



### IT TAKES GRACE...

Well, we're already a month into the new year. (Time flies when you're having fun!) Do you still remember your new year's resolutions for 2019? Are you like me, just not even making a resolution because you don't need the guilt of not carrying out on what you resolved to do? I think it would do us all well at this point in the year (regardless of resolutions) to remember that in Christ, we all are something new and different than we were when we were not in Christ.

Paul helps us with that in his letter to the church at Ephesus:

*"Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and...put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."* [Ephesians 4:22-24]

This makes me think of one of my favorite stories from the Bible, involving Jesus' good friend, Lazarus. Laza-

rus was sick. Jesus found out, but waited to come until four days after Lazarus had died. When He got there, Jesus ordered the stone to be removed from the tomb and then raised Lazarus from the dead.

There's lots of interesting and fun stuff going on in that passage, but one thing I notice for sure is that Lazarus rises from the dead...but he's still bound up by the cloth wrappings of a dead person. Normally, all those strips of cloth are not a problem; dead people don't need much arm and leg room.

Jesus said, "Unbind him, and let him go" [John 11:44]. What I love about this is that Jesus is not allowing Lazarus to be bound in the clothing of a dead man. Instead, He's clearly intending Lazarus to shed the garments of death and move forward in life.

Isn't that the very same intention Jesus has for you and me when we come to Him and are raised from the

death of our sins? Can you hear Jesus calling out for us to shed the binding garments of death this year? And isn't it fantastic that we don't have to wonder about what we are to wear next? We are to be wearing the clothes of His grace and glory.

There are lots of Christians who have stepped out of their tombs, but are still bound up in death rags. If you are feeling hemmed in by a lot of worldly problems and worries, don't you think it's time to hear the peace of Jesus' word for you?

"Unbind him, and let him go!" In Christ, we all have the ability to shed the binding rags of death and put on the new clothes of life in Christ. By God's power, won't it be a lot more interesting and fun to walk in that new life today? It sure beats tripping over the binding rags the enemy would have us wear...

Blessings,  
RevLon

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### GOD'S WARM PLACE UPDATE

As I write this, we are at the half-way mark of our three-month commitment of opening our gym as an overnight warming shelter when the "feel like" temperature is 32 or less. More nights than not we have had at least one person take advantage of the shelter. There have been a handful of folks spend the night, typically with one or two on any given evening. Our biggest challenge has continued to be having enough volunteers committed to spending the nights we are open. There are nights our doors would

have remained locked if it were not for a handful of people dedicated to this ministry who have spent several nights at the shelter. The appeal is still there: We would welcome anyone who might like to sign up and spend a night. You can do that on line at our website: newfpc.com. Under the 'Outreach' banner at the top of the home page there is a drop for 'God's Warm Place.' Once there, you can click on the *sign-up genius* and select any night(s) you are able to help out. As of today, there are 44 more potential days

for God's Warm Place to be open. Most likely (hopefully) all the remaining days to the end of February will not be at 32 degrees or less. Out of those 44 nights, though, there still is room for 30 nights to sign up. Some say that it isn't worth it to go through all this for a small handful of people in our community. I'm guessing those people would have a change of mind (and heart?) if it were their relative or friend walking through our doors on a cold night.



**“Joy Comes in the Morning!”**

I hope you’ve had the opportunity to see some of the amazing sun rises we’ve had recently. The great thing about those is it just gets your day started off with the right attitude. God is good, God is creative, God is making us a new day, God is in control, God is amazing and amazes us! I really love to watch sun rises, if you haven’t quite figured that out yet. The thing about a sun rise is you must wait to see how it will turn out, you must be patient for the full picture, the bright colors to reveal themselves. Patience can be hard. I remember asking our granddaughter Lexi one time if she knew what being patient meant and she said, “It means you have to wait.” In a busy society where we can instantly look up amazing sun rises on our phones and get thousands of results in a matter of seconds, but it’s not the same. Pictures can’t do justice to seeing it firsthand. I know, I’ve tried to take pictures of those that I thought would come out beautiful and they did capture some, but it wasn’t the same. Life is meant to be experienced not googled. Yes, we can find some things and sights we may never see in person, but amazing sun rises happen here all the time, the question we have to ask ourselves is, “Have I had the time to wait on one?” As we skate into the second month of 2019, are we

able to wait on what God is wanting to reveal to us? Life is not going to slow down around us, but we can slow down and enjoy life. We have opportunities every day to accept the wonders of God or ignore them and fill our time with busyness. If you’re not a morning person, that’s okay, joy can come whenever you realize the source of your joy. May we experience it in our getting up and lying down, in our going out and coming in, in our work and in our leisure, may we see the good joy God gives even during difficult times. Because as a new day dawns so does the promise of God with us, for us and never forsaking us. God is good, all the time! And all the time, God is good!  
 “Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.” Psalm 30:5b

In Christ’s Love,  
 Rob  
 Romans 12

P.S. – I know that the headlines can have some bad news but here’s some facts about 2018 to rejoice in from an article from Denison Forum where he referenced this: “There’s always more good news than makes the news. New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof agrees. The title of his latest article makes his point: “Why 2018 Was the Best Year in

Human History!” Kristof claims that the world’s population is living longer and better than ever before. For instance, each day on average:

- 295,000 people gain access to electricity for the first time.
- 305,000 people are able to access clean drinking water for the first time.
- 620,000 people are able to get online for the first time.
- Only about 4 percent of children worldwide die by the age of five, down from 19 percent in 1960.
- Fewer than 10 percent of the world’s population live in extreme poverty, down from more than 50 percent in the 1950s.

He concludes: “Never before has such a large portion of humanity been literate, enjoyed a middle-class cushion, lived such long lives . . . or been confident that their children would survive. Let’s hit pause on our fears and frustrations and share a nanosecond of celebration at this backdrop of progress.”



**YOUTH NEWS**

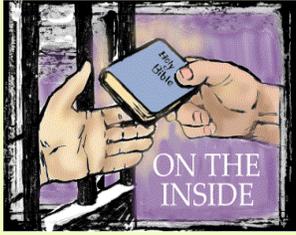
February 7th is the deadline for your deposit for the summer High School mission trip June 22-29 to Lithia, Florida to work with migrant farm worker families. This will be about the eighth trip in the last 10 years that we’ve participated in with our Presbytery. From North Carolina to New Jersey and South

Dakota to New Orleans and places in between our young folks have served well those in their path. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our youth fund. That helps us cover the half we don’t charge them, so we can send these young people into places where they can serve and share God’s

love with those they minister to. And please pray for these young people as they go through life and seek to know Jesus more and make Him known. Thanks!  
 In Christ’s Love,  
 Rob, Romans 12



## Jesus as Lord!



“The reason you may not be seeing more of God’s rescue and deliverance in your life is because you may have Jesus positioned as your Savior, but not as your Lord. And you may not have positioned yourself as His servant. The book of Romans opens up with these words, “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ ....” (Romans 1:1) A bondservant is translated from “*doulos*” which literally means “slave.” The job of a slave is to do whatever the Master says to do. It’s as straightforward as that.

**“Repentance is about ‘turning around’ and the statement ‘Jesus is Lord’ captures the essence of that reorientation...”**

Unfortunately, today, Jesus has too many other masters in most of our lives with whom He has to compete. But the important thing to remember is that Jesus is not willing to be one among many. He is not willing to be part of an association, or club. Neither is He willing to be relegated as a personal assistant. Jesus as Lord means that Jesus is to be the one and only supreme ruler and master in your life. He calls the shots, and He is to be acknowledged in everything that is done.

*“Too many people want a Savior, but don’t want a Lord. Because of this, numbers of individuals today are experiencing the result of denying Christ publicly.”*  
– Tony Evans

When we replace the statement ‘Jesus is Lord’ with the statement ‘Jesus is Savior’, it fundamentally changes the way we read, understand and live out the gospel. The call to follow after Jesus is one that includes forgiveness of sins, but also transcends it, to embrace a much larger scope of kingdom activity. The summons of Jesus’s call to

‘follow me’ and the emphasis laid out in the remainder of the New Testament is a call to answer to the declaration ‘Jesus is Lord.’ To make Jesus ‘Lord’ is to repent of self and our ongoing attempts to ‘go it alone.’ Repentance is about ‘turning around’ and the statement ‘Jesus is Lord’ captures the essence of that reorientation, providing its focus and kingdom-centered direction. When we make Jesus Lord, we get Jesus as Savior thrown in. The order is important.

- ‘Jesus is Savior’ emphasizes sins forgiven. ‘Jesus is Lord’ emphasizes a reorientation in life, which includes sins forgiven. I’m no longer the king of my domain, he is. This reorientation changes everything.
- ‘Jesus is Savior’ impacts me. ‘Jesus is Lord’ impacts me and everyone around me.
- ‘Jesus is Savior’ is often deeply personalistic and privatized. ‘Jesus is Lord’ retains the personal dynamic, but spreads out to impact everything and everyone around me. It is mission oriented (as sent ones) and seeks to reflect Jesus to others.
- ‘Jesus is Savior’ affects only the so-called spiritual aspects in life. ‘Jesus is Lord’ affects all of life; it is holistic and all-encompassing. Everything is affected by it; everyday and in every way. It isn’t limited to Sunday, or a mid-week program, or more generally to the religious side of life. But, lays at the center of life and thereby orients, shapes and informs everything else.

Many people have decided to make Jesus their personal Sav-

ior, but have yet to truly embrace him as Lord. The first asks people to seek forgiveness of sins, the second summons people to a lifetime of devoted discipleship to Jesus, while inviting others to follow along in the pursuit of the kingdom. The first centers on self, the second on Christ and his kingdom. Discipleship is not optional and is not directed towards the few who choose to take Jesus seriously. With Christ, it was all or nothing or nothing at all. It was a summons with expectations. ‘Jesus is Lord’ demands our everything. ‘Jesus is Savior’ does not. The first focuses on a lifetime. The second on a one-time decision. The second does not always lead to the first because we center the call to follow on ‘Jesus is Savior’ and not ‘Jesus is Lord.’ One demands nothing of us. The second demands our everything.

There is a difference between calling Jesus Savior and making him Lord. And, the title we choose to prioritize deeply affects the way we view and experience the entire gospel. Choose well. (Borrowed from Jeff K. Clarke, *Christian Week.*)

On the inside,  
Pete

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4th Burl Milligan  
 7th Bettye Riddle  
 11th Joe Phelan  
 17th Lyndi Bryan  
 19th Susanna Lee  
 20th Jim & Janet Agin (A)  
 22nd Serenity Agin  
 23rd Glori Cope  
 24th Stuart Sherrell  
 25th Folmer Starr  
 28th Nancy Franklin



**PUZZLE**  
**WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE**  
 The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.  
 Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.

God is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
 an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you \_\_\_\_\_.” Matthew 28:20

And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God ... will guard  
 your hearts and your minds in  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in \_\_\_\_\_ lives in God,  
 and God in them. 1 John 4:16

\_\_\_\_\_ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, strength, always, strength, Christ Jesus, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

## February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Marriage Class after service		6PM Session	5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5-6:30 Marriage Class			5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5-6:30 Marriage Class			5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
24	25	26	27	28		
			5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	HCDC Great Banquet #29 →		