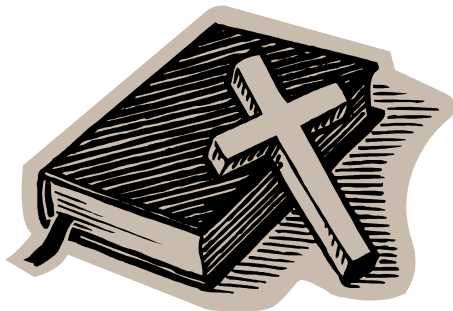


THE TIE THAT BINDS

MAY 2008



"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Genesis 6:8

This morning while reading the epistles of Peter I noticed how often he referred to the flood. (1 Peter 3:20-21, 2 Peter 2:5, 2 Peter 3:5-6) He used the history of it in his doctrinal message to the strangers and pilgrims he was writing to. The gospels tell us that Peter's house was in Capernaum. Jesus went to Peter's house to heal his mother-in-law after he left the local synagogue. (Matthew 8:14, Mark 1:14, Luke 4:38) I wondered if perhaps he remembered from his childhood, like many of us do, how profound and tragic the end of the first world was. In the synagogues of Israel, the Word of the Lord was read and heard by the people. It was there that the scrolls would be reverently opened and the books of Moses and the prophets would be taught. In the course of a lifetime a child of Jewish parents would learn of the great things God had performed for His people throughout the ages. Peter may have always wondered about the days of Noah and is now able to take from the record eternal truths to share with his fellow Christians. Peter is given a revelation. He had seen and handled the Word of

Life and could now understand, in the light of the gospel, what truly took place in the ages past.

In this light he could say that only eight souls were saved in the day of Noah and they were saved by water (1 Peter 3:20). Now he could help them to understand things like baptism and connect them to the type and anti-type of the Old and New Testaments. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and so have we. And we like him have been saved from the wrath of God against ungodliness by grace alone. We have been lifted above the destruction through baptism, and to paraphrase Luther, the old Adam in us is drowned and has died, but now the new Adam (in Christ) can come forth and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. This teaching is in agreement with what Peter says when he hastens to write, *"not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God."* Baptism saves us, but not merely the outward ceremony. We may make clean the outside by the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but this is not enough. It is the answer of our conscience towards God that gives us the victory through Jesus Christ. Now we can call God our Father and know that we are His sons, having been washed and restored into the fellowship once lost by sin. So the writer of the Hebrew epistle tells us in Hebrew 10:22, *"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."* The first thing Noah did when he left the ark was to build an altar. There he offered to God his sacrifice and was in full fellowship with God because of that. He was saved and kept from the destruc-

tion of the water by the ark he prepared, but his hope lay in the blood of the sacrifice which cleaned his soul and brought him the good conscience towards God. And all this must be first looked at in the light of this verse of the record that *"Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord"*. Now Peter is brought into the realization of how great this grace is. For he says that this is all brought about by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21) and Paul also keeps this ever before our eyes when he writes in the sixth chapter of Romans, *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

Pastor Ron Holmgren

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A NEW BABY IS BORN

*And He took them up in His arms,
put His hands upon them, and blessed them.*

Mark 10:16

Sam & Grace Stenersen, a girl, Kate Elizabeth, born March 17th. Grandparents are Glen & Carol Stenersen and Rick & Betty Estola.

Roland & Angela Matson, a boy, Rowan Luke, born April 7th. Grandparents are Karl & Darla Tervo and Rodney & Joy Matson.

Al & Lois Matson, a boy, Kasch Aldrick, born April 18th. Grandparents are Chuck & Sharon Matson and Doris Niemela.

NOTICE: If you have a baby or grandbaby born in your family please let Ann Matson (247-5791) know so we can publish it in the newsletter.

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The Annual Spring Meeting will be held

Friday, May 9th at 7:00 pm

All members are encouraged to attend.

SPRING LANDSCAPE DAY

The Spring yard clean-up is scheduled for

Saturday, May 10th at 9:00 am

Any volunteers who can help spruce up the church yard will be appreciated.

ENGAGEMENT

Ernie & Marty Traffie announce the engagement of their daughter, Jan, to Jordan Kandoll, son of Roy & Lois Kandoll. They will be married on August 16th at the church.

GRADUATES

Next month we will be publishing names of those students who are graduating from high school or college. If you have a student graduating please let Kris Matson know by email wkmatson@truevine.net or by phone 360-666-0154.

PRAYING FOR YOU

*The eternal God is thy refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

Deuteronomy 33:27

Remember the Stenersen family as they mourn the tragic parting of their husband, father and grandfather, Leslie. Pray that their hearts may always be comforted by the promises of God that he shall rise again. See the prayer request below for Leslie & Marilyn's grandson.

Darren & Vivian Baker's 2 month-old baby, Obed, is in the hospital waiting to have surgery once he gains weight. Testing revealed that both walls between the two upper chambers and two lower chambers of his heart are missing, which keeps the blood from going where it is supposed to. He will also need some valve repairs done. Pray for healing and for strength for the whole family. God is able and in control.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 1ST

Our 41st President of the United States of America, George Herbert Walker Bush, declared a National Day of Prayer in May, 1990. "The great faith that led our Nation's Founding Fathers to pursue this bold experience in self government had sustained us in uncertain and perilous times; it has given us strength and inspiration to this very day."

Like them, we do very well to recall our "firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, to give thanks for the freedom and prosperity this nation enjoys, and to pray for continued help and guidance from our wise and loving Creator."

America's God and Country, by William J. Federer

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