

## Welcome

A *meridian* can be defined as "the highest point reached by a heavenly body in its course."<sup>1</sup> Although we are not literally in heaven, we have been placed, as believers in "heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). As we set our aim of *Lifting Christ Higher*, focusing on Heaven, and seeking to continually draw nearer to Jesus, then we will begin to comprehend those "heavenly places" as more of a reality than just some words on a page.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for choosing Meridian as the place for you to give honor and praise to our wonderful Savior on this Lord's Day. We trust that you will come to know and understand more fully the relationship you can have in Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Webster's New World Dictionary. ©1971.

## Meridian Online



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## Sermon notes

### Examples of Grace in the Bible The Prodigal Son - 1 Luke 15:11-21

**The parable of the prodigal son teaches us the boundless nature of grace.**

#### 1. Wastefulness in the Rejection of Grace (12-13)

Grace is a gift of favor, not payment of something that is owed.

##### Misunderstanding Grace (12)

He failed to see that what was his was by grace and made a demand for it.

**Psalm 100:3**

##### Misuse of Grace (13) – “wasted”

**Departing** - disdain for grace

**Devouring** – fueling desires

#### 2. Wantonness in the Removal from Grace (14-16)

“he began to be in want”

When grace is wasted, we wind up in want – shortage, scarcity, poverty.

**Ecclesiastes 9:18**

**Emptiness** - Using up what had graciously been given to him resulted in

**Bondage** - Emptiness resulted in resorting to ...

**Desperation** - His self-respect is gone and even his friends are gone.

#### 3. Willingness in the Recognition of Grace (17-21)

This was an “Aha!” moment.

**Realization** – he was missing grace  
Apart from God's grace, there is no hope.

**Repentance** – change of heart  
Affliction can be used to see the fullness of God's gracious provision.

**Resolve** – determination for action  
Action is the fruit of a repentant heart

**Grace and humility are the means for our redemption and restoration.**



February 2, 2025



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~ February 2, 2025 ~

*We extend a warm WELCOME!  
If you are visiting today,  
Connect Cards are available for you  
to register as our special guest.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL . . . . . 9:30am**

**MORNING WORSHIP . . . . . 10:40am**

Hymns – (Blue) 336, 192, 187

Scripture Reading:

**EVENING SERVICE . . . . . 6:00pm**  
**Pastor Caleb . . . . . 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Young people ages 4 - 4th grade are invited to be dismissed before the sermon for age-related teaching.

### THIS WEEK AT MERIDIAN

**Wed – 6:30PM – Bible Seekers; Teen Bible Study; Adult Bible Study and Prayer**

**Thur – 1PM – Pastor Kliewer departing on Mission trip**

**Thur – 7PM – Rescue Mission Service (Tom Hummingbird)**

**Sat – Noon – Barnabas Class Fellowship Luncheon (Jim VanDyke – Egypt trip)**

### HEARING IMPAIRED

If you have difficulty hearing the service, stop by the Sound Room and check out our hearing assistance system.

### LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN

**Feb 16 (Sun, 6PM) – Valentine Fellowship**

**Feb 20 (Thur, 7PM) – Ladies Bible Study**

**Feb 22 (Sat, 9AM) – Meridian Mighty Men**

**Feb 23 (Sun, PM) - Communion**

**Feb 25 (Tue, 11:30AM) – Ladies Lunch Bunch**

**Mar 7 (Fri, PM) – Pastor Kliewer Returning from Mission trip**

**Mar 8 (Sat, PM) – Daylight Savings Time BEGINS**

**Mar 9 (Sun, 4:30PM) – Deacons mtg.**

**Mar 16 (Sun, AM) – Quarterly Business mtg.**

### VALENTINE FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited on **Sunday evening, February 16 at 6:00pm** to fellowship together in love as a church family. Food will be provided by the Deacons except for the dessert. We are asking men to bring a dessert that will be entered into a competition (judged by the ladies) with prizes for \*Best Presentation and \*Best Tasting. Men are asked to sign up for the Dessert Competition to be sure we have enough dessert prepared. **A general sign-up is also on the Hospitality Desk.**

### READING MATERIAL

(Hospitality Desk)

**-Frontline magazine – “AI: Developing a Christian Perspective” (Jan/Feb issue).**

**-Challenger – Published by Sam**

**Slobodian of BIEM** Each issue focuses on various ministries of BIEM in Ukraine and Russia.

### PASTOR KIEWER MISSION TRIP

Thank you for the opportunity to take this ambitious trip! What began as a trip to visit my son, Ryan, grew into a major undertaking. I will be departing Wichita this Thursday and will be visiting the following:

- Atan & Rachel Taclob (Philippines)
- Brian & Erin Bollon (Taiwan)
- Ryan Kliewer (Saipan)
- G.S. Nair (India)

A more detailed itinerary with specific dates and ministry opportunities is available on the counter below the bulletin board. Your prayers for safety, security, strength and service are much appreciated.

### REACHING OUT

The folks listed below are people from our church family who reside in area nursing care facilities. We encourage you to let them know that we care for them as a church family. A card with a short greeting goes a long way in demonstrating our love.

Marian Bryan, Raenette Bryan,  
Boyd Crocker – **Schowalter Villa**  
Shirlene Fulton – **Kansas Christian Home**  
Karen Wonders – **Paramount**

There are others listed on the Prayer Sheet under “Long-term Concerns” who would also appreciate encouragement.

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

**Feb 2 – AM – Daina / Peggy  
PM – Sarah / Elijah**

**Feb 9 – AM – Ashley / Crystal  
PM – Kathy / Deidra**