

Weekly Newsletter: 30th May 2023

Reflection: Do You Believe That God Delights in Showing Grace?

By Joe Barnard

How often do you think about God being satisfied and taking pleasure in showing grace? It's not uncommon in evangelical churches to hear sermons about the justice of God needing to be satisfied by punishing sin or the need for divine wrath to be propitiated through sacrifice. Such are true and essential aspects of the gospel. Yet, we need to realise that the same underlying reality that enables us to speak of the justice of God needing to be satisfied also enables us to speak of the grace of God needing to be satisfied. In the same way that God is glorified by showing himself to be righteous and just in the face of sin, He is also glorified by showing himself merciful and gracious in the face of humility and need.

To understand this, we need to appreciate what theologians label the attributes of God. An attribute is an inalienable trait of God. It is something that is so true of God that we cannot think rightly about Him without keeping this in view. Now, one of the attributes of God that is revealed very early in the Bible is the graciousness of the divine nature. When Yahweh passes before Moses, the name proclaimed is "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex. 34). This beautiful star shines brighter and brighter as the Scriptures unfold until, by the time we get to Jesus, it is blazing like the sun in the sky overhead. With John, we can say, "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Looking on the cross, we see that grace is every bit as essential to the being of God as are other tremendous attributes like omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience. God *is* gracious just as He *is* powerful and wise, and His nature is satisfied in showing forth grace just as it is in showing forth any of the other excellencies of His being.

All of this may sound heady and academic. It is anything but. One of Satan's favourite tactics is to convince us that we've exhausted God's willingness to show grace to us. We imagine that the grace of God is a finite reservoir. To draw from it is to deplete it, and to deplete it is, eventually, to run dry. Yet, to think this way is to twist the beauty of the divine nature into a ludicrous gargoyle. With God, grace is not finite, but infinite. Likewise, for God to display grace is not depleting, but glorifying. God delights in nothing more than being seen and known for what He is. For us to experience more of His grace is not disappointing for God, but pleasing. To retweet John Piper's favourite phrase, God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him – and this means, in part, receiving joyfully another daily dispensation of divine grace.

One of my favourite ways to meditate on this wonderful truth is by thinking about a hymn by John Newton. I've copied it below. Take a few minutes this week to ponder these words. I can guarantee that they will lift your heart to a higher plane of joy and praise.

For mercies, countless as the sands
Which daily I receive
From Jesus, my Redeemer's hands,
My soul, what canst thou give?

Alas! from such a heart as mine,
What can I bring Him forth?
My best is stained and dyed with sin,
My all is nothing worth.

Yet this acknowledgement I'll make
For all He has bestowed;
Salvation's sacred cup I'll take,
And call upon my God.

The best return for one like me,
So wretched and so poor;
Is from His gifts to draw a plea,
And ask Him still for more.

I cannot serve him as I ought,
No works have I to boast;
Yet would I glory in the thought
That I shall owe Him most.

Ladies' Afternoon Tea – this Saturday



We're really looking forward to getting together as women to hear from God's word, pray, share testimonies, have time to catch up and enjoy afternoon tea together on **Saturday (3rd June) from 2 – 4pm** in the church. Dayspring Macleod will be our speaker on the topic of 'Resting in the Lord'.

Please let Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) know if you'd like to come and haven't signed up already.

We don't need contributions of food from everyone, so just bring yourself!

Picnic in the Park – this Sunday

The sun has been shining this week and we thought it would be great to meet together on Sunday after the morning service for a picnic in Montgomery Street Park. Please spread the word and bring along a packed lunch and something to sit on. Hopefully the volleyball net will make its first appearance of the year...

Pickleball and Table Tennis – Tuesdays at 7pm

The church will be open on Tuesday evenings at 7pm for anyone wanting to play pickleball and/ or table tennis. Everyone is welcome and if you've never tried pickleball, come along and have a go at one of the world's fastest growing sports! Contact Joe for more details.

Christine Quinn's Funeral

Christine's funeral will take place on Wednesday (31st May) at 10.30am at Mortonhall Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving service at 12 noon in the church. Phil Hair will be taking both services and everyone is welcome to attend. Tea and coffee will be served in the church afterwards.

Summer Appeal 2023



The graphic for the Summer Appeal 2023 features the Holyrood Evangelical Church logo, a sun icon, and photos of three missionaries: Hannu & Hazel Sorsamo (Finland), Lorna Ferguson (Japan), and James Stewart (Singapore). It includes the text: 'To contribute please use the bank details on holyroodevangelical.org (use reference 'Summer Appeal'), send a cheque to our treasurer, Nick Archer, or speak to your elder.'

The summer appeal is now open for 2023 and will go towards the support of our three missionaries – the Sorsamo family in Finland, Lorna in Japan and James in Singapore.

The church bank details can be found [here](#) and please use the reference 'Summer Appeal'.

Cheques (made payable to Holyrood Evangelical Church) and cash in an envelope marked 'Summer Appeal' can also be placed in the offering box or given to Nick Archer.

Maureen's Funeral

A recording of Maureen's funeral at Warriston Crematorium is available [here](#) (username: some8469 and password: 949933) until 22 June 2023. Maureen's family have also left books for us to write memories of Maureen or messages to the family. They're available as you enter the church and please feel free to add to them over the next couple of weeks.

Sunday Club Helpers

As we plan for the coming months at Sunday Club, we need volunteers in two ways:

1. **Summer Sunday Club:** we would love the Sunday Club Team to have a break over the summer holidays and are looking for volunteers to lead and teach the group during July and August. All the materials and resources will be provided and it's a great way to spend a Sunday morning!
2. **Sunday Club:** we are looking for helpers to join the Sunday Club Rota for the autumn term. No teaching or preparation will be required, you will be there as an extra pair of hands and to assist the group leader.

These are great ways to get to know the children in our church family and be involved in encouraging the next generation. Please contact Aileen, Jean or Aaron if you can help in anyway.

Church Barbecue – Saturday 17th June

We're looking forward to getting together as a church family for a time of fellowship, food and fun! There will be team games, races, a tug of war and hopefully some sunshine...

We're back at the Newlands Activity Centre, Romanno Bridge, West Linton EH46 7BZ on **Saturday 17th June from 12 noon until 4pm**. Food will be served around 1pm.

Please sign up [here](#) so that we have an idea of numbers for catering. If you need transport, please speak to your home group leader to make arrangements in the first instance and contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if there are any problems or you need help organising a lift. Thank you!



Andrew Peterson is in town!



Andrew Peterson is a singer-songwriter, an author, a filmmaker, and the founder of the Rabbit Room, a ministry dedicated to fostering spiritual formation and Christ-centred community through story, art, and music. He lives in Nashville with his wife and about 80,000 honey bees.

He will be in Edinburgh on 18th August 2023 and doing a concert at 7.30pm at Car-rubbers Christian Centre. For more details and to book go [here](#).

Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday:
 - Baby and Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
 - Warm Space from 12.30pm- 4pm
- Tuesday: Pickleball and Table Tennis at 7pm
- Wednesday:
 - Christine's funeral at Mortonhall at 10.30am followed by a thanksgiving service at 12 noon at the church.
 - Prayer Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- Saturday: Ladies' Afternoon Tea from 2-4pm
- Sunday:
 - Communion Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Equip at 6pm (and live streamed)



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