

FUTURE GRACE AND THE PURPOSE OF ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCLUSION PT. 1



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Why eight years in Future Grace?

- Bible is a lifetime book—our life is a journey, what is our attitude through the process of living and checking our lives to be in line with God's purposes
- End goal in SS is to be deeper in our relationship with God and know His love and purposes for us—this book a tool/medium toward this end—key is how we apply it—life shows what that relationship truly is—we are walking Bible—are we really putting ourselves in total submission to our Sovereign God
- Some of us need another 8 years—must deal with present in light of the past (what we have learned about God) should be able to change my mind based on what say believe/have learned about God, then do work to yield so heart comes in line, but this slow/sluggish to actually happen—perhaps need to hear it again
- Difficult to grasp God's timetable versus our own—impatience as look for relevance as feel life is short—God dispenses grace and knowledge in His own way—
- Took long time to engage with what going through—end was helpful; used to chapter a week, helpful, but perhaps can lend toward us only grabbing what can relate with – putting effort in can help us to examine our assumptions and learn with what thought not immediately relevant

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Why eight years in Future Grace? (Continued)

- Lived life far apart from life in Christ—supposed to be a radical change, redirection of worship
- Quick to say “I got it” (danger of thinking get it when perhaps don’t in the way they should AND think others not getting it are slowing down our growth and progress) or “I’m never going to get it” (need to reach for it because it matters more than we think)—we give up so quickly
- Foundational chapters needed to come to application chapters
- Often even when we consider growing, grow according to our own categories until someone challenges those categories—ie. Jonathan Edwards on difference of knowledge of God and experiencing God in your life; definition of future grace
- Don’t remember details, but know it was changing view of the Christian life
- One room schoolhouse, all at different places—needing to learn different aspects
- Sloppy—have tendency to do things which keep us from clear thinking (ie. Lack of sleep, lack of biblical meditation, endless sloppy)

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- How much should leader/leaders decide what is valuable and where we should focus and how much consideration should be given for people's preferences, opinions, or "felt needs"?
- What should a small church prioritize when don't have resources to accommodate everyone's felt needs? Does everyone deserve the benefits of a large church where there are more opportunities for people to get what they think they need OR deserve to find church that fits their understanding of growth and service?
- What IS the skeleton and flesh of a healthy church?
- What DOES healthy spiritual growth look like?
- What is the common mission for ALL Christians?
- **How do we determine value?** If we value the wrong things, how do we change focus in a godly way?

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Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Philippians 1:27

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Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1–2

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Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1–6

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- What is the common mission for ALL Christians?
- How do we determine value? If we value the wrong things, how do we change focus in a godly way?
- **What does it mean to know/trust God's Word in a way that leads to worship, obedience, contentment, and whole-hearted faithfulness in service for God's kingdom together with those God assembles and not by ourselves or with those we imagine?**

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- **How do we biblically change focus and values so it results with us walking worthy of the gospel together as outlined in Philippians 1:27?**

What problems might occur if the people you are tied together with for life and ministry don't have a common history or common understanding of normal Christian life or our mission together?



FUTURE GRACE AND THE PURPOSE OF ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCLUSION PT. 2



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Purpose:

- 1. Cultivate the Heart of a Disciple (Matt. 16:24, 28:19-20, II Tim. 2:2)**
- 2. Increase our biblical understanding of God (Jer. 9:23-24, Phil. 3:10, I Tim. 4:16, Jn. 17:3)**
- 3. Increase our understanding of the current Christian climate (I Chron. 12:32, Dan. 11:32, Lk. 12:56)**
- 4. Grow together as men of Cornerstone Bible Church (Heb. 10:24, I Thess. 4:9, I Pet. 1:22, Heb. 3:13)**

Meeting: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm the second Saturday of every month following Men's Fellowship beginning January 13, 2007.

The class will meet for ten months (no meeting July & August), with the last meeting on Friday night, December 7.

Cost: \$60 for textbooks



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Requirements to Complete the Class:

1. 90% Attendance (1 absence allowed from each of the four sections=1 total session)
2. 100% Textbook Reading & Worksheets

Note: Only those who have read the section may speak during the discussion. Hand in worksheets one week prior to class which will list your 5 top statements from each reading and list any questions you would raise for discussion.

3. 100% Outside Reading & 5 Book Analysis Papers

Requirements for Book Analysis' are as follows:

1. 2 Pages (4 page Maximum). Double-spaced. One-inch margins. 12 Point.
2. No more than one paragraph summary. The rest of the paper consists of interaction with ideas from the book.
3. End with your personal opinion of the book.

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**Let's publicly process. Any thoughts that would be helpful as you listen?
(undeveloped thoughts, questions)**

- Not just knowing actions, must have heart to change and therefore willingly choose to follow Christ away from sin
- Our public gatherings should be a place where our hearts are open to receive grace and instruction; wait—outside of here during the week as well
- WHAT are we being prepared for? Are we equipped for what Jesus wants us to be prepared for?
- Have hard time getting from head to heart to where I live

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Future Grace and the purpose of Adult Sunday School conclusion Pt. 2

Summarize:

1. Sunday School needs a clarified purpose that contributes to the common goals of a healthy church.

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1. Sunday School needs a clarified purpose that contributes to the common goals of a healthy church.
2. Gospel change must have Gospel roots, not just behavioral or moralistic change.

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Future Grace and the purpose of Adult Sunday School conclusion Pt. 2

Summarize:

1. Sunday School needs a clarified purpose that contributes to the common goals of a healthy church.
2. Gospel change must have Gospel roots, not just behavioral or moralistic change.
3. The vision of the elders must be shepherded then reproduced by the members, not just taught and listened to, or the elders will wear out OR change their vision to what the members want.

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