
MAY
2021

GRACE NOTES
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GRACE CHURCH



*Lay Leader
Report & Ad
Council Report*



GRACE NOTES

The Writing of the New Testament Texts: Gospels

Every day we listen to the news. Most people are curious about what happens in our town, community, country and the whole world. When listening to live reports from correspondents of TV channels, we normally believe the reporters' information as fact and truth without a shadow of doubt.

Let's try an experiment, however. Try to change your news channels from one to the other. Make a comparison between various Reporters' words and their points. You will surely find similarities but at the same time quite obvious differences too.

Imagine how distinct individual journalists' reports would be if they wrote about something that happened years ago. Relying on people's faint memories and testimonies and writers' peculiar perspectives and interests, the articles will end up with recognizably different narratives.

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Authorship . . . The first four books of the New Testament - Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John - are called "gospels," meaning "good news." They were written between about 70 and about 100 CE. Strictly speaking, the authors of all four gospels are anonymous since they do not identify themselves in the text. The authorship of the gospel comes from the titles on the manuscripts and tradition of the early Church. So it is named as "The Gospel according to Matthew" or " . . . according to Mark," etc.

Who wrote the gospel? We can imagine that as long as the disciples were still alive, there was no urgency in writing down the story. The earliest stage of the transmission of the stories of Jesus was simply the preaching of the disciples. Through preaching and teaching and telling his story, they bore witness to Jesus.

Soon some understood the importance of writing Jesus's stories and began to collect and write down his sayings and stories about his life, ministry, death and resurrection. Then some undertook the task of writing complete accounts of the life of Jesus - forerunners to our Gospels. Finally, around 70 CE, perhaps a bit later, Mark wrote his Gospel, which was known as the earliest and the most reliable source.

Fortunately, the author of the Gospel Luke left behind precious information.

“Many people have already applied themselves to the task of compiling an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used what the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed down to us. Now, after having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, I have also decided to write a carefully ordered account for you, most honourable Theophilus. I want you to have confidence in the Soundness of the instruction you have received.” (Luke 1:1-4, CEB)

This introduction tells us that “many” had sought to set down an account of the events of Jesus' life and that he (probably Luke) tried to complete an orderly account of them.

It becomes apparent, therefore, that the Gospels are not eyewitness accounts of Jesus ministry. The authors had different pictures of Jesus and thus each one presented him in their own way, with different theological emphases through their unique lens. If interested, try to compare four resurrection stories in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 with John 20 and look for similarities and differences. Then, speculate why the writer described the same stories with the language and focuses that they do.

Dating the Gospels . . . The Gospels were written late in the first century, between about 70 and 100 CE. It indicates that they are post-resurrection writings. They are written from the vantage point of the end of the story, looking backward. Yes. Looking backward!

Many Scripture verses show the clear time gap between the time of Jesus (crucified ca. 30 CE) and the time of the Gospels (ca. 70-100). The clearest indication of their dating comes by the references to the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple by the Romans in 70 CE.

*Mark 13:2 “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

*Luke 19:41-43 “Your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and home you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

*Luke 21:20 “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.”

*John 11:48 “If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our temple and our nation.”

In these verses, Jesus predicted Rome’s burning of Jerusalem as future event. History tells us the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple by the Rome in 70 CE. Some other verses, too, are very obvious evidences of the time gap between the time of Jesus and the time of the Gospels.

* John 2:22 “After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said.”

* John 12:16 : “At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.”

* Mark 9:9-10 “As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

~ To be continued ~

Pastor Kyu

A Prayer for a Little Home by Florence Bone

God send us a little home To come back to when we roam— Low walls and fluted tiles, Wide windows a view for miles; Red firelight and deep chairs; Small white beds up-stairs; Great talk in little nooks; Dim colors, rows of books; One picture on each wall; Not many things at all. God send us a little ground—Tall trees standing round, Homely flowers in brown sod, Overhead, thy stars, O God! God bless, when winds blow, Our home and all we know.

*** *Lay Leaders Report* ***

Spring is truly here! I know we had snow a week ago, but the sun's strength took care of it in short order! Spring cleaning is in full swing! Yard work and housework. It's amazing how that beautiful sunshine also clearly illuminates how much winter dust and debris has accumulated! Time to clean up!

On that subject it's time to be thinking about a big project that is on the horizon. The Parish House has been a topic for discussion for several years and church leaders are getting closer to making some decisions. You'll see some of the thoughts in the notes from last week's Ad Council meeting and you'll be hearing more in the coming months.

A first big step is to have our "**FINAL, EVERYTHING MUST GO, Yard Sale**". No new items wanted. We need to get as much as possible cleaned out of the Parish House before any other plans are made. The sale will be on Saturday, May 22nd. If you're willing to help on that day please contact Sue Timson, or Laurie Bedard. We'll post on Facebook and in the paper with more details as we get closer to the date. Thanks in advance for your help and support!

Back to that Spring sunshine thought. It's a time of new life, new beginnings, cleaning up, why not sparkle up your life with a new Bible plan, or a plan to form a small group to pray and fellowship with? Just as God's beautiful light can shine on the dusty corners in our houses He can shine into every nook and cranny in our lives. Invite Him in! Let Him empower you to do any Spring Cleaning that needs to be done. It's Spring, let the sweeping, dusting and blooming begin!

Blessings all, Laurie

May 2021

April 2021							May 2021							June 2021						
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- Anniversaries
- Church
- Birthdays
- US Holidays
- Untitled
- Found in Mail
- Pastor's Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10:30 AM Sunday Worship with Communion	26 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	27	28	29 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	30	1 Chuck Perkins
2 Carolyn Wright Tim & Amy Bedor Orthodox Easter 10:30 AM Sunday	3 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	4	5 Hannah Silver Mary Anne Allen Cinco de Mayo	6 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	7	8 Kenna Gingue
9 Mother's Day 10:30 AM Baby Bottles Returned 10:30 AM Sunday	10 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	11	12 Eid al-Fitr	13 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	14	15 Mary Coathup
16 10:30 AM Sunday Worship	17 Tax Day 9:00 AM Pastor on 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	18 ... Pastor on Vacation	19 ... Pastor on Vacation	20 ... Pastor on Vacation 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	21 ... Pastor on Vacation	22 Casey Stellpflue ... Pastor on Vacation
23 ... Pastor on Vacation 10:30 AM Laurie Beard Preaching 10:30 AM Sunday Worship	24 ... Pastor on Vacation 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	25 ... Pastor on Vacation	26	27 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	28	29 Jean Maleski
30 Perley Wright 10:30 AM Sunday Worship	31 Memorial Day 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	1	2	3 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	4	5