

Lamplight

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.
~Psalms 119:105



Grace Tempe Missionary
Baptist Church
D. Grady Scott, Pastor

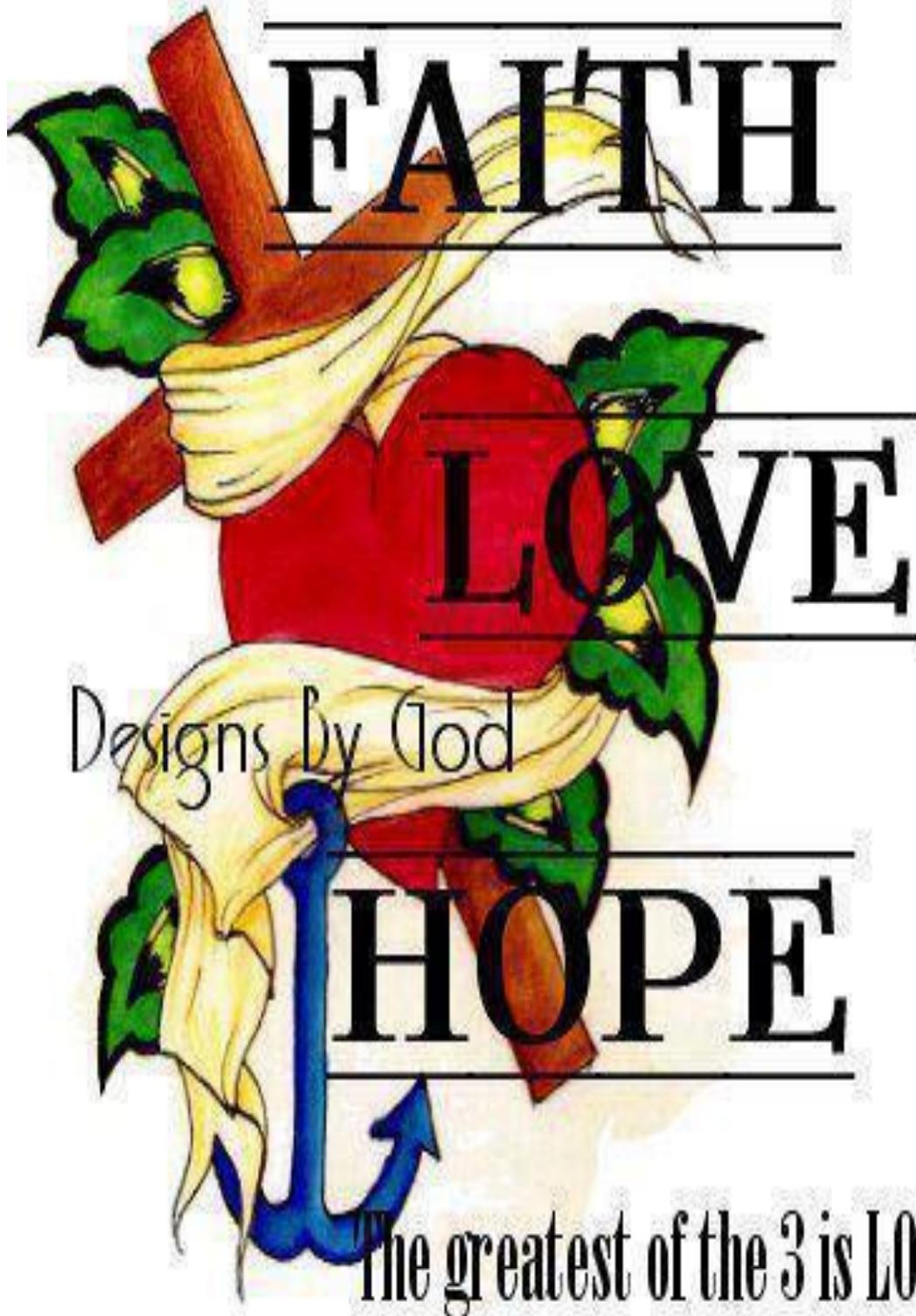
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Why is Love Greater Than Faith and Hope?

1 Corinthians 13:13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope and love—and the greatest of these is love.

My friends and I would sometimes play a game that involved tough imaginary choices. One of us might ask something like: "If you were in an accident, which would you rather lose, an arm or a leg?" More positively, we might try to answer a question like this: "Which would you rather have, all the power in the world or all the money in the world?" Then we would argue the merits of one answer or another, trying to get everyone to line up on our side.

First Corinthians 13:13 reminds me a little of our imaginary thought experiments. It is as if someone asked the Apostle Paul: "So what's better, faith, hope, or love?" At first glance, it seems impossible to answer this question. How could faith be better than hope? Or hope than love? If I had been asked this question, I would say, "There's no way to answer. All three are essential and wonderful. None is better than the others."

But Paul did answer the question. He acknowledged that faith, hope, and love are all essential and eternal, but then he identified love as "the greatest" of all. How could this be possible? How could love be greater than faith and hope?

From a theological point of view, one might say that love is the greatest because it is essential to the very nature of God. As we read in 1 John 4:8, "God is love." Scripture never says that God is faith or hope, though he is the object of our faith and hope, to be sure. Love is as necessary to the triune God as blood is to a living being. The interrelationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is defined in terms of mutual love. So, in this sense, love is greater than faith and hope.

In the context of 1 Corinthians 13, where Paul has just written about the day when we will see the Lord face-to-face, love is the greatest because it will be enhanced on that day. We will still have trustful faith in God, but faith will be less important when we see God. And hope will be fulfilled when we are in his presence and when his kingdom has fully come. So, when we think in terms of our future with God, love is greater than faith or hope. Love, more than faith and hope, will guide the believers in Corinth—and us as well—into using spiritual gifts in a way that builds up the church.

PRAYER: Thank you, dear Lord, for the excellence of love. Faith is indeed wonderful. How good it is to trust in you! And hope keeps me going when I struggle with discouragement. How much I long for the day when I will meet you face-to-face!

But love is indeed even greater than faith and hope. Love is essential to your nature. Love is your chief activity. Indeed, as John reveals, you are love!

Help me, loving Lord, to give love its proper place in my life. Help me to cherish love, not only when I am at home or in church, but when I'm at work or in the market, when I'm meeting strangers or hanging out with my friends. May people know that I belong to you because of how I love. All praise be to you, God of love. Amen. ~ Mark D. Roberts

D. Grady Scott, Pastor
Featured Contributor

PASTOR'S PAGE



Thank You

The past few months have been a challenge. Never could we have dreamed that we would be facing a pandemic, racial tension, and a renovation at the same time. As we come to the middle of the year, we are no closer to knowing when we will be released from social distancing. I want to thank the Grace Temple family for your understanding, compassion, and support during this trial period. Many have continued your financial support via mail, the website, and personal dropping off your tithes. Grace Temple was blessed to receive the loan/grant through the Small Business Association also known as the Payroll Protection Program. This has enabled us to keep all employees paid and utilities paid from the federal government. Many of you have also been able to watch our worship service on Facebook and on the YouTube channel via the website.

We have labored to increase our digital or virtual presence. We are reaching so many people for across the nation and around our city. I do not know how long we will be under these pandemic guidelines, it could be months, but we will get through this.

We Are Making Progress

Taking advantage of the opportunity to complete our renovation we are moving forward with the project to provide a 21st century worship center for our church and our community. Maybe you have seen the work previewed during one of our worship services.

We are well into the project and may be concluded before we are released from social distancing. 2020 is a challenge. We will emerge from this “shutdown” with more knowledge, stronger commitments, and a 21st century worship center. If you have not yet contributed, now is the time. Succeeding generations will look upon this work as great futuristic vision.



Carmen Wallace
Lamplight Staff

The Marriage Ministry

Why Are You Trying to Change Me?

Are you attempting to change the person whom you married? Often, we believe we can change someone else. We embark on a mission to make that person just like us. We waste valuable time and energy only, becoming frustrated with our efforts. When confronted with the question, “Why are you trying to change me?” we respond obviously, “Oh, are you speaking to me?”

Genesis 1:27 reads, “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God, he created them; male and female, he created them.” The psalmist also states in Psalm 139:14, “I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Sometimes married couples fail to grasp the fact that God created them in His image and not their own; He alone can make the necessary changes needed for them to live the abundant lives in and through Him. Neither one can change the other, so instead of wasting precious time attempting to do so, be supportive of one another.

Christian marriage is about two imperfect human beings coming together under the umbrella of a perfect God who said, “For everything, there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.” Husbands cannot bring about changes in their wives; neither can wives bring about changes in their husbands; time is productive when affirming the qualities, you admire about one another-stop nitpicking!

I believe that living a harmonious married life is all about accepting one another, focusing on the qualities that brought both of you together in the first place. Understanding that each person brings their own set of strengths and weaknesses into the relationship can be an opening for respectful and honest communication. Opened and honest communication should not mean finger-pointing at one another or pushing for change to happen in the other person. It is a time for self-introspection; each should examine behaviors that are detrimental to the marriage relationship, then pray and ask God to help each of you change those unacceptable behaviors patterns.

After inviting God to make the changes necessary in the marriage relationship couple could pray this prayer written by Reinhold:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Amen



Margaret Hudson
Lamplight Editor

As a Christian...



I should have a commitment to the church!

What do a successful marriage, a successful business and a successful expedition have in common? They all possess clearly defined goals. The people in them are focused, they know what they want, and they will remove any obstacles that would prevent them reaching their goal.

Similarly, a successful local church is composed of people who are committed to Christ and who understand that when Christ called them to him, he called them to his church. The local church then needs leaders who have a clear vision for the church and its calling to proclaim the gospel and to build up the faith in the body of believers. When no opportunity for spiritual development, growth or meaningful fellowship is provided, poor commitment is inevitable. We are saved in community. Together we are members of Christ's body, we belong to a family, we are citizens of a kingdom, and we are joined together. "Together" is a dominant theme when Paul is writing about the church. (Ephesians 2:14-22; 3:6; 4:16) God's eternal plan to save the lost is realised in the thousands of local churches of his people. The church is the centrepiece of God's grace, God's love, and God's eternal purpose. Every baptised believer is called upon to live out the reality of this truth through commitment to the life of the church.

Commitment is more than attendance on Sunday. It's about involvement in the mission of the church. It is about engaging in kingdom work, the most important work on earth. Only the church can share the gospel, only the church can minister in Jesus' name. Heads of state cannot do it. Powerful governments cannot do it. The UN cannot do it. Jesus has entrusted that task to the church. The church is the only agency God has on earth for doing his will.

What Commitment to the Church Looks Like?

Committed members of the local church always have a keen sense of awareness. They know what is going on because they know the other Christians. They do not live on the fringes; they are at the heart of the life of the church. What is happening in the church is important to them. They live their life for the Lord on high alert. They do not forget to entertain strangers knowing that such people may have been sent to them by God. They refuse to be indifferent to the needs of those in prison and those who are mistreated. It is as if they themselves were suffering. (Hebrews 13:2-3) They see people as God sees them and so they care for "the least of these my brethren." (Matthew 25:45) They know who "the least" are in the church - those who are easily overlooked, neglected, or forgotten- and they respond to them. The committed church member will be found serving "the least." You do not hear them say, "I didn't know." They make it their business to know.

Those who are committed to the church have never lost their sense of wonder, that sense of awe that they are loved by God - hence their commitment to the church, the body of Christ. Are you committed to the church? Tony Coffey at info@bibleanswers.ie

Margaret Hudson
Lamplight Editor

What is the 4th of July to the Negro?



Frederick Douglass asked this important question in 1854. What is Independence Day to the slave? A fitting question to the black conservatives today that call other black Americans “slaves on a plantation,” then encourage them to celebrate America’s independence.

On July 4th, 1881, Booker T. Washington opened the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He picked the 4th of July, Independence Day, to symbolize the transition from a plantation mindset to the principles and values of personal responsibility.

Washington stressed to his students that they would have to work ten times harder as free men because they were now working for themselves. He did not call them names or blame the institution of slavery for their position. He showed them how to change their destiny.

To black Americans this Independence Day, I wish you the prose of Frederick Douglass and the foresight of Booker T. Washington. I wish you the courage to speak, especially when your voice shakes. I wish you the strength to move your feet, especially when you are not standing on the solid ground of truth. I wish you the peace to love, especially when all around you are demanding hate. I wish you clarity of thought, especially when the choir that surrounds you sings a different melody.

But most of all, I wish you life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness under divine providence. The rest tends to work itself out. ~ Sonnie Johnson.

Happy Independence Day!

What's Happening

GRACE TEMPLE EVENTS:

The Marriage Ministry: Will be having a 5th Sunday Event in the Kitchen/ Dining room, following the 10:00 A.M. Service.

The Prayer Ministry: Meets in the Sanctuary from 7:00- 8:00 A.M. for prayer on the Saturday before the First Sunday of every month. Let's remember that it is PRAYER that changes things!

Rena's Movie Night: Every 2nd Saturday from 3:00-7:00 P.M. featuring biblical movies, refreshments, open discussion about the movie, and personal reflection. Please join Rena Washington for "Christian Movie Night," in the Education Wing!

Men of Grace Gospel Group: Every 2nd Sunday at 8:00 A.M. Service.

The Young Adult Ministry: Invites all young adults ages 18-35 to bible study every 1st and 3rd Friday from 6:30-7:30 P.M. in the Education Wing. Rev Terry Dodd (Facilitator) Theme... "Why am I here, and what is my purpose?"

Diaper Giveaway: Every third Saturday at Annex # 3. Starting at 9:00 A.M.

Capital Campaign: Please remember to get your pledge sheet and make your pledge. Pledge sheets can be found in the foyer area of the church.

Some community announcements provided courtesy of: **Rev. Amos L. Lewis**, Senior Pastor and IMA CAT Facilitator
Rising Star MBC
allewis@risingstarbaptist.org.

Scripture for the month of "July"

Hebrews 4:12 ESV for the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



The Lamplight will continue to be published monthly. Copies are available at the church office. Please continue to submit your contributions. Thank you!



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**Continue to support the church
Building Fund!**



What's Happening

Pima County Community Services, Employment and Training (CSET) has set up several community support hotlines: Hotline number for employment **520-724-5735**. Community Action Agency (CAA) Hotline for Rent, Mortgage, Utilities for COVID-19 impacted **520-724-2505** and CAA Hotline for regular emergency (car broke down, etc.) **520- 724-2667**.

COMPLETE CENSUS FORM WHILE STAYING AT HOME - As more Arizonans comply with orders to stay at home during the COVID-19 crisis, there are still some things they can do to help their communities. One item is completing their census forms online. Responses help determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and guide how nearly \$700 billion in federal funding is spent in communities each year. It's estimated up to \$3,000 per person, per year is at stake for Arizona. The answers are kept anonymous and are used only to produce statistics. Follow the links below for more information. [United States Census 2020](#) & [Complete the census video](#)

Currently, only 46% of all eligible Black people in Arizona are registered to vote compared to 80% of white Arizonans. (Rep. Reginal Bolding, Jr.) Please go register and vote!



The Lamplight will be published monthly. Please submit your announcements, events, photos, or articles to: GTLamplight@gmail.Com

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