



From Nate's Pen: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

Three times in 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 the apostle Paul connects divine grace with Christians giving generously to their brothers and sisters in need.



*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... (v. 1-2)*

*Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you **this act of grace**... (v. 6)*

*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... (v. 7)*

Then, in verse 9, Paul zeroes in on the source of this generosity among and between Christians.

***For 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 (v. 9).*

This Christmas, let us remember that Christ set aside the riches of divine glory for our sake. Let us remember that he who was unlimited became limited for us. Let us remember that he who never knew any kind of need became hungry and thirsty for us. Let us remember that he who could not die became subject to suffering and death for us. Let us remember that Jesus became poor for our sake and that through his poverty we have received the riches of the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, union with God, citizenship in His kingdom, and the promise of eternal life. This Christmas, following the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us also excel in the act of grace to which Paul called the Corinthians – the act of giving generously to those in need for their good and God's glory.

STOP – LOOK – PRAY

PRAYER NEEDS THIS WEEK

Violence & Threats to American Schools, our Country Country and People of Ukraine and Russia in war

Mission of the Month:
Great Lakes Christian College

Jason Kitchell blood clot, reducing in size, still painful

Dee Bybee is now home

Nancy Moore cancer surgery, Thurs 12/22

Bob Hoven significant health issues, no calls, no visitors

Cindy Burns hip replacement, 1/23, T. Young req.

PRAISE & Thank you:

Remy Bumstead stays where she is. Anna's gg daughter Mike & Vickie Kitchell over Covid, thanks for prayers

Results of the BCC Blood Drive

Donations: 17 Complete Units Saved 56 Lives

BCC Activities

Office Hours: Mon 8-12, Tues & Wed 9-1, Thurs 8-12

- > **Bible School Classes** 9:30 am for K-5, 6th-12th, & adult
- > **Bible School Sunday Morning Equipping Class** 9:15 - 10:15 am
Begins: January 8. Study: *The Gospel of Luke*, sign up at the Welcome Center
- > **Worship Service** on Sundays, 10:30 am
- > **BCC Grief Share** Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Led by Marlin & Cindy
- > **Band of Brothers** on first Tuesdays, 7 pm. Tom Hoyt's house
- > **Glory Makers Youth Choir** meets Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- > **Adult Bible Study Groups Wednesday: 2 classes:** 9 weeks each.
 1. The Way of Jesus: Spiritual Formation (personal spiritual formation)
 2. The Way of Jesus: Kingdom Ministry (personal mission)Classes start on 1/11 - 3/8 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, followed by food & fellowship from 6:30-7pm. Join us. *Sign up at the Welcome Center.*
- > **Ladies Fellowship** meetings 1st Thurs. of each month 1 pm at BCC.
- > **Suicide Bereavement Support** 6:30 - 8 pm, monthly on 1st Thurs

— December —

- > **Christmas Day! Merry Christmas** (no Bible School today)
- > **Christmas Eve Service:** 7 pm, Choir led by Marcus Mitchell

FACTS & FIGURES for Sunday 12/18/2022

TITHES & OFFERINGS (BUDGETED AMOUNTS)

ATTENDANCE — 129

General Fund (4,058.00)	Missions (517.50)	Building
<u>4,060.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>00.00</u>

Adult Worship: 10:30 AM
Masks Optional

For K-5th gr.

Junior Church Joins Us During
Worship Service

Then is Dismissed From
the Youth Room

On 2nd floor

SPECIAL OFFERING TOTALS:

BENEVOLENT FUND	140.00	FLOWER FUND	10.00
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Online Giving Using [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) - November

Reported Only at the End of the Month

General — 1,219.19	Mission — 118.54	Building — 0.00
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“God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

New Bible Studies Beginning in January 2023

- I. Wednesday Evening Bible Study Groups:
Beginning January 11th
 - a. **The Way of Jesus: Spiritual Formation:** Learn about the basic spiritual disciplines by which we commune with God and grow in Christ, and create and activate a **personal spiritual formation plan** for practicing the spiritual disciplines in your life.
 - b. **The Way of Jesus: Kingdom Ministry:** Learn about the basic practices for personal evangelism and personal involvement in world missions, and create and activate a **personal mission plan** for purposely and passionately sharing the love of Jesus with others.
 - c. Classes will be from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. Each week, class will be followed by a time of food and fellowship from 6:30 to 7:00.
 - d **Sign-up** at the Welcome Center to be in either the Spiritual Formation Bible study or the Kingdom Ministry Bible study.
- II. Sunday Morning Equipping Bible School Class:
Beginning January 8th
 - a. **The Gospel of Luke.** The vision for Spirit-empowered kingdom ministry comes from Luke’s portrayal of how Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit in his ministry. Through this class you will: 1) grow in your relationship with Jesus by studying his life and ministry and, 2) be prepared and equipped for your ministry of God’s kingdom today. Classes will be from 9:15 to 10:15 am on Sunday mornings.
 - b. **Sign-up** at the Welcome Center to be part of this exciting and foundational study of the book of Luke.

BRANDON’S KIDS CORNER

ASSOCIATE / YOUTH MINISTER

We were so excited to see our Glory Makers Performance yesterday! They did such a wonderful job! I wanted to especially thank, Nicole and Marcus Mitchell as well as Kathy Furst for their continued efforts they put into guiding the Glory Makers Program a success. They worked very hard with these kids, helping them to learn their lines, helping them to learn the motions, the timings of when things needed to happen and helping them to understand the importance of the message, they were trying to share with all of us; We too have a choice to make. Just like the main character, we can decide to follow Jesus. We too can choose to follow the King of Kings. I also want to thank all of the parents who made the commitment to bringing these Kids faithful to all of the practices and additional practices even in the midst of the busyness this season can bring!



Our Youth Group will be meeting on January 5th for a Service Project at 11 AM at Michiana Christian Camp! We’ll be helping the camp with some different opportunities for cleaning.

On January 22nd After the Worship Service, we’ll be having a parents meeting for the parents of children 0-12th grade to look at what 2023 Calendar Year looks like for our young ones, as well as our direction as a group, and how we can become excited for these events!

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