



Covenant Grace News

March 2019

Contact Details:

16 Tyne Street, Marchwiell, Timaru 7910

www.covenantgracebaptist.church

www.facebook.com/CovenantGraceTimaru

Pastor: Nick Clevely 021 269 1494

Elder: Rene Kempf 021 221 1400

Deacon: Graham Gregory 021 111 6659

Weekly Activities:

Sunday Services

9.30am Teen Doctrine Class / Sunday School

10:00am Prayer meeting

10:30am Morning Worship Service
(followed by a cuppa)

4:30pm Afternoon Family Bible Class

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study / 7:15pm in Timaru

6 March @Church (Combined Meeting @7:30pm)

13 March @Olive's

20 March @Ren & Bron's

27 March @Shirley's

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study / 7:15pm in Temuka

James & Hope's house, unless otherwise announced

Monthly Activities:

3 March – The Lord's Supper followed by a Bring-and-share Fellowship Lunch

Upcoming Events:

April 22 / FRBCNZ Youth Camp 2019



These annual Youth Camps are for young people aged 13-18, particularly — though not exclusively — from churches in New Zealand that are Baptist and Reformed.

Oversight is provided by Fred Schaumkel, Aaron Falconer (Elders at Shore Baptist Church), and Dafydd Hughes (the Pastor of Crosspoint Church, Palmerston North).

This year's theme is 'Messy People, Merciful God' — looking at the Book of Judges.

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan

09-06-2005

**IN AN UNFORTUNATE CASE OF MISTAKEN
IDENTITY, SAM'S SON IS HARASSED BY AN
ANGRY MOB OF PHILISTINES**

Prayer Items:

- Pray for **revival**.
 - Pray for **the sick**.
 - Pray for our missionaries: the **Seccombes** in Japan, the **Pyatts** in Indonesia and the **Ellises** in the Philippines, as well as **Vijay** in Fiji.
 - Pray for our church as we plan our future in regards to moving to a **new building** – funding, deeds, unity.
 - Pray for those who are **travelling** overseas.
 - Pray for **Tim Stanton** as he studies in the US.
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Special Notices:

- Please consider giving to the Almoner's Fund as part of our worship at the Lord's Supper on the **first Sunday of the month**.
 - The **Samaritan Prayer Ministry** exists to pray for and provide for those who are sick or in need. If you know of anyone needing prayer, visiting, food, or assistance, please contact **Helen M** or **Nick**.
 - A **reminder to parents** to please ensure that young children are not outside unattended.
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Upcoming Birthdays:

The following people will be celebrating their birthdays soon. Please remember them in prayer, and if possible, wish them a happy birthday on the day.

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|------------------------|----------|
| ➤ Mr Jesse Kempf | 02 March |
| ➤ Mstr Callum Upfold | 02 March |
| ➤ Miss Alessia Max | 05 March |
| ➤ Mr Simon Tang | 07 March |
| ➤ Mrs Joanna Wilton | 09 March |
| ➤ Mr Simon Bruce | 10 March |
| ➤ Ms Lauren Rosanowski | 12 March |
| ➤ Mr Jacques Mouton | 27 March |
| ➤ Miss Inge Mouton | 28 March |
| ➤ Mstr John Harrison | 31 March |

When God Becomes 100% for Us

(a devotional from John Piper)

“. . . among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” (Ephesians 2:3)

All of God's wrath, all of the condemnation we deserve, was poured out on Jesus. All of God's demands for perfect righteousness were fulfilled by Christ. The moment we see (by grace!) this Treasure, and receive him in this way, his death counts as our death and his condemnation as our condemnation and his righteousness as our righteousness, and God becomes 100% irrevocably for us forever in that instant.

The question this leaves unanswered is, “Doesn't the Bible teach that in eternity God set his favour on us in election?”

In other words, thoughtful people ask, “Did God only become 100% for us in the moment of faith and union with Christ and justification? Did he not become 100% for us in the act of election before the foundation of the world?” Paul says in Ephesians 1:4–5, “[God] chose us in [Jesus] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ.”

Is God then not 100% for the elect from eternity? The answer hangs on the meaning of “100%.”

With the term “100%” I am trying to preserve a biblical truth found in several passages of Scripture. For example, in Ephesians 2:3, Paul says that Christians were “children of wrath” before they were made alive in Christ Jesus: “We all once lived [among the sons of disobedience] in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Paul is saying that, before our new birth — before we were made alive together with Christ — God's wrath was on us. The elect were under wrath. This changed when God made us alive in Christ Jesus and awakened us to see the truth and beauty of Christ so that we received him as the one who died for us and as the one whose righteousness is counted as ours because of our union with Jesus. Before this happened to us, we were under God's wrath. Then, because of faith in Christ and union with him, all God's wrath was removed and he then became, in that sense, 100% for us.

Therefore, exult in the truth that God will keep you. He will get you to the end because in Christ he is 100% for you. And therefore, getting to the end does not make God to be 100% for you. It is the effect of the fact that he is already 100% for you.