

# Announcements!

**Weekly Bible Study** We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study, held upstairs each Tuesday evening beginning at 6 pm. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

**Children's Church** Children's Church is available upstairs on the 2nd-5th Sundays starting at 11:00 am. Ages 2-10 are welcome to attend. Please sign your children in and out. A snack is served. Please pick up your children promptly after services. ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED. If you are interested in serving in Children's Church, please see Sarita Agee.

**Baptism** We will have Baptism service on The first Sunday in July, just before the beginning of Sunday School. Please make plans to attend and worship with us.

## Words of Wisdom: Picnic...

Do you remember ever being invited to a picnic, a social gathering, like by a church group or maybe a family reunion? Maybe you were told something like, "You bring what you want to eat and we'll furnish the tea." But you came home and, at the last minute, got ready to pack your lunch, but all you could find was one dried up piece of bologna and just enough mustard in the jar so that you got it all over your knuckles when you tried to get it out... and just two stale pieces of bread.



Sooooooooo, you made a bologna sandwich and wrapped it in a brown bag and went to the picnic. When it came time to eat, you sat at the end of the table and spread out your sandwich. But the folks right next to you- the lady was a good cook and had worked all day - had fried chicken and baked beans and potato salad and homemade rolls and sliced tomatoes and pickles and olives and celery, and, to top it off, two great big homemade chocolate pies.

They spread it all out beside you and there you were - with your bologna sandwich. But they smiled warmly and said to you "Why don't we put it all together?" You may have stammered a bit, embarrassed, and made excuses, but they wouldn't take no for an answer.

"Aww come on, there's plenty of chicken, plenty of pie, plenty of everything. And we just love bologna sandwiches. Let's just put it all together." So you did... and there you sat, eating like a king, when you came like a pauper.

So I'm thinking... thinking of me sharing in the very being of GOD. When I think of how little I bring and how much He brings and that He invites me to share! I know I should be shouting to the housetops, but I'm so filled with awe and wonder that I can hardly be heard. I know I don't have enough love... or faith... or grace... or mercy... or wisdom. But He has! He has ALL those things in abundance, and He says, "Let's just put it all together. Everything that I possess is available to you, and everything that I am and can be to a person I will be to you."

And when I think about it like that, it really amuses me - to see somebody running around through life, hanging on to their dumb bag, with their stale bologna sandwich saying, "Well, God's not gonna get my sandwich! No sirree, not mine!" Did you ever see anybody like that - just so needy? Just about half starved to death, hanging on for dear life to their bologna sandwich?

You see, it's not that He needs your bologna sandwich. Fact is, you need His everything.



Welcome to the

# Everlasting Covenant Church



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"The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL

"THE\_ECC2015"

## Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

June 24, 2018

### Vision Statement:



Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ,  
Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and  
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.

# Order of Services

Fellowship | Refreshments – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.

Announcements & Recognition of Visitors

Call to Worship: Scripture Reading & Prayer

Tithes and Offerings; Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise and Worship Selections

Sermon

Invitation to Christ

Benediction

Grace...

Taken from <https://www.christianity.com/theology/what-is-grace.html>

"The very center and core of the whole Bible is the doctrine of the grace of God." –J. Gresham Machen

"Grace" is the most important concept in the Bible, Christianity, and the world. It is most clearly expressed in the promises of God revealed in Scripture and embodied in Jesus Christ.

Grace is the love of God shown to the unlovely; the peace of God given to the restless; the unmerited favor of God.

What is grace and what are some ways people have defined grace?

"Grace is free sovereign favor to the ill-deserving." (B.B. Warfield)

"Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues." (John Stott)

"[Grace] is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him." (Jerry Bridges)

"Grace is unconditional love toward a person who does not deserve it." (Paul Zahl)

Grace is the basis for:

• Our Christian identity: "By the grace of God I am what I am." (1 Corinthians 1:10)

• Our standing before God: "this grace in which we stand." (Romans 5:2)

• Our behavior: "We behaved in the world ... by the grace of God." (2 Corinthians 2:12)

• Our living: those who receive "the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ," (Romans 5:17) by the "grace of life." (1 Peter 1:7)

• Our holiness: God "called us to a holy calling ... because of his own purpose and grace." (2 Timothy 2:9)

• Our strength for living: "Be strengthened by the grace that is in Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2:1) for "it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace." (Hebrews 13:9)

• Our way of speaking: "Let your speech always be gracious." (Colossians 4:6)

• Our serving: "serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 1:10)

• Our sufficiency: "My grace is sufficient for you." (2 Corinthians 2:9) "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 2:8)

• Our response to difficulty and suffering: We get "grace to help in time of need," (Hebrews 4:16) and when "you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace...will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." (1 Peter 1:10)

• Our participation in God's mission: As recipients of grace we are privileged to serve as agents of grace. Believers receive grace (Acts 11:23), are encouraged to continue in grace (Acts 13:43), and are called to testify to the grace of God (Acts 20:24). Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21). God's mission is to the entire world.

• Our future: God, and his grace, is everlasting. "Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13)

# Sermon Notes

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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