


JESUS THROWN EVERYTHING OFF BALANCE

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Jesus... thrown everything off balance. If He did what He said, then it's nothing for you to do but throw away everything and follow Him, and if He didn't, then it's nothing for you to do but enjoy the few minutes you got left the best way you can by killing somebody or burning down his house or doing some other meanness to him. No pleasure but meanness.

Flannery O'Connor
"A Good Man is Hard to Find"



With these words, a bandit named The Misfit shows his understanding of the all-or-nothing implications of Jesus. Jesus throws the world off balance. If he is who he says and did what he claims, nothing else matters but him. If he is not and did not, then nothing matters.

This challenge should make us all cringe, for Jesus confronts us with a call for everything we are. He throws our carefully constructed "reality" off balance.

There is no way to follow Jesus partly. There is no use in saying you believe in him if you don't let it profoundly and fundamentally change your life and how you view everything. Everything is affected. Nothing is left alone.

Presbyterian
from the Greek word
πρεσβύτερος (pronounced
presbuteros), meaning an elder



Josephine Lucy Webster

born October 28, 2010

9 lbs 3 oz

21 inches

WHO RUNS THE CHURCH?

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If you were asked who runs the church, what would you answer? Some might say that the pastor does, some might say it's the elders. Those who really know the church would say that it is Linda, the office manager who keeps Ken and I in line. And depending on how you define running the church, all of these are right.

But at its most fundamental, we believe that there is only one head to the church - Jesus Christ (Ep 1:22-23; Col 1:18). This is fundamental to who we are as a church. It is why we return continually to Scripture to hear his words in our worship and our lives - to seek his kingdom and his glory in all we do. This is the fundamental reality of our church government.

By his grace, Jesus has appointed officers in his church. These men are called by God to serve his church. Some are called to shepherd the church - to watch diligently over the flock, to exercise discipline, and take oversight of the spiritual interests of the church. We call these men elders.

Other men are called to an office of sympathy and service after the example of Christ. These men express the grace and mercy of God and the communion of the saints as they minister to those who are in need. We call these men deacons. These serve under the oversight of the elders.

Herein lies the difference between a church and a mission work. A church has its own officers, while a mission work has no officers who have been raised up, called by God and recognized by the church through election, and therefore must be governed by elders outside of the congregation.

This is where Free Grace is currently. We are governed by elders. But not by elders from our own number. At the

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Who Runs the Church? continued

present time, our elders are the elders of Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Portland, our mother church. These men care for us, pray for us, and seek for God to be glorified in us. But it is our desire to see God call men from our number to serve his church as officers.

This is a big step in our life together as a congregation, one we want to take with both care and excitement. Therefore over the coming months we will be exploring this step together. We will explore what we believe as a church, for our standard for the church is God's word. We will explore the nature of biblical leadership and the particular roles of both elders and deacons. We will explore the requirements laid out in Scripture for these

offices. And we will explore what God is doing at Free Grace - who has he called us to be, where is he leading us.

Through these explorations, I pray that God would make it clear to us whom he is calling to serve him as officers at Free Grace. I invite you to join me in praying that God would be at work in us, raising up godly men to serve the church in this way.

Who's afraid of doctrine?

An exploration of our confession of faith

freeprintablesonline.com
YOU'RE INVITED
please join us!

Mondays
7:30 PM
starting
11/29

OUR NEW MAIL CHIMP

We have made the switch to the new software for sending out the newsletters and other occasional announcements. Our new mail chimp is hard at work for us.

If you have not received an e-mail asking you to confirm your subscription, go to http://www.freegrace.us/?page_id=424 or let the church office know and we will get you subscribed.

This new software will allow you to manage your preferences and your subscription and make it easier for us to remain in touch.



CONTACT INFO

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SOME UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

more information on any event can be found on the web site or by contacting the church office

12 Nov

Friday Night Fun

Join us at the Morris' home for a night of fun. No agenda, no rules, just fun.

15 Nov

Women's Self-Defense Seminar

Rich Pelletier will teach a seminar covering the physical, psychological, and emotional aspects of defending yourself. Come out to learn to protect yourself - and invite your friends to come as well.

22 Nov

Root Cellar Benefit Concert & Dinner

Mark Harris (formerly of 4Him) will speak and sing at a dinner concert to benefit the Root Cellar. Come out to support the Root Cellar.

26 Nov

Thanksgiving

Invite someone to join you as we are all reminded of God's goodness and our need to give thanks to him every day.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

The first quarter of our fiscal year just ended (Jul - Sep) and we essentially did a little better than break even. Average monthly net income last quarter was a little over \$200.

This remains a near-term concern, given the following known fluctuations:

- seasonal giving
- monthly variable expenses (i.e. utilities)
- anticipated changes in MNA receipts

Longer term, the cost structure of Free Grace is known to steepen, i.e. rent increases. The good news? There remains time to act.

To be candid, Free Grace treaded water this quarter. While expenses are expected to rise, a window of opportunity remains to improve Free Grace revenues (via external donors, congregational expansion, or preferably both) to keep up with known cost increases. A significant drop in revenue or a spike in expenses in a single month remains a significant risk to Free Grace.

Generating cash on hand sufficient to blunt the impact of variations in either revenues or expenses remains the second most important financial goal.

The first financial goal is meeting immediate monthly expenses; keeping the doors open to a staffed and heated building.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.FREEGRACE.US