

***“Amazing Grace”***  
***Colossians 3:16***

**Introduction:**

1. We Sang Earlier:
  - The Words Of The Hymn:
    - Written By Frances Havergal:
      - “Another Year Is Dawning!”
2. And - Whenever A New Year:
  - Dawns & Begins - As It Will Tomorrow:
    - It Can Be Helpful:
      - To Spend Some Time Reflecting:
        - On The Past!
    - As Well As:
      - Looking Forward:
        - To The Future!
3. Some People Do This:
  - With Resolutions!
    - They Look Back On:
      - Resolutions That Didn’t Pan Out:
        - As They Had Planned!
          - Perhaps This Describes You!
    - But - That Doesn’t Mean:
      - You Can’t Look Forward To:
        - New Resolutions:
          - To Start Off The New Year!
4. But - Instead Of Resolutions:
  - As We Have Done:
    - For The Past Several Years Now:
      - I’d Like For Us To Spend A Little Time:
        - This Morning - First - To:

**1. *Review:***

- A Bit - Of Where We’ve Been As A Church:
  - Since The Beginning:
    - Of 2023!
- For This Last Year - Our Theme Was:
  - “Victory In Jesus!”
    - Like The Song We Sang:
      - Just Before Our Message Time!
  - This Victory Is Declared For Us:
    - In 1 Corinthians 15:57 - Where The Apostle Paul Writes:
      - “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”
- And - This Victory:
  - That Belongs To:
    - All Who Believe In Jesus Christ:
      - Is A Complete Victory!
    - A Victory Over:
      - Sin & Separation & Satan Himself!
  - And - I Think We Needed This Truth:
    - This Year - Especially:
      - In Light Of All The Things We Have Gone Through - Personally & As A Church!
- And So - To Grow In Our Understanding:
  - And In Our Appreciation Of:
    - Our Victory In Jesus!
  - In Our Adult Sunday School:
    - We Started Looking At:
      - The Great Promise Of Victory:

- That We Find In The Book Of Revelation!
- Which We Have Read Through Together:
  - A Couple Of Times Already:
    - Because The Final Victory We Have In Jesus Is Foretold There:
      - In Vivid Ways!
- In Our Morning Services:
  - We Continued Looking At:
    - The Great Person Of Victory:
      - The Lord Jesus Christ:
        - In Our Ongoing Series Through The Gospel Of John!
- And - On Sunday Nights:
  - We Focused On:
    - The Great Progress Of Victory:
      - That We Can Have In Christ!
    - Over The Three Main Foes That We Face:
      - The World, The Flesh, And The Devil!
- Remember These Lessons!
  - So That You Can Continue:
    - To Experience & Enjoy:
      - The Victory You Really Do Have:
        - In The Lord Jesus Christ!

\* Now - For The Rest Of Our Time - Let's Look At A:

**2. Preview:**

- Of Where We're Going In 2024!
  - You've Already Seen The Theme:
    - For This Year:
      - In This Morning's Bulletin!
    - And That Is:
      - "Amazing Grace!"
  - Of Course - This Is The Title Of:
    - One Of The Most Well-Known Hymns:
      - In The English Language:
        - Written By The Old English Pastor, John Newton, Back In 1773 & Published In 1779!
      - In Fact - Newton Wrote This Hymn:
        - To Go With A Sermon That He Preached:
          - On New Years Day, 1773!
    - This Hymn Has Also Been Translated:
      - Into Many Other Languages As Well!
        - So - It Really Is A World-Wide Hymn That Teaches World-Wide Truth:
          - About The "Amazing Grace" Of God To Sinners Like Us!
  - Just Reflect For A Moment:
    - On Some Of The Truths:
      - That Are Written Into This Hymn!
        - "Amazing Grace! How Sweet The Sound / That Saved A Wretch Like Me! I Once Was Lost, But Now Am Found; Was Blind, But Now I See!"
  - In Just This First Stanza:
    - We Find The Truth:
      - Of His & Our:
        - Deep Depravity!
    - He Uses A Strong Term:
      - To Describe His True Nature:
        - As A Sinful Man:
          - A "Wretch!"
      - The Dictionary Defines "Wretch" As:
        - Someone Who Is Miserable, Despicable, Base, Unfortunate, And Thus, Unhappy!
      - This Is Such A Strong Term:

- That It Has Caused Some To Change The Word Newton Used To Describe Himself:
  - Into Something Softer And Less Offensive!
- But - Isn't This How The Apostle Paul Described Himself In Romans 7:24:
  - As He Describes His Own Personal Struggle Between His Spirit & His Flesh?
    - "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"
- And So - Because Of His Truly Wretched:
  - And Miserable Condition:
    - Newton Further Describes Himself:
      - Using Other Biblical Terms:
        - Such As Lost & Blind!
  - And This Is Still:
    - The Condition Of All Sinners:
      - In This World!
    - Whether We Like To:
      - Admit It Or Not!
- But - This Is Why:
  - The "Grace" Of God That Newton Wrote About:
    - Could Be So "Amazing!"
      - Because It Reaches Down Into The Deepest Pit:
        - Of Our Depravity - In Order To Provide:
  - The Other Great Truth:
    - Of This Hymn - Which Is God's:
      - Deliverance!
    - It Is God's Grace:
      - That Can Bring:
        - Salvation & Deliverance:
          - To Wretches Like Us!
    - It Is God's Grace:
      - That Can Find:
        - Lost Sheep Like Us!
    - And - It Is God's Grace:
      - That Can Give Sight:
        - To Blind Sinners Like Us!
    - And This Is What Makes:
      - God's Grace So Amazing!
        - Because - As We Know From Ephesians 2:8-8 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: / Not of works, lest any man should boast!"
- And - These Are Just Some Of The Great Truths:
  - That We Can Glean From Just This One Stanza:
    - From This One Hymn:
      - That Is Saturated With:
        - Biblical & Gospel Language!
  - But - We Have Been Blessed:
    - To Have Received:
      - Hundreds & Thousands:
        - Of Songs Like Amazing Grace!
    - Through Which Godly Men & Women:
      - Have Been Able To Teach God's People:
        - The Doctrine We Need:
          - In Order To Grow & Endure As Christians!
- And So - Our Theme Verse For This Year:
  - Is Going To Be Colossians 3:16:
    - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord!"
  - In This Verse:
    - We Find The Primary Source:

- Of Growth In Our Lives As Christians!
- And That Is:
  - “The Word Of Christ!”
- But - What Is This “Word Of Christ”?
  - It Is Not Primarily The Words **From** Christ!
    - As He Spoke Them Personally! At The Time Paul Is Writing This Letter, The Gospels & The New Testament As A Whole Were Relatively Unknown!
  - But It Is Primarily The Words **About** Christ!
    - The Message **About** Him!
    - What We Call The Gospel – The Good News Of Jesus Christ!
- And This Word Is Not Just Found In The New Testament!
  - It Is Found All Throughout The Old Testament As Well!
    - Find Many Promises Of Christ!
    - Find Many Prophecies About Christ!
    - Find The Real Purpose Of Christ!
    - Even - At Times:
      - Find The Presence Of Christ!
  - Even Jesus Said - John 5:39 - “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me!”
    - He Was Referring To The Old Testament!
- And So - The “Word Of Christ”:
  - Is Nothing Less Than The Gospel!
    - And We Find In This Verse - The Incredible Value Of The Gospel In The Life Of Those Who Believe! We Find:
- The Wealth Of The Word Of Christ!
  - **IE:** The Miners Who Searched For Gold In The Old West - Did Not Know How Much Gold There Was - Or Even - Where The Gold Was - They Were Speculators!
    - **Christians Are Not Speculators!** We Know *What* Our Treasure Is / *Where* Our Treasure Is / And Even *How* To Get Our Treasure!
  - So - Paul Tell You To:
    - Let Your Treasure Dwell In You!
    - Let The Word Of Christ Dwell In You!
  - This Is In The Form Of A Command!
    - And - You Need To Let It Dwell In You: “Richly!”
      - Because It Can!
        - There Is No Such Thing As *Too Much* Of The Word Of Christ!
        - As *Too Much* Of The Gospel!
        - As *Too Much* Of God’s Amazing Grace!
  - Paul’s Desire Is For You To Be Full / Filled!
    - Colossians 1:9 - “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be **filled** with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding!”
  - The Word Of Christ Is:
    - “A Rich Treasure, An Invaluable Mine Of Precious Truths!” (John Gill)
      - So - Be Full Of The Word Of Christ!
      - Because - There Is Great Wealth To Be Found There! But Also Because Of:
- The Wisdom From The Word Of Christ!
  - **IE:** Some Treasure Hunters - When They Finally Find What They Have Been Looking For - Become Hoarders Of It! And The Treasure Ends Up Doing Them Very Little Good!
    - In Fact, It Robs Them Of Their Joy & Enjoyment Of It!
      - Always Protective & Even Paranoid!
  - The Treasure Of The Gospel – The Word Of Christ:
    - Is Not Meant To Be Hoarded, But To Be Used!
      - And That’s Why Paul Continues In 3:16 By Saying - “In All Wisdom, Teaching And Admonishing One Another!”
  - This Means That:
    - There Is Enough Of This Treasure For Everyone!
    - So - You Need To Continue To:

- Search For This Wisdom!
  - In The Gospel! In The Bible! “In All Wisdom!”
  - Search For Wisdom Through The Word!
  - Take 20 ~ 2024!
- But - What Is Wisdom?
  - Not Just The Knowledge:
    - Of The Truth!
  - But The Application:
    - Of Truth You Know!
- How Can You Tell If & When:
  - You Have This Wisdom?
    - It Will Be Evident!
  - In Your Deliberations - What You Think About!
  - In Your Desires - What You Feel & Want!
  - In Your Decisions - What You Chose!
  - In Your Discussions - What You Talk About!
- And - What Should You Do With It When You Find God’s Wisdom?
  - Don’t Hoard This Treasure!
    - No - There Are 2 More Things That You Need To Do With This Wisdom From The Word Of Christ! You Need To:
- Share This Wisdom!
  - “Teaching!”
    - This Means That You Share With Others What You Have Learned!
  - Not Just Pastors / Teachers!
    - But Every Christian!
    - But Then - You Also Need To:
- Stir Others Up With This Wisdom!
  - “Admonishing!”
    - This Is One Of The Reasons Paul Wrote Colossians! See 1:28 - “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus!”
    - This Means That We Must Stir “One Another” Up With The Wisdom & The Knowledge Of Christ, So That We May All Become “Perfect / Complete In Christ Jesus” More & More!
      - This Is The Responsibility Of Us All!
      - Are You Searching For This Wisdom?
      - Are You Sharing This Wisdom?
      - Are You Stirring Up With This Wisdom?
  - But Then - We Also Find In This Verse:
- The Worship Through The Word Of Christ!
  - **IE:** Treasure Is Not Only Meant To Be Shared - But It Is Also Meant To Be Used!
    - What Makes Gold So Valuable?
      - Not Just Because It Is Rare!
      - But Also Because Of Its Use!
    - It Is Used:
      - For Jewelry - Because Of Its Beauty!
      - For Protection - Because It Does Not Corrode!
      - For Priceless Objects - Cups / Plates - Because Of Its Ability To Be Molded & Formed!
    - One Of The Best & Most Beautiful Uses Of The Gospel – The Word Of Christ – Is To Return It To The One Who Gave It To Us!
      - In The Form Of Worship!
    - 3:16 - “In Psalms And Hymns And Spiritual Songs, Singing With Grace In Your Hearts To The Lord!”
  - Here - We Find - The Songs Of Our Worship!
    - “In Psalms & Hymns & Spiritual Songs!”
    - When The Gospel Enters A Christian’s Heart:
      - They Will Sing!
      - And The Songs We Write & Sing - Will Be Different Than The Songs That The World Writes & Sings!

- 3 Different Kinds Of Songs - Designed Especially For Christians Who Want To Respond To The Word Of Christ!
- Psalms!
  - Songs With The Content Of Scripture!
  - Especially From The Book Of Psalms Themselves!
  - Because Psalms - Are A part Of The Word Of Christ! Many Psalms Are About Christ Himself!
  - Luke 24:44 - "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me!"
- Hymns!
  - Songs That Are Sung In The Honor Of God & In Praise To God!
  - A Song That Is A Response To What We Learn About God / Christ From The Word Of Christ!
- Spiritual Songs!
  - Any Song That Is Sung That Is Spiritual In Its Content!
  - It Comes From A Mind / Heart That Has Been Influenced By The Spirit Of God Through The Word Of God! Spiritual In Character / Content / Purpose!
  - All Of Our Songs Need To Be Based On The Word Of Christ!
- We Also Find Here - The Sense Of Our Worship!
  - "Singing With Grace In Your Hearts!"
    - This Is How We Are To Sing!
  - Our Hearts Need To Be Filled With Thankfulness & Gratitude!
    - And Our Voices Need To Express Our Hearts!
      - Not Just Saying The Words Of A Song – But Meaning Them!
  - This Is Why We Need To Sing! As A Church! In Our Church!
    - When You Do - It Worships God!
    - When You Do - It Encourages & Edifies Others!
    - When You Do - It Blesses Your Own Soul!
    - Sing For Joy! Jesus / Others / Yourself In View!
- We Also Find Here - The Spirit Of Our Worship!
  - "Singing With Grace In Your Hearts To The Lord!"
  - "The Lord" - Is Our Primary Audience!
    - When We Worship & When We Sing!
  - Jesus Is Who We Are Singing To! So Sing!
  - Jesus Is What We Are Singing For! So Sing!
  - How You Sing:
    - Should Reflect & Reveal What The Gospel Has Done In Your Heart!
  - Gill - "The End In View Should Be The Glory Of God!"
    - Not What Makes You Feel Good - But:
      - What Brings Glory To God!
- And So - One Of Our Desires:
  - For This New Year:
    - Is To Grow More In The Grace Of God:
      - Through The Psalms & Hymns & Spiritual Songs:
        - That Teach Us & Admonish Us Through The Truth Of God!

### **Conclusion:**

1. And That Is Why:
  - Our Theme For This New Year Is:
    - "Amazing Grace!"
2. And - To Develop Our Theme:
  - On Sunday Nights Especially:
    - We Will "Teach & Admonish One Another":
      - Through Hymns & Spiritual Songs:
        - By Learning More About:
          - Some Of The Great Hymn-Writers Of The Past!
      - As Well As Some Of Their Hymns:
        - Which Have Communicated The Truths Of God's Amazing Grace:
          - For Generations - And Have Stood The Test Of Time!

- On The First Sunday Night:
    - Of Each Month - Starting With Next Sunday Night:
      - We Will Learn More About The Backgrounds & Biography:
        - Of Some Of These Godly & Gifted Writers!
    - Then - For The Rest Of That Month:
      - We Will Look Into The Doctrines Of Grace:
        - That We Can Find In Some Of Their Songs!
    - Which Will Teach Us To:
      - Not Just Sing With Our Hearts:
        - But With Our Minds & Understanding Also!
    - The Best & Most Enduring Christian Songs:
      - Are Not Songs Of Christian Experience:
        - But Are Songs Of Christian Doctrine & Truth!
  - Then - On The Last Sunday Night:
    - Of Each Month:
      - We Will Look At One Of The Various Facets Of:
        - God's Amazing Grace!
    - Even How His Grace Is:
      - Sovereign & Sufficient & Satisfying:
        - And More!
  - On Wednesday Nights:
    - Once Again - We Will "Teach & Admonish One Another":
      - Through The Psalms!
    - We Will Continue To:
      - Go Through The Book Of Psalms:
        - One Psalm At A Time:
          - To Not Only Learn About Them:
            - But To Sing Them Unto The Lord As Well!
  - Of Course - In Our Adult Sunday School:
    - We Will Continue Our Series:
      - Through The Book Of Revelation:
        - Which - As We Have Already Seen:
          - Is Full Of Singing!
  - And - On Sunday Mornings:
    - We Will Finish Our Study:
      - Through The Gospel Of John:
        - Which Has Been The Source Of:
          - Many Of The Songs & Hymns That We Sing!
    - Because - As We Look At The:
      - Final Hours Of Christ's Life In This World:
        - The Amazing Grace Of God:
          - Will Be On Full Display!
3. And - Let Us Pray For Each Other:
- That We May We Grow More:
    - In Our Understanding & Enjoyment Of:
      - God's Amazing Grace:
        - This New Year!

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