He is passionate about us and only gives to us the things that will bring out the best in us!

ILLUSTRATION: The OAKLAND RAIDERS of the 1970's and stickum!

It was the old days in the NFL and the Oakland Raiders were a major reason we have a lot of the rules that we have today. They were mean!

They also did whatever they could do to gain an edge on the field.

Well, many of their defenders had a hard time holding on to the football when they had a chance to intercept the ball...so they came up with smearing stickum on their body...and when I say body, I mean body! Stickum was anything sticky (glue, tree sap, or anything else).

NOW LISTEN...they didn't have the ability to catch the ball (very well) naturally, so they decided to get outside assistance! Which has been outlawed.

They wanted the ball SO MUCH...so they tried anything to get it...except learn to catch the ball. :-)

BELOVED: That is the way it is with the blessings of God.

So many people want it and they...

- ~ Take short cuts, natural things (work long hard hours).
- ~ Get rich quick schemes
- ~ Cheat, etc.
- ~ Manipulate others

They will do anything to get these things to stick to them except understand what God has given to them...

BELOVED: The Bible talks about one really important area.

Ephesians 4:3,4

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the ***bond of peace***.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

1.) It takes work! The enemy will try to get you to quit!

REMEMBER: He wants to steal, kill and destroy.

2.) Operate as ONE with the body.

Go back to the sheep STAYING NOT STRAYING! The sheep staying close to the shepherd!

3.) BOND is peace!

"Peace" – means prosperity (check definition); one, peace, quietness, rest; set at one again. (security, safety, prosperity)

Psalms 23:1,2

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

So...our work (or main job) is to stay in place...don't get restless and try to do it other ways...or take shortcuts! It will take some work!

Trust the GOOD SHEPHERDS plan for us! His ways!

UNDERSTAND: The way you get attached to the blessings of God is by **staying** in the place God has placed you...don't try to manufacture results.

Psalm 1:3 – “And he shall be like a tree **planted by the rivers of water**, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Ephesians 4:8 – “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

God gave you gifts in order to attach yourself to the blessings and good that He has for you!

~ To be the temple that He created you to be.

~ To look good! Like His sheep!

Ephesians 4:11 – “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;”

UNDERSTAND: God has given us the five-fold ministry gifts to take us to our destiny that God has set out for us....to make sure we are the temple that we are suppose to be!

We are a part of that adhesive that sticks you to those things.

James 3:1 – “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.”

NOTE: Too many people want to be teachers to tell everyone what they know...but teachers are about expressing and delivering what God wants us to know. **Why?**

Because it is about the congregation...the body, NOT the teacher!

Hebrews 13:17 – “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: **for that is unprofitable for you.**”

Who would it be unprofitable for?

ANSWER: You, the body!

BELOVED: God is for YOU...not RULES! He is about YOUR DESTINY, not just so He can be RIGHT! HE IS right!

God is About Building You

One of my favorite quotes is, ***“I am not in the business of building ministries, but rather building a body.”***

So often we find ministers that seem more interested in building their own ministries in the name of God.

But God desires us to build the body...if we are building His body, it would be to His advantage to build us up!

I was drawn to Ephesians 4:12-16 and the responsibilities or purposes of the five-fold ministry gifts...there is NOTHING in there about building a reputation or a big ministry.

Now, I am not attacking ANY big ministry...God has called us to be big (I KNOW IT)...but we are called to build the body!

LISTEN: If the body is looking good...that is the glory of the pastor.
When you find a place/pastor like that...you need to stick to him.

Everything in Ephesians 4:12-16 is about the people and making sure they reach the plan that God has for them.

1.) **Perfecting the Saints...**

(AMP) – “His intention was the perfecting and *the full equipping* of the saints (His consecrated people)...”

Completing and *furnishing the saints!*

DEFINED: preparing, completely furnishing, equipping, instructing.

HONESTLY it all comes down to FINE TUNING!

Giving them the whole Truth!

Not just the convenient Truth or easy Truth!

ONE DEFINITION: (original use of word) Restoring anything to its place!

IN OTHER WORDS we were created to operate certain ways (at the beginning)...but we have become more accustomed to the world's system.

OUR #1 JOB is to get people acquainted with God's system! His kingdom! Their purpose!

WHY?

2.) **So THEY can work the ministry.**

(NASB) – “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service.”

“Work” – to do, to be effective

UNDERSTAND: The people are suppose to be working the ministry.

It is kind of interesting...this list doesn't include reproduction, but making sure the saints can do the work.

NOTE: I always like to add that the pastor is a sheep too...so he must reproduce themselves.

(Only God can make a sheep a shepherd)

UNDERSTAND: Ministers prepare the people, the people do the works.

“Ministry” – serve...those who execute the commands of others (think of the Centurion... go, come, do this)...deacon.

BELOVED: Too often the ministers can catch themselves doing everything and therefore, burn themselves out.

3.) **Edifying of the Body.**

This an architectural term...regarding making the building strong.

The pastors job is to build the body up and make them strong and effective...so they are not collapsing at the sign of stress.

THINK OF A body builder! If you had a body builder who had HUGE arms and rickety legs...or visa versa...they would not win anything. They must be BUILT UP in all things!

~ The Word

~ Godliness

~ Fruit of the Spirit

~ Holiness

UNDERSTAND: It is the building of the BODY, not the ministry or the name!

4.) Unity of the faith...not of a personality.

POINT #1 – Until we ALL come to the unity of the faith!

This is a pointing towards ONENESS...COVENANT! We need to be ONE!
Oneness of God's theology, not our own theology.

This isn't about a man, but about faith!

PEOPLE ASK ME: Are you a faith preacher!

MY ANSWER: Absolutely! MY JOB description is to bring my sheep into a UNITY of the faith!

BELOVED: This means that there isn't many ways to God...or many ways to look a things...there is a unity.

We should be growing and gaining in what we are believing!

CAUTION: If you have NEVER changed your way of seeing things...ever...you may be in trouble.

5.) Knowledge of the Son of God.

Philippians 3:10 – “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”

Vs. 11 – “If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”

UNDERSTAND: If you don't know Jesus...His life...His ways...you will always fall short of what you should become (SEE #6).

We MUST learn to walk like Jesus walked!

REMEMBER: He was equal to God...but chose to live like a man!

Acts 10:38 – “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; **for God was with him.**”

Philippians 2:5-9

6.) Perfect man (maturing man)...measured by Jesus.

SONG: To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I ask is to be like Him.

BELOVED: We all need to shine so that people can see our good works...and want to be like Jesus!

We need to quit measuring our selves by others and start measuring ourselves by Jesus.

“Perfect” – mature and of full age

REMEMBER: #1 – we have been perfecting...now perfected.

James 1:4 – “But let patience have her **perfect work**, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

Maturity!

Romans 8:14,16

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they **are the sons of God.**

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, **that we are the children of God:**

BELOVED: We are all children of God...but those who are led by the spirit of God are the mature children of God...ready for inheritance!

7.) **Grown up...NO LONGER CHILDREN!**

1 Corinthians 13:11 – “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

IT is kind of interesting how many people feel like Jesus puts SO MUCH emphasis on being like a child. (Matthew 18:3 – become like a child.)

1 Corinthians says put away childish things!

Ephesians says grow up and don't be a child!

BELOVED: We need to GROW like a child...but that means eventually we are not acting like children.

2 Corinthians 3:18 – “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

John 15:15 – “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”

~ We are growing into HIS IMAGE...just like a child to their father.

~ We are growing to the point of being HIS friends...to know His secrets!

8.) **Not fooled by deception (that would steal your blessings).**

Again...rooted in the Word.

It seems like God knew that as time went on...there would be more and more deception trying to steal from you.

2 Timothy 3:13 – “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

2 Peter 2:1 – “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”

It is amazing how many people in the past decade has begun to downplay the need for pastor (or made them low); the need for church; the need for holiness; the need for honoring the Sabbath.

9.) **Whole body works as one.**

COVENANT!

Go back to the adhesive! Peace!

We need one another!

10.) **Love!**

Operating in love to all men!

The care for one another and living for one another!

Romans 13:8 – “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”

John 13:35 – “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Conclusion

God is for you! He loves you and EVERYTHING He has done...from Genesis 1:1 throughout eternity is for you!

You are the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8).

You are tattooed on the palm of His hand (Isaiah 49:16).

There is NOT One thing that He had directed you to do that is to steal your joy or steal your stuff...it is to bring you closer to looking and operating FULLY as His temple!

That is why He has led you to this place! To this fellowship!