

REFLECTIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace OPC

THE HOUR OF POWER

By Pastor Brian De Jong

During my seminary days, our family would sometimes attend Koinonia Baptist Church. Koinonia was pastored by the Rev. Walter Bowie Jr. and the congregation was primarily African American. Pastor Bowie always referred to their Wednesday evening prayer meeting as “The Hour of Power.” He spoke frequently of the importance of the church on its knees. He believed a praying church was a powerful church – strong in God’s strength.

Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets at Grace Church is our “Hour of Power” that convenes every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. I believe that Wednesday evenings are “double-barreled nights.” Or, you might describe it as “The Double Power Hour.”

What powers am I talking about? First is the power of God’s word. For the first portion of prayer meeting, we dig into the word of God. Our study is dynamite because God’s word is living and active. God employs His Scriptures to transform His people, renewing us in the image of Christ. Wednesday night packs the power of change – spiritual change that God works via His word of truth.

The other power is prayer. James 5 famously reminds us that “the prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.” Not that prayer has an inherent magical quality. Rather, our God is pleased when His people pray, and He often chooses to act in direct response to the petitions, requests and intercessions of the saints. Once again, God exer-

cises the power, and we access that divine power through prayer.

During the latter part of our prayer meeting, we discuss prayer requests, and then break into smaller groups for a time of corporate prayer. As we lift our hearts and voices to heaven, we call upon a God who “hears and answers.”

While I understand that attendance at our prayer meeting is entirely optional and voluntary, I sometimes wonder why relatively few take advantage of this excellent opportunity. What keeps the saints at Grace Church from gathering

weekly for Bible study and prayer? Why is the Hour of Power our “best-kept secret?”

Sometimes work or family commitments keep people away. Perhaps it seems too difficult to for some to attend, or too disruptive to their weekly schedule. Just maybe the benefits of participation are not fully understood. Do any of us doubt the value of Bible study and prayer? Should Christians studiously avoid opportunities for Christian growth? I trust that everyone would respond, “No! No!”

So what exactly is it that keeps you from participating? As your pastor, let me encourage you to consider joining us on Wednesday nights for a potent experience of God’s grace and truth at “The Hour of Power.”



Volume 3, Issue 6

June 2008

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor’s Article</i>	1
<i>Unsearchable Riches by J. C. Ryle</i>	2-4
<i>Small Seeds, Yet a Great Harvest by Don Schlernitzauer</i>	5
<i>Camp Westminster</i>	5
<i>June Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Corner Store</i>	6
<i>June Calendar</i>	7
<i>What a Savior & What a Place! by Don Schlernitzauer</i>	8
<i>VBS</i>	9
<i>Young Reflections by Samantha De Jong</i>	10
<i>VBS Help Needed!</i>	10
<i>Recipe Corner</i>	11
<i>Men & Boy’s Cookout</i>	11
<i>Did You Know</i>	12

Mnemonics...

- *Corporation Meeting, 4th*
- *Men & Boy’s Cookout, 14th*
- *VBS, 23rd-27th*

Unsearchable Riches

By J. C. Ryle

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”
~ Ephesians 3:8

If we heard that sentence read for the first time, I think we should all feel it was a very remarkable one, even though we did not know by whom it was written. It is remarkable on account of the bold and striking figures of speech which it contains. “Less than the least of all saints;”—“Unsearchable riches of Christ;”—these are indeed “thoughts that breathe and words that burn.”

But the sentence is doubly remarkable when we consider the man who wrote it. The writer was none other than the great Apostle of the Gentiles, St. Paul—the leader of that noble little Jewish army which went forth from Palestine nineteen centuries ago, and turned the world upside down—that good soldier of Christ who left a deeper mark on mankind than any born of woman, except his sinless Master—a mark which abides to this very day. Surely such a sentence from the pen of such a man demands peculiar attention.

Let us fix our eyes steadily on this text,...

But what did the Apostle mean when he spoke of “unsearchable riches”? This is a hard question to answer. No doubt he saw in Christ such a boundless provision for all the wants of man’s soul that he knew no other phrase to convey his meaning. From whatever standpoint he beheld Jesus, he saw in Him far more than mind could conceive, or tongue could tell. What he precisely intended must necessarily be matter of conjecture. But it may be useful to set down in detail some of the things which most probably were in his mind. It *may*, it *must*, it *ought* to be useful. For after all, let us remember, these “*riches of Christ*” are riches which you and I need in England just as much as St. Paul; and, best of all, these “*riches*” are treasured up in Christ for you and me as much as they were 1900 years ago. They are still there. They are still offered freely to all who are willing to have them.

They are still the property of everyone who repents and believes. Let us glance briefly at some of them.

(a) Set down, first and foremost, in your minds that there are unsearchable riches in *Christ’s person*. That miraculous union of perfect Man and perfect God in our Lord Jesus Christ is a great mystery, no doubt, which we have no line to fathom. It is a high thing; and we cannot attain to it. But, mysterious as that union may be, it is a mine of comfort and consolation to all who can rightly regard it. Infinite power and infinite sympathy are met together and combined in our Saviour. If He had been only Man He could not have saved us. If He had been only *God* (I speak with reverence) He could not have been “touched with the feeling of our infirmities,” nor “suffered Himself being tempted.” (Heb. 2:18; 4:15.) As God, He is mighty to save; and as Man, He is exactly suited to be our Head, Representative, and Friend. Let those who never think deeply, taunt us, if they will, with squabbling about creeds and dogmatic theology. But let thoughtful Christians never be ashamed to believe and hold fast the neglected doctrine of the Incarnation, and the union of two natures in our Saviour. It is a rich and precious truth that our Lord Jesus Christ is both “God and Man.”

(b) Set down, next, in your minds that there are unsearchable riches in the *work which Christ accomplished for us*, when He lived on earth, died, and rose again. Truly and indeed, “He finished the work which His Father gave Him to do.” (John 17:4)—the work of atonement for sin, the work of *reconciliation*, the work of *redemption*, the work of *satisfaction*, the work of substitution as “the just for the unjust.” It pleases some men, I know, to call these short phrases “man-made theological terms, human dogmas,” and the like. But they will find it hard to prove that each of these much-abused phrases does not honestly contain the substance of plain texts of Scripture; which, for convenience sake, like the word Trinity, divines have packed into a single word. And each phrase is very rich.

(c) Set down, next, in your minds that there are unsearchable riches in the *offices which Christ at this moment fills*, as He lives for us at the right hand of

Ryle Continued...

God. He is at once our Mediator, our Advocate, our Priest, our Intercessor, our Shepherd, our Bishop, our Physician, our Captain, our King, our Master, our Head, our Forerunner, our Elder Brother, the Bridegroom of our souls. No doubt these offices are worthless to those who know nothing of vital religion. But to those who live the life of faith, and seek first the kingdom of God, each office is precious as gold.

(d) Set down, next, in your minds that there are unsearchable riches in the *names and titles which are applied to Christ* in the Scriptures. Their number is very great, every careful Bible-reader knows, and I cannot of course pretend to do more than select a few of them. Think for a moment of such titles as the Lamb of God—the bread of life—the fountain of living waters—the light of the world—the door—the way—the vine—the rock—the corner stone—the Christian’s robe—the Christian’s altar. Think of all these names, I say, and consider how much they contain. To the careless, worldly man they are mere “words,” and nothing more; but to the true Christian each title, if beaten out and developed, will be found to have within its bosom a wealth of blessed truth.

(e) Set down, lastly, in your minds that there are unsearchable riches in the *characteristic qualities, attributes, dispositions, and intentions of Christ’s mind towards man*, as we find them revealed in the New Testament. In Him there are riches of mercy, love, and compassion for sinners—riches of power to cleanse, pardon, forgive, and to save to the uttermost—riches of willingness to receive all who come to Him repenting and believing—riches of ability to change by His Spirit the hardest hearts and worst characters—riches of tender patience to bear with the weakest believer—

riches of strength to help His people to the end, notwithstanding every foe without and within—riches of sympathy for all who are cast down and bring their troubles to Him—and last, but not least, riches of glory to reward, when He comes again to raise the

*“They will say
with one
voice, ‘There
are no riches
like those
which are laid
up in Christ for
His people.’”*

dead and gather His people to be with Him in His kingdom. Who can estimate these riches? The children of this world may regard them with indifference, or turn away from them with disdain; but those who feel the value of their souls know better. They will say with one voice, “There are no riches like those which are laid up in Christ for His people.”

For, best of all, these riches are *unsearchable*. They are a mine which, however long it may be worked, is never exhausted. They are a fountain which, however many draw its waters, never runs dry. The sun in heaven has been shining for thousands of years, and giving light, and life, and warmth, and fertility to the whole surface of the globe. There is not a tree or a flower in Europe, Asia, Africa, or America which is not a debtor to the sun. And still the sun shines on for generation after generation, and season after season, rising and setting with unbroken regularity,

giving to all, taking from none, and to all ordinary eyes the same in light and heat that it was in the day of creation, the great common benefactor of mankind. Just so it is, if any illustration can approach the reality, just so it is with Christ. He is still “the Sun of righteousness” to all mankind. (Malachi 4:2.) Millions have drawn from Him in days gone by, and looking to Him have lived with comfort, and with comfort died. Myriads at this moment are drawing from Him daily supplies of mercy, grace, peace, strength, and help, and find “all fulness” dwelling in Him. And yet the half of the riches laid up in Him for mankind, I doubt not, is utterly unknown! Surely the Apostle might well use

Ryle Concluded...

that phrase, “the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

Let me now conclude this paper with three words of practical application. For convenience sake I shall put them in the form of questions, and I invite each reader of this volume to examine them quietly and try to give them an answer.

(1) First, then, let me ask you *what you think of yourself?* What St. Paul thought of himself you have seen and heard. Now, what are your thoughts about yourself? Have you found out that grand foundation-truth that you are a sinner, a guilty sinner in the sight of God?...

(3) Last of all, *what do you think of Christ Himself?* Is He great or little in your eyes? Does He come first or second in your estimation? Is He before or behind His Church, His ministers, His sacraments, His ordinances? Where is He in your heart and your mind’s eye?

After all, this is the question of questions! Pardon, peace, rest of conscience, hope in death, heaven itself—all hinge upon our answer. To know Christ is life eternal. To be without Christ is to be without God. “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” (1 John 5:12.) The friends of purely secular education, the enthusiastic advocates of reform and progress, the worshippers of reason, and intellect, and mind, and science, may say what they please, and do all they can to mend the world. But they will find their labour in vain if they do not make allowance for the fall of man, if there is no place for Christ in their schemes. There is a sore disease at the heart of mankind, which will baffle all their efforts, and defeat all their plans, and that disease is sin. Oh, that people would only see and recognize the corruption of human nature, and the uselessness of all efforts to improve man which are not based on the remedial system of the Gospel! Yes: the plague of sin is in the world, and no waters will ever heal that plague except those which flow from the fountain for all sin—a crucified Christ.

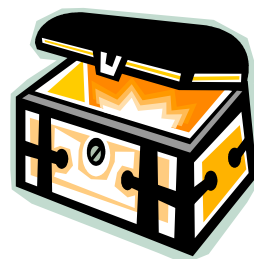
But, to wind up all, where is boasting? As a

great divine said on his death-bed, “We are all of us only half awake.” The best Christian among us knows but little of his glorious Saviour, even after he had learned to believe. We see through a glass darkly. We do not realize the “unsearchable riches” there are in Him. When we wake up after His likeness in another world, we shall be amazed that we knew Him so imperfectly, and loved Him so little. Let us seek to know Him better now, and live in closer communion with Him.... We shall feel “I have all and abound: I want nothing more. Christ dying for me on the cross—Christ ever interceding for me at God’s right hand—Christ dwelling in my heart by faith—Christ soon coming again to gather me and all His people together to part no more, Christ is enough for me. Having Christ, I have ‘unsearchable riches.’”

“The good I have is from His stores supplied,
The ill is only what He deems the best;
He for my Friend, I’m rich with nought beside,
And poor without Him, though of all possess’d:
Changes may come, I take or I resign,
Content while I am His, and He is mine.

“While here, alas! I know but half His love,
But half discern Him, and but half adore;
But when I meet Him in the realms above,
I hope to love Him better, praise Him more,
And feel, and tell, amid the choir divine,
How fully I am His, and He is mine.”

Taken from Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, & Roots by John Charles Ryle, Chapter XVIII “Unsearchable Riches”.



SMALL SEEDS, YET A GREAT HARVEST

by Don Schlernitzauer

The Lord, our God is a wonderful teacher whose Word conveys great wisdom. One such teaching is that we are not to think lightly of small things. Man's nature likes to equate big with better, but God say to us "no", even as He did to the Philistines regarding their Goliath, and to Jesus' disciples concerning the widow's mites. We know the reason for this truth is God Himself, as He conveyed to Zerubbabel, saying, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts" (Zechariah 4: 6). It is that which God blesses, despite its size, appearance, or inherent potential that brings the fruit God desires.

The second Sunday of each month God receives from us a special offering; we call it the "Missions/Benevolence" offering. It occurs after the sermon, takes about four minutes to accomplish, and then it is on its way to do God's bidding. If you were especially meditative in that part of the worship service, you might not know it even had occurred. But those contributions, so quickly and inauspiciously gathered from God's people flow from our church to every OPC missionary around the world, provide for the



Wingards, the Hopps, and Rev. Ritsman's trip to South Korea through Hub Spokes, and are also used to plant new churches in our presbytery. But that is not all. They also support within our presbytery the King's Men offering and Rev. Thompson's work among the Menominee Indians. To assist in Christian education, those offerings provide within our church scholarships for children who are home schooled or attend Christian schools, and as well give support to the Sheboygan County Christian High School, and a few seminaries in which many of our denominational pastors are trained. The influence of those offerings makes its way to Sheboygan Falls to support Pine Haven Christian Home and far away to Larnaca, Cyprus, to further the work of the Middle East reformed Fellowship in reaching Muslims for Christ.

Is that not some picture—a small offering at our small church being used by God in profound ways within our body, our community, our presbytery and around the world? But then we realize it's "not by might, nor by power, but by {God's} Spirit." It is good, however, to remind ourselves each month of the great significance God adds to what we so quickly place in the plate as it goes by.

Camp Westminster

The Eighth Annual Presbytery "Camp Westminster," will be Monday, August 11 to Friday, August 15 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI. This year's speaker will be the Rev. Albert Tricarico, OPC Foreign Missionary to Uganda. He will be speaking on the book of James. Topics are Settled Patience, Divine Wisdom, Faithful Obedience, Christian Love, Helpful Speech and Humble Submission. If you

plan to attend and have not made your reservation, you need to do so quickly. The rooms, cabins and campsites that are **being held for our group will be released on Thursday, June 12**. After that date, reservations are taken on a first come first served basis as to what remains available. You may make your reservation by phone or email -Please do not call Green Lake to make your reservation.

June Birthdays



Happy Birthday!!!

Corner Store at Pine Haven

The Corner Store at Pine Haven is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., closed from 12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m. for lunch, and also open Saturdays 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

They are in need of workers for the store and more people on the substitute list. Workers get a free lunch during the week (12:00-12:30). If you would be interested in any of these positions please contact Sharon Thiessen





Grace OPC

June 2008

*Showing forth the
excellencies of
Jesus Christ*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	3 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	4 Corporation Meeting, 7 p.m.	5	6	7 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.
8 Missions Sunday	9 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	10 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	11 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	12	13	14 Men & Boy's Cookout
15	16 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	17 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	18 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	19	20	21
22	23 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. VBS	24 VBS	25 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. VBS	26 VBS	27 VBS VBS Program, 6:30 p.m.	28
29 Lord's Supper (p.m.)	30 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.					

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Email:
graceopc@juno.com
briandejong@earthlink.net

WHAT A SAVIOR AND WHAT A PLACE!

by Don Schlernitzauer

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (ESV)

-- John 14:1-3

Man needs a place. It has been that way from the beginning. Genesis 2 records that the first thing God did after creating man was to plant a garden and “there he put the man.” When God called Abram out of the world and gave him all the covenantal promises, God also gave him and his offspring a place, Canaan, a land where they could experience fellowship with God and the fulfillment of those promises.

This beautiful land, this land God gave to His people is called in Scripture “the promised land” and “a land flowing with milk and honey.” It is even called “Beulah land”, meaning married, a reference to the union between God and His people (Isa. 62:4). From this we are to understand in the history of redemption the great importance God assigns to a place or land where His people experience His grace. One gains a sense of this importance by noting that the words “land” or “lands” occur more than 1500 times in the Old Testament.

But it is quite different in the New Testament, for the word “land” is infrequent, being mentioned only about 40 times. In fact the people of God in the N. T., unlike their O.T. counterparts, are never given a land. They are rather depicted as pilgrims and exiles (1 Pet. 2:11) and as those who are on their way to a better land, a heavenly one (Heb. 11: 16).

In the O.T. the garden of Eden and the jewel of the promised land, Jerusalem, were beautiful physical places where God and His people experienced fellowship together. But we are to be-

lieve that the place Christ is preparing now for His people far exceeds these in magnificence and glory. The words of John 14:2-3 imply that Christ Himself is seeing to every little detail. It is going to be a wonderful place where we will have perfect communion with our perfect Savior. It really will be Beulah land!

You may ask if there is any profit in such thoughts; I believe there is. The joy of heaven will not be limited only to fellowship with God and with one another, though that will be primary. There will also be great joy for us in the place Christ is preparing, which will far exceed the glories of the present beautiful creation. Paul testified in 2 Corinthians 12:2-3 that he had been caught up to the third heaven {where God dwells}, and things were revealed to him in this paradise that he was not permitted to tell. But having had this revelation, he further testified in Philippians 1:21 that “to die is gain.”

We have not had the privilege of Paul, but we do have the wonderful promise of Jesus that one day He personally will escort us to that place which He is so carefully preparing. What a Savior we have and, therefore, what a place it must be!



Faith
EXPEDITION
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Location:

**Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church
4930 Green Valley Lane
Sheboygan, WI**

Dates:

June 23-27

Time:

9 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Ages:

Pre-K — completed 6th grade

Call for Information:

**Pastor Brian De Jong
(920) 565-2160**

Young Reflections

A page designed especially for the children of Grace Church (by Samantha De Jong)

June is "Secret Pal Month!"

Have you ever had a secret pal? Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Last year we had "Secret Pal Week" at our house. My brothers and sister and I were each assigned another person from our family. For the next seven days we wrote notes and did special things for that person, without letting them know who we were. At the end, we agreed that we wanted every week to be "Secret Pal Week." During June we'll be doing something similar in our church. Adults are welcome to help too! If you're interested, talk to Samantha De Jong.



V a c a t i o n B i b l e S c h o o l H e l p N e e d e d ! !

Would you would like to help out with VBS by **donating** snack ingredients or craft supplies? Check the bulletin board for a list of needed snack items or talk with Moni Doro if you would like to donate some shoe boxes or cottage cheese containers.



Pepper Jack Meat Loaf

- ★ 1 egg
- ★ 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs/ crackers
- ★ 1/4 cup chopped onions
- ★ 1/2 tsp. salt
- ★ 1/2 tsp. pepper
- ★ 1 1/2 lbs. ground turkey/beef
- ★ 2 cups shredded pepper jack cheese
- ★ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ★ garlic salt, opt.

In a large bowl, combine the egg, breadcrumbs, onion, salt, pepper, & garlic.

Crumble turkey/beef over that mixture and mix well. Press half of the mixture on bottom & halfway up the sides of a greased loaf pan. Sprinkle 1 1/2 cups cheese (or more) over meat to within 1/2 in of sides. Pat remaining meat mixture over top. Bake uncovered at 350° for 50-55 minutes until not pink. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 5 more minutes until cheese melts. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing.

Emily Boss



“There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen, that it is from the hand of God. For who can have enjoyment without Him?”



**Proclaiming the
Excellencies of our
Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Monthly Newsletter
of Grace OPC

Worship: Grace OPC
4930 Green Valley Lane,

Church Office Phone: 920-565-2160
Email: graceopc@tds.net
briandejong@earthlink.net

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBPAGE:

OPC.ORG



★ Did you know that the author of Fox's Book of Martyrs was John Fox, born in England in 1517?

★ That he went to Brazenose College in Oxford when he was 16 where he enjoyed writing poetry?

★ Did you know that at first, John Fox was part of the Roman church and was trusting in his own deeds to save himself?

★ That all this changed when he started searching the Bible, history, and the early works of Christian men and he saw his real need for Christ?

★ That when the college he was attending heard that he was speaking out about his new found faith they expelled him on the grounds of heresy?

★ That the label "heretic" made his friends and family leave him and that his father-in-law even used this to take for himself the estate John Fox was to have?

★ Did you know that he earned money as a tutor until he was eventually obliged to flee the area to avoid the stake?

★ That he decided to sail for Flanders with his wife and several others?

★ That a storm caused them to turn back, but when, back on land, he found that there was a warrant on his head and they were scouring the land for him, he begged the ship master to weather out the storm and set sail again and that they came safely though?

★ Did you know that this will be continued next month?

Information found at <http://www.apuritansmind.com/MemoirsPuritans/MemoirsPuritansJohnFox.htm>

Men & Boy's Cookout

All men & boys are invited to attend the annual Men & Boy's Cookout, which will be held at the church on Saturday, June 14th. Come for a fun time of grilling, a baseball game, a devotional and much more!

