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# THE NEWSLETTER

January–February 2016

“The Lord gave the word: great *was* the company of those that published it” (Psalm 68:11).

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## Editor's Notes

Jim & Mary Fellure

Greetings in Jesus' name,

*"Be it ever so humble,*

*There's no place like home."*

My wife often says she likes to go away, even if it's only for an hour or so for grocery shopping or other business in town, because she enjoys coming home. I usually travel alone to my preaching appointments, but recently we both made a trip to New York to attend the wedding of our grandson, Jacob, to Anna, the daughter of Pastor

and Mrs. Joe Camilleri of Rochester. While there I was privileged to preach in the Sunday School hour at Old Paths Baptist Church, and Tim preached in the regular morning service. Pastor Camilleri has preached here at our home church, and I have been in meetings with him in Texas, but this was my first time to visit the church he pastors. If you are ever in upstate New York, if at all possible, visit the Old Paths Baptist Church. They are a friendly, Bible-believing, separated, and very evangelistic group. Mary and I had a wonderful time in New York, but we were sure glad to get back home.

Another trip away from home was less than five miles away to the Santa Rosa Medical Center for a hip replacement. Since many of our personal friends who pray for us already knew I was going to have this procedure done, I think it would be in order to give a little report on my experience.

I was in the hospital less than three full days, and the entire staff at the hospital treated me like royalty. Hospital visits throughout the years have really not been bad experiences for me. It's always colder in the operating room than I like, but there is always an aide ready to cover me with a heated blanket for the next three or four minutes that I am awake.

For me, the most fascinating part of my surgery was my conversation with the anesthesiologist right before he put me under. He asked me my name, and I replied, "Jim Fellure." Then he asked me my date of birth, and I told him, "8-29-42." Finally, he asked me what kind of surgery I was having done, and I said, "A hip replacement." He told me he was the anesthesiologist, and he would be working with Dr. Szmoniak to keep me as comfortable as possible. He then told me to begin counting back from 100 as far as I could. I counted, "100, 99, 98—" The next thing I knew, a nurse was patting me on the face and waking me up to tell me I was in recovery and Mary would be with me in just a few minutes. She told me to let them know if I needed anything to make me more comfortable.

When they put me out on the floor in a regular room, they hung a little device with buttons on it across the railing of my bed. All I had to do was touch it one time, and a voice from the nurses' station came through asking me what I needed. It didn't matter if I needed pain medicine, a drink of water, my pillow fluffed, etc.—they met the need.

In giving this report, I could very easily say a hip replacement is just another part of a day's work, and it is—for the surgeon. If I were a wimp, I could whine about how I suffered with more excruciating pain than anyone else has ever experienced, but in all honesty I had very little pain (I did notice the plastic bag hanging on the pole beside my bed with a tube hooked to a needle in my arm had a red tag on it that said "MORPHINE." That could be why I didn't have much discomfort). I don't know how they do it, but to me, when major surgery is performed and it doesn't hurt—that's a miracle. If I were an opportunist, I would tell you about all the expense incurred from my first visit to the doctor until I was released from his care, and I would be sure to let you know that if you wanted to help with this financial burden we would count it as an answer to prayer, and I probably could raise a good amount of money from the many friends I have all across the country. But the truth is I have good health insurance that will pay all except a very small copay, and by the grace of God and His wonderful provision for His children, that need has also already been taken care of. God has met every need exactly like He said He would.

If there happens to be a reader that knows nothing of a life of faith in the God that doeth all things well, you should realize we deserve absolutely nothing. God doesn't owe us anything but judgment, and Jesus took that judgment when He died on the cross. You now have a choice to trust Christ as your substitute and escape the awful, eternal, fiery judgment of God or to reject Christ and someday hear God say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." If you have trusted Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, I can give you fifty-six years filled with testimonies of how God can and does supply every need of those who choose to live by faith. Study the context of Philippians 4:19 and get involved in the greatest work in the world, then claim the promise and enjoy watching God "supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Things are going well in the print shop. Brother Berg and Jacob (along with several volunteer workers) are running wide open printing Spanish Bibles for Mexico and Puerto Rico, and all the needed funds to complete that project have already been raised. After that run, we will do another 25,000 Bibles to be distributed in South America by missionary Don Rich. We will need to raise approximately \$60,000 within the next few months for that project, and we are confident God will meet that need right on time.

We all agree these are spiritually dark days for America, but Pastor Lee Cadenhead has written *Strangers and Pilgrims* (see page 6) and given the right perspective on the Church in the world. The article is as encouraging and timely as anything you will ever read. Thank you Brother Cadenhead for writing that article.

Thank you for your support and prayers,

Jim Fellure

## Print Shop News

*Al & Heidi Berg*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The Lord sure has a strange way of answering prayers sometimes. When we commenced printing our last truckload of paper, I had determined and prayed that we could overcome a difficulty that we have had with the press ever since we got it. It is a little technical to explain, so I will not bore you with the details, but wouldn't you know it, the problem was worse on that truckload of paper than on any other we have ever had. I tried numerous things to fix it; to no avail. The result was that many of the signatures had to be fixed by hand: a very time-consuming project. The good

thing is that many hours of repairing these signatures was accompanied by more prayer, "Lord, please help me to get this right next time." I am pleased to report, that after several more attempts of turning this knob and then another, we finally got the paper to run through the press the way it is supposed to. To God be the glory!

The last few weeks have been very busy for me in regards to travel. I like seeing things around the country, but do not enjoy traveling to them. The first week of December found us in Rochester, NY, to witness the marriage of my co-worker and pastor's son, Jacob, to his lovely bride, Anna. Fortunately, the weather was warm for that part of the country, and the only snow was the fake snow in their wedding. Since we were so close, we took an extra day to see Niagara Falls and got to see it from both the American and Canadian sides. That trip was not so hard since we got to fly. The day before we left for the wedding, we received the sad news that a niece of mine had passed away as a result of the flu at the young age of 28. It was quite a shock to my sister and her husband to find her on the floor when they arrived home from work for the day. My wife and I were able to drive to that funeral in Beloit, WI (right on the border of Illinois and Wisconsin). We were also able to see a few other relatives along the way. This is my first day back in the shop, and I am looking forward to a regular routine for a while again, but we will see what the Lord holds.

Presently we are printing a truckload of paper into Spanish Bibles that will be divided between Puerto Rico and Mexico. Please pray that the press will continue to run well and the Lord will continue to provide all the needs in the shop in order to get His Word out to the world.

It seems that 2015 was a troubled year for our nation and the world, and it also seems our political leaders do not have the answers to our society's woes. I have thought a little bit myself on what I would do in certain situations, if I had the chance, and sometimes I just do not know. You cannot force anyone to be good. You might force them to do right for a time, but if their heart is not right with God, they will never be right, and will stop doing right as soon as they can. Only the Gospel can change a man's heart and make him want to be and do right. Please pray that we can continue to provide God's Word to men so they can learn how to get right with God and man.

God bless you,  
Bro. Albert Berg

## MEMORIALS

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 505 Bibles for the mission field.

FROM	IN MEMORY OF
Grace Baptist Church of Jacksonville, FL.....	<i>Yvonne Morgan</i>
.....	<i>Milton Gandy</i>
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Grace Bible Church of Stauton, VA .....	<i>Reba Snyder</i>
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The Richburgs left a full-time ministry in South Carolina and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in 1999. Brother Richburg now serves as our general field director.



### Shawn and Emma Dunn

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The Dunns became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in September 2010. After pastoring two churches for a total of 24 years, and being heavily involved with printing and distributing the Scriptures, the burden for printing became so real to Brother Dunn and his wife Emma that he resigned as a pastor to become a full-time representative for VBP.

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## Scratching Fleas

by Jim Fellure

It seems that many modern-day pulpits are filled with limp-wristed, squeaky-voiced, pseudo-intellectual compromisers that strive to be politically correct and avoid all subjects that even hint at being controversial. Lyman Beecher, that old nineteenth century Presbyterian preacher, spoke a great truth when he said "No great advance has been made in science, politics or religion without controversy."

"At a gathering of seminary professors, one teacher reported that at his school the most damaging charge one student can lodge against another is that the person is being 'judgmental.' 'You can't get a good argument going in class anymore,' he said. 'As soon as somebody takes a stand on any important issue, someone else says that the person is being judgmental. And that's it. End of discussion. Everyone is intimidated!' Many of the other professors nodded knowingly. There seemed to be a consensus that the fear of being judgmental had taken on epidemic proportions. Is the call for civility just another way of spreading this epidemic? If so, then I'm against civility. But I really don't think that this is what being civil is all about. . . . Being civil doesn't mean that we cannot criticize what goes on around us. Civility doesn't require us to approve of what other people believe and do. It is one thing to insist that other people have the right to express their basic convictions; it is another thing to say that they are right in doing so. Civility requires us to live by the first of these principles. But it does not commit us to the second formula. . . . Christian civility does not mean refusing to make judgments about what is good and true. For one thing, it really isn't possible to be completely nonjudgmental. Even telling someone else that they are being judgmental is a rather judgmental thing to do!"

—Source unknown

Jesus said, "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8). As an example of the truth of those words, it is reported that talk show host, Glen Beck, the Mormon, makes over \$100 million per year. Rush Limbaugh, a Methodist who seldom attends church makes more than \$70 million per year. Bill O'Reilly, a Roman Catholic makes \$18 million per year, and Sean Hannity, a Roman Catholic makes \$15 million per year. All four make their fortunes dealing with controversial issues.

We should do our best to avoid contention for "Only by pride cometh contention:" and "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes" (Proverbs 13:10 & 18:6), but if Christians, especially preachers, avoid controversial subjects, they render themselves powerless and ineffective in the ministry.

## Benefits &amp; Blessings

*Mrs. Pam Leake*

*Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and director of Colonial Press of Charlottesville, Virginia.  
Email: [pamleake@colonialbc.org](mailto:pamleake@colonialbc.org)*

## THE BARBER HAD IT RIGHT!

Several years ago my husband was chatting with his barber about an impending surgery the barber was to undergo. It was a common surgery, the recovery from which the barber was certain would be rapid enough to allow him to resume his regular activities even that very day. His comment was something like this: "I think all you need is to have a good attitude, and everything will be just fine. It's all in how you look at it." Well, the surgery went well, but the recovery required several days, leaving the barber with quite a bit of pain to deal with. Over the years, my husband and I have used that line, "I think all you need is to have a good attitude," as somewhat of an inside joke whenever we have faced an event that had some uncertainty associated with it.

Over the last few weeks the Lord has had me thinking about the impact our thoughts and attitudes have on how we respond to people and circumstances and situations, and conversely, how such things impact our thoughts. How are we to think? Can we overcome negative thinking and affect a different outcome in certain situations? I'm sure everyone experiences the difficulty of keeping a thought life that is pleasing to the Lord. Personally, there have been many times when I allowed my "flesh" to dictate how I felt about someone and their actions, rather than discipline myself to consider how the Lord would have me think. It's extremely easy to think negative thoughts, to "fly off the handle" and say something regretful, or spread a

few choice comments that are neither becoming to me nor helpful to the situation. That's not what I *want* to do.

The verses that have been a blessing and benefit to me in my attempt to control my thoughts and not let them control me are found in 2 Corinthians 10:3–6. The battle with thoughts is not fought in the flesh, but it is rather a spiritual battle, as the devil loves to frustrate me by attacking my mind. But thankfully my weapons "are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." Because of my access to God's power through the Holy Spirit, I can bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." In my own strength I will not be able to have the victory in having right thoughts, but with the Lord, I can bring my thoughts into captivity and be obedient to Him. It's not a once-and-done battle by any means, but a daily challenge that I face. Verse 6 says that it's possible to be at the ready to revenge all disobedience when my obedience is fulfilled. That puts the responsibility on me to submit myself, my thoughts, and my actions to the Lord in order to have victory.

Many times it proves to be true that having a right attitude and thinking right thoughts will affect the outcome of a situation. It is "all in how you look at it," because you must look at it as the Lord does, seeing it through His eyes, and seeking to respond in such a way that the difficult situation turns out to benefit everyone involved. I think the barber may have had it right after all!

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There is no cost involved in acquiring or maintaining the rack. Anytime you need additional cards, simply contact Crystal Perrine with Victory Baptist Press (her contact information is provided on the back of each rack). We look forward to hearing from you.

## Strangers and Pilgrims

Pastor Lee Cadenhead

As Bible-believing Americans, we have all looked on with sorrow as the current moral revolution has plunged our country to new depths of socially-acceptable depravity. The secularization of our society is progressing at break-neck speed. The cultural elites of our day are seeking to eradicate all vestiges of Christianity from the public square. We are living in perilous times. But such perilous times are not altogether unknown to the Church; just to the modern American church. America has probably never looked so much like the empire into which the Church was born—decadent, violent, immoral, idolatrous. The early Church had little cultural claim upon Rome. It changed the world in its day, but not through political action. Rome was never genuinely “Christianized.” If there ever was any concerted effort to “save America” it has failed. But the Bible never commanded the Church to save nations. The Scriptures instruct us to teach nations (Matthew 28:19), and inform us that God intends to call out a people from among those nations for His name (Acts 15:14). We could never celebrate the moral degeneration that has come to pass in American culture. However, we should recognize that as “cultural Christianity” falls out of vogue among the American populace, biblical Christianity takes on new relevance. The American church has never had a better opportunity to reclaim its identity as *strangers and pilgrims*, and become the sort of counter-cultural light that a “crooked and perverse nation” really needs.

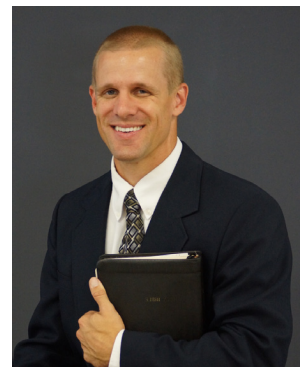
The idea of God’s people being “strangers and pilgrims” runs throughout Scripture, beginning with Abraham. The terminology appears in the New Testament in Hebrews 11:13 and 1 Peter 2:11. The word “stranger” emphasizes our *distinction* from this world. A stranger’s language is different, his style and dress is peculiar, his tastes and traditions are unfamiliar, and he naturally gravitates toward a community of other strangers that share his peculiarities. The word “pilgrim” emphasizes our *destination*: Heaven. The pilgrim is not where he started, and he has not arrived at where he is going, but wherever he is, he longs to be home. Abraham left his country, kindred, and father’s house qualifying him as a stranger (Genesis 12:1a). His trek toward a land that God would show him made him a pilgrim (Genesis 12:1b). From Heaven’s perspective, we are much more than displaced travelers. We are ambassadors, representing a great King, dispatched on official business (2 Corinthians 5:20). Some glad day, this royal errand will be clear for all to see. But presently our sonship and citizenship are a mystery to this world (1 John 3:1–2), so we must assume our place as strangers and pilgrims.

Strangers and pilgrims are only identifiable to this world by their *conversation*. This is what the apostle Peter tackles in 1 Peter 2:9–12. Our conversation is to be characterized by abstinence from fleshly lusts (2:11) and engagement in good works (2:12). The avoidance of fleshly lusts protects us from ruining our testimonies and forfeiting the power of God. Good works serve to show forth

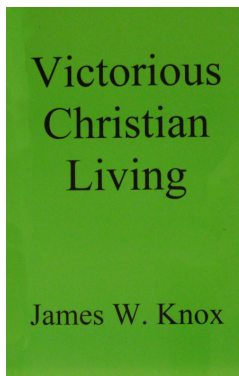
God’s praises and silence the criticism of sinners. Consider the example of Daniel. As a teenage boy he was carried 600 miles from his home, renamed, re-educated, and given the opportunity to defile his pilgrim conversation with the king’s dainties. He abstained. And in whatever administration he served, he took his God-given wisdom and used it to bless and serve the idolatrous despots under which he was captive. Seventy years after his captivity he was still a stranger being called by his Hebrew name, committed to his Hebrew Bible, and associated with the Hebrew people (Daniel 6:3,5,13). He spent four times as long in Babylon as he ever did in Jerusalem, but he never made himself at home. Because Daniel retained the conversation of a stranger and pilgrim, we find two world-rulers glorifying God in the day of visitation (2:47, 4:34–37).

The Lord identifies strangers and pilgrims by their *confidence* in His promises. This is what we learn from Hebrews 11:8–16. God promised Abraham an inheritance and then marched him through the land of promise for decades reminding him that some day it would all belong to him. Similarly, God has promised us an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11). We can see it afar off and experience it in part. But like Abraham of old, we are trying to enjoy it in a tent that is surrounded by Canaanites! The Holy Spirit is crying out from within, always reminding us that this world is not our home. Daniel retained his pilgrim conversation, and he refused to relinquish his pilgrim confidence. After seventy years in Babylon, he still prayed three times a day facing the land that he loved, begging God to return them to their homeland (Daniel 6:10).

America is still a great country to call home, but each new headline declaring its moral and religious demise serves to remind us that we are awaiting a better country. Society’s putrefaction makes our salt all the more savory, and the encroaching darkness multiplies the impact of our light. There is no scriptural guarantee that America will survive to the coming of the Lord. We can be certain, however, that the gates of hell will not prevail against Christ’s Church. Our objective in this pilgrimage is not temporal political gains or cultural leverage, it is the glory of God. We are strangers and pilgrims, distinct from this world and destined for a city. We aren’t supposed to fit in here. Like Daniel of old, we long to be home. If we can manage to keep our conversation honest among the Gentiles, and our confidence fixed upon God’s promises, we can honour our King, influence the hopeless residents of this world with the light of the Gospel, and have more to go home to when our sojourn is over. Even so, Come, Lord Jesus.



Lee Cadenhead is the pastor of Ridge Road Baptist Church in Brewton, Alabama. He serves there with his wife Kelly and three boys—Taylor, Noah, and Owen. He can be contacted at [pastor@ridgeroadbaptist.org](mailto:pastor@ridgeroadbaptist.org)



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by James Knox

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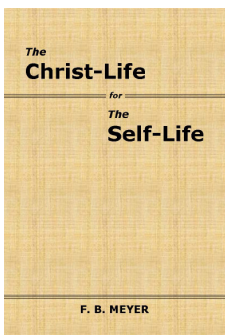
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—Jim Fellure

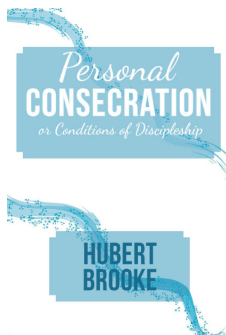
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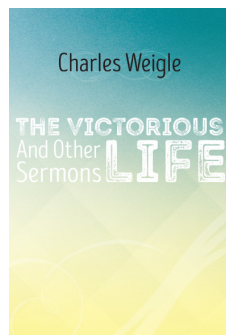
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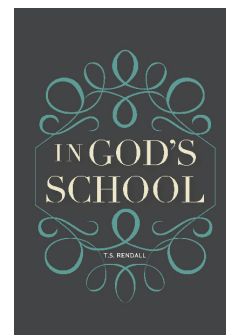
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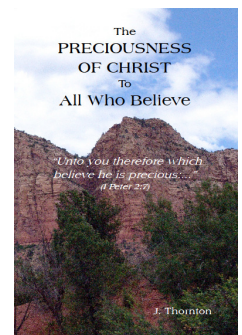
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## The Pastor's Page

**Timothy Fellure**
**Saints in Caesar's Household**  
*Philippians 4:22–23*

In the closing lines of his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul sends a customary greeting from one church to another: All the saints here salute all the saints there. Though the two churches were separated by hundreds of miles and had never come together

for fellowship, there was a bond that united them, so the saints in Rome sent a word of blessing and love to the saints in Philippi. And in sending this common greeting, Paul included “all the saints . . . , chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.” I think it gave him just a little extra joy to be able to say that—saints in Caesar's household. The Gospel had reached some souls in the darkest place on earth and had snatched some captives of sin from the very grasp of the Roman Empire. Though Rome had the preacher bound, the Word of God was not bound, and while Nero was persecuting and executing Christians, the Gospel was working in Caesar's palace to bring some of his very own people out of darkness and into light.

**1) How God Gets Saints from Such Different People**

We are not told who belonged to Caesar's household, but we do not think it was just his immediate family. The household of Caesar probably included all the people who surrounded him, served him, and helped him run the vast Roman Empire. And from among those who served Nero, and perhaps were even related to Nero, some had gotten saved and were counted as part of the church of Rome. From Philippians 1:13, we read that Paul's preaching to the guards assigned to him while under house arrest had been an avenue of getting the Gospel behind the closed walls of Nero's palace. So sitting in the pews of the church at Rome were saints of Caesar's household mingling and fellowshiping with all the other brothers and sisters.

Sitting in your church are believers from all walks of life, with different occupations, backgrounds, and interests. Some were rabble-rousers; some were Sunday school kids; some were drunkards; some have never tasted alcohol. But Jesus has a way of cleaning up a man and making him look like he's always been a Christian; so here sits a man with hard sin in his past next to the man who grew up in church all his life—brothers in the Lord.

**2) How God Grows Saints in Such Difficult Places**

Nero was the emperor of Rome during the time of Paul, and he was evil incarnate. I am not going to describe all the gory ways Nero persecuted Christians, but it was as sadistic as the torture

ISIS inflicts on the poor people under their control. You can imagine how dangerous it would be to be a believer in Caesar's household, and in the midst of that cesspool were some of God's saints. The Lord doesn't sequester His people in monasteries away from the pressures and persecutions of the world. Scripture promises us we are sent forth as sheep in the midst of wolves, that if you live godly you will assuredly suffer persecution, and if the world hated Jesus it will hate you, too.

It has always been the Lord's design that suffering and dangers and toils and testing be the school where we learn to live by faith, to trust Him, to draw close, to be humble, and to have compassion. It is through tribulation that we learn patience. It is through the fire that we shall come forth as gold. It is in suffering that we learn His grace is sufficient. The trial develops our character, puts down our pride, teaches us sympathy, purges the dross, tests our faith, and makes us dependent on the grace of God.

That difficult place may be a faithful Christian wife trying to serve God with a husband who is not a believer. That difficult place may be a teenager whose parents don't encourage him or take him to church. That difficult place may be a boss who knows you're a Christian and does everything he can to antagonize you. That difficult place may be a physical affliction, a wreck of a home, a pagan workplace. Anything we say seems so light compared to those poor saints in Rome, but God has placed some difficulty in your life. But if Joseph can be pure in Potiphar's house and Daniel can pray in Babylon, then you and I can stand in our place. Christianity is indigenous to all climates; it will flourish in any soil.

**3) How God Gives His Saints Such a Divine Principle.**

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” Paul ended all his epistles with grace because when the letter is over, life goes on, and the life we live is dependent upon grace. Sometimes we think of grace in terms of saving grace alone but that is just the beginning of grace; you still need as much grace now as you did when you first got saved. Paul's first blessing to the church at Philippi was “Grace be unto you” (1:2), and his last blessing is “grace be with you.” You need the grace of God for every step of the journey. It would be impossible for Paul to know everything the church in Philippi was experiencing. The winds of persecution were just beginning to blow there, and dark days lay ahead. But the grace of God would carry them through their tomorrows. The grace of God would beset them behind and before, encompass their going out and coming in, surround them in their lying down and rising up.

And if you find yourself in your own Caesar's household, take comfort in knowing the grace of God is sufficient for you. God's grace may not change your circumstances, but it can strengthen every weakness, cheer every distress, lift every burden, and ease every pain.