

Highlights and Happenings:

- **August 2nd** : Prayer Meeting, 7pm
- **August 4th** : Men's Bible Study, 6:30pm
- **August 13th** : Patriot Heights Ministry, 2:45pm
- **August 19th**: Ladies Fellowship Brunch at the home of Monica Lewis
- **August 20th** : Patriot Heights Ministry 2:45pm
- **August 22nd**: Men's Bible Study, 6:30pm
- **August 27th** : Agape Fellowship Lunch

"The faith of the church must be tried by God's word, and not God's word by the church; neither yet my faith."

~Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England, Protestant Martyr, 1537-1554

August Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  Prayer Meeting 7pm	3	4	5
6 Worship 11a & 5:00p	7	8  Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 11a & 5:00p	14	15	16	17	18 	19 Ladies' Fellowship Brunch
20 Worship 11a & 5:00p	21	22  Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 11a & 5:00p Lunch: Agape Fellowship Potluck	28	29	30	31		

Full of Grace Issue 39 August 2017



Grace
Orthodox
Presbyterian
Church

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ISSUE

39

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2017

Monthly News From
Grace Orthodox
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Church

Full of Grace

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ~ 2 Cor 12:8-9

this issue

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Lady Jane Grey

Shortly before King Edward died on July 6, 1553, he and the Council amended his will (a "Devise for the Succession") to prevent England from returning to Catholic rule under his older half-sister, Princess Mary. Edward nominated Lady Jane (his first cousin, once removed) to be the next Queen of England. She would be queen for 9 days.

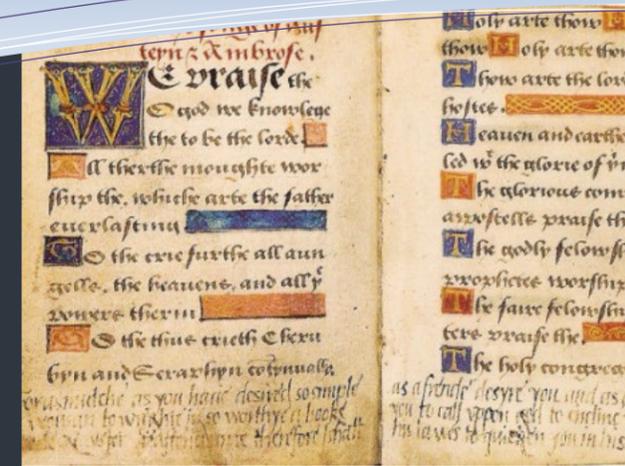
Mary, with the support of the military and populace took the throne in August. On November 13, 1553, a legal court determined Jane was guilty of high treason, sentencing her to death by beheading.

On the day of her execution she carried a book of prayers (see picture) copied from the works of Augustine and others. That morning, she carefully inscribed the book to her jailer in preparation for presenting it to him in her last moments. Small gifts to jailers, and even to executioners, were considered signs of humility and Christian forgiveness.

Also, it was customary for the condemned to give a final speech. Here is an excerpt from Jane's: "I pray you all, good Christian people, to bear me witness that I die a true Christian woman, and that I do look to be saved by no other mean, but only by the mercy of God, in the blood of his only Son Jesus sins."

There's more to Jane's story, including her debate with Mary's Catholic advisor, Feckenham.

Are you interested in contributing? Send me your ideas! ~Jill Karr
horseslobber@yahoo.com



We Are Not Saved by Grace



Dr. Michael Reeves is the Theological Advisor for the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF), a charity supporting evangelism in higher education throughout the United Kingdom.

John Bunyan believed that Christians are saved by grace. Of course. It was what everyone seemed to say. The thought left him pretty miserable, though. In fact, when he really thought about it, it left him profoundly depressed. God is gracious, he knew: but how gracious, exactly? And that made him wonder: 'my peace would be in and out, sometimes twenty times a day; comfort now, and trouble presently'.

'But one day, as I was passing in the field, and that too with some dashes on my conscience, fearing lest yet all was not right, suddenly this sentence fell upon my soul, Thy righteousness is in heaven; and methought withal, I saw, with the eyes of my soul, Jesus Christ at God's right hand; there, I say, is my righteousness; so that wherever I was, or whatever I was a-doing, God could not say of me, He wants my righteousness, for that was just before Him. I also saw, moreover, that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse; for my righteousness was Jesus Christ Himself, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever ([Heb. 13.8](#)). Now did my chains fall off my legs indeed, I was loosed from my affliction and irons, my temptations had fled away; so that, from that time, those dreadful scriptures of God left off to trouble me now; now went I also home rejoicing, for the grace and love of God.'

It wasn't that we are saved by grace; what sent Bunyan home rejoicing was that we are saved by grace alone. And therein lies a world of difference.

Now one might have thought that merely adding that word 'alone' would have set Bunyan free. But no. And to really skip with Bunyan, we must follow the White Rabbit into a very topsy-turvy world.

Down the Rabbit Hole...

Above ground, life is simple and obvious. Common sense rules. And breathing in this sensible air, I wonder 'who am I?' Well I am me, of course. My own man. And whatever that silly old codger John Donne said, it is obvious that each man is, in fact, an island. So what is grace? Some sort of stuff given to me, a sort of force God gives to help me.

But then down the hole we go, passing such weird sights as Romans 5: 'sin came into the world through one man' and 'many died through one man's trespass'. What madness is this? I die, not because I've done wrong, but because of Adam? Indeed, and more: 'as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous' (vv18-19). So I don't die because of my own sin, and I don't live because of my own righteousness. My actions really do not determine my destiny. It is because of the sin of Adam than anyone sins and dies. It is because of the righteousness of Christ that anyone comes to life and righteousness.

Now undoubtedly this is strange; but is it unfair? Quite the opposite, said Augustine as he took on 'each man is an island' Pelagius at the beginning of the fifth century. For if each person suffers only for their own sin, what of the child born handicapped? Her problem can only be her own fault.

Well, OK, perhaps this isn't unfair. But how can this be that Adam sins and I die, that Christ obeys and I am

NOT SAVED Continued on Page 2

Hymn Notes

By Mark Moody
Red Trinity Hymnal 577
Isaac Watts, 1707,

Stand up, my soul, shake off thy fears, and gird the gospel armor on;

March to the gates of endless joy, where thy great Captain Saviour's gone.

Hell and thy sins resist thy course; but hell and sin are vanquished foes;

Thy Jesus nailed them to the cross, and sung the triumph when he rose.

Then let my soul march boldly on, press forward to the heav'nly gate;

There peace and joy eternal reign, and glitt'ring robes for conquerors wait.

There shall I wear a starry crown, and triumph in almighty grace; While all the armies of the skies join in my glorious Leader's praise.



Enjoy thinking about all the scriptural allusions present in this encouraging hymn. Psalm 103 begins with a sermon to myself like this hymn does. The gospel armor of Ephesians 6, sins being nailed to the cross in Colossians 2:14. Can you see other allusions? Are you encouraged by the final victory which is ours in Christ?

Test Your Knowledge



Test your brain and see if you can guess the answers...

(The answers are at the bottom of this page).

Horses in the Bible...

From which verses come these quotes?

1. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding...
2. ...the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
3. A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey and a rod for the back of fools.
4. ...I looked, and behold a white horse!

We Are Not Saved by Grace (continued)

given life? Further down the hole we go, to 1 Corinthians 15: 'Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep... For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.' What can he mean? The answer lies at the very bottom of the tunnel, with the very first fruits of all, in Genesis 1. There, on the third day, we see the firstfruits of creation. And something that the repetition of the text makes striking is that these fruits are 'seed-bearing'. The plants bear fruit 'in which is their seed'. The next generation is contained within them. Thus what happens to the fruit will happen to the seed.

So it is with Adam and Christ. They are the firstfruits of two very different crops: Adam is the fruit of death, and all his seed 'in him' die with him; Christ is the fruit of life, and all his seed 'in him' live with him. Mankind, then, is not, in fact, a vast throng of separate individuals, but is instead made up of just two persons: Adam and Christ. Each one of us is merely a seed in one of those fruits, dependent for our fate, not on ourselves, but on the one we are in.

One sees much the same thing in Hebrews 7, with the story of Abraham giving a tithe to Melchizedek. According to Hebrews, Abraham's great grandson, Levi, could also be said to have paid that tithe 'through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.' Yet to be born, Levi was considered to be still 'in Abraham'. He was, after all, Abraham's descendant, his 'seed'. He was still in the old fruit. What Abraham did, he did.

... and Up into the Sunshine

In this strange new world of the Bible, then, salvation is not so much about each individual being given some thing called grace; it is about being snipped out of one plant, Adam, and grafted into another, Christ. But with that comes the liberation and the joy. Christ bore the death penalty of sin for us: in him, we bore it too. Christ was then raised from the death he did not deserve and was declared righteous: in him we were given new life and declared righteous. Like fruit in a seed, like Levi in Abraham, Christians are hidden in Christ, and all his is theirs.

For all that we speak of grace, and however strongly we speak of it, we will remain prisoners of spiritual insecurity for as long as we imagine that we are independent islands. And rightly so: all spiritual blessings are to be found in Christ alone. Just read Ephesians 1 for an avalanche of verses to prove that. There is no hint of salvation to be found anywhere else. God only ever blesses through Christ. He is the vine of God's blessing. And the only way to be blessed is to be grafted into him.

But to know that we are now hidden in Christ and clothed with him is what will really ring the joy-bells. It was just so that John Calvin summed up his teaching on justification in his Institutes:

'as Jacob did not of himself deserve the right of the first-born, concealed in his brother's clothing and wearing his brother's coat, which gave out an agreeable odor, he ingratiated himself with his father, so that to his own benefit he received the blessing while impersonating another. And we in like manner hide under the precious purity of our first-born brother, Christ, so that we may be attested righteous in God's sight... And this is indeed the truth, for in order that we may appear before God's face unto salvation we must smell sweetly with his odor, and our vices must be covered and buried by his perfection.'

How Pilgrims Progress

It was just this that Bunyan grasped when that sentence fell upon his soul, 'Thy righteousness is in heaven'. And when he saw that, how could he fear any more that all was not right? Now all his hope and all his confidence was to be found outside himself, independent of how he was feeling and doing - in Christ. He says he therefore went home rejoicing. That was true in the moment, but it might be more accurate to say he went out rejoicing, for that message turned Bunyan into perhaps the most winning evangelist of his generation. Thousands were turned to the happy message of a God who does not merely help us by 'grace' but who totally accepts sinners in Christ.

NOT SAVED Continued on Page 7

Answers to puzzle: 1 - Psalm 32:9...; 2 - Exodus 15:1; 3 - Proverbs 26:3; 4 - Revelation 6:2

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES...

PRAYER MEETING – NEW DAY!!

Join us for prayer the first Wednesday of every month from 7 – 8 pm. Prayer is "the powerhouse of the church" as Spurgeon said. The success of the church's ministry depends on it.

Church Elders:

Mark Moody	210.379.8606	jmoodysa@aol.com
Vernon Jackson	830.931.4720	vjackson@wildblue.net
Joel Granados	210.389.1618	j.granadas1@att.net
Fernando Prendez	210.413.1823	fprendez@gmail.com
Ted Haynes	210.380.1456	reginaldhjr5022@gmail.com
Mike Holcomb	210.330.4434	buck_justice@yahoo.com
Greg Karr	210.204.9452	gregkarr@gmail.com

HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

Grace's homeschool co-op, Children of Grace, will be holding their first ice cream social fundraiser on August 11th at 7pm at the church. All proceeds go toward the supplies needed for science, art and drama classes.

Please bring your favorite ice cream topping to share!

RSVP to Elaine Miller.



LADIES' BRUNCH

SAVE THE DATE:

AUGUST 19TH

HOSTED BY

MONICA LEWIS AND
BRIANNA DANOVSKY
MORE DETAILS TO COME



AGAPE FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Mark your Calendars for the 4th Sunday of every month bring your favorite dish and join us for this blessed time of fellowship!



Fellowship Meal



PICTURE OF THE MONTH: Alma Godoy enjoying some quiet time with her "sleeping buddy" at the Children's Event.

We are Not Saved by Grace (continued)

If we simply speak of salvation by grace, people will imagine grace to be that force God gives to help us where we are at. And thus they will lack the joy-giving confidence and appeal of Bunyan's gospel of grace alone, of actually being found secure in Christ. The other thing, of course, is that grace can be thought of quite impersonally, as if being a believer is merely about believing promises and getting blessings. And if that is it, what's to stop the Christian living in mere servile obedience to God? But Bunyan's discovery was that we are united to Christ, to know and love him personally from the heart, to know and love the Father as our Father, to be known and loved as children of God. It's not quite that we get 'grace': we get Christ.

Saved by grace? No, we have a better gospel than that.

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John Zimmerman	Aug 3
Daniel Voeller	Aug 3
Mayce McKinney	Aug 5
Chris Kies	Aug 10
Steve Stukey	Aug 10
Jo Pat Stukey	Aug 10
Nick Buell	Aug 14
Althea Miller	Aug 15
Alyssa Thompson	Aug 18
Tom Stowers	Aug 20
Destiny Plummer	Aug 28
Abigail Miller	Aug 30
Ginny Wisdom	Aug 31
Ezra Tsang	Aug 31

Happy Anniversary

Tom & Tamara Stowers	Aug. 1
Chris & Ginny Wisdom	Aug 3
Ted & Kim Haynes	Aug 8
Robert & Socorro Block	Aug 8
Mark & Yami Plummer	Aug 19
Robert & Delia Hampe	Aug 27

Nursery Volunteers Needed



Ladies 18 and older – we URGENTLY need additional volunteers to help in the nursery during morning worship. This ministry is a great blessing to parents and to our visitors.

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the nursery and/or contact DeDe Jackson (goatopia@wildblue.net)

How God Gives Assurance

Submitted by Vernon Jackson
Written by Jon Bloom, desiringGod.org

Am I truly a Christian?

Few questions cause more fearful trembling in believers, and few soul-shepherds are as helpful as John Newton (1725–1807) in explaining to trembling saints how God cultivates assurance in the Christian life.

God loves to give his children the gift of “the full assurance of faith” ([Hebrews 10:22](#)). It is a precious thing, a source of deep peace and consolation, and he wants us to have it.

But like most things in the Christian life, assurance is something that is cultivated and grows deeper and stronger over time. It is a gift that God gives to us, according to Newton, gradually through frequent testing.

Assurance grows by repeated conflict, by our repeated experimental proof of the Lord’s power and goodness to save; when we have been brought very low and helped, sorely wounded and healed, cast down and raised again, have given up all hope, and been suddenly snatched from danger, and placed in safety; and when these things have been repeated to us and in us a thousand times over, we begin to learn to trust simply to the word and power of God, beyond and against appearances: and this trust, when habitual and strong, bears the name of assurance; for even assurance has degrees. ([Newton on the Christian Life](#), 220)

In other words, God’s way of growing the sweet gift of assurance in us is by putting us through numerous and varied hardships. The process is designed to be hard. Trials are the way that faith is proven, refined, and strengthened. This is why James writes, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness” ([James 1:2–3](#)).

Assurance Grows Through Spiritual Conflict

It’s why Paul writes, “We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance [same word translated as “steadfastness” in James], and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” ([Romans 5:3–4](#)).

And it’s why the author of Hebrews reminds us,

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ([Hebrews 12:7–8](#))

The discipline of enduring trials and sufferings ends up proving that we are God’s children. And though “for the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant . . . later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” ([Hebrews 12:11](#)).

One of the peaceful, consoling fruits of the “righteousness of God that depends on faith” ([Philippians 3:9](#)) is assurance. And it’s a fruit that is realized “later” and in increasing amounts.

Why God Grows Assurance This Way

Why has God designed the process of giving us a growing assurance of faith through enduring trials? Newton answers this way:

We cannot be safely trusted with assurance till we have that knowledge of the evil and deceitfulness of our hearts, which can be acquired only by painful, repeated experience. (222)

Like Peter who confidently promised Jesus that he would never deny him only hours before he did, we do not realize as younger believers how powerful our sin nature is and how weak our faith is. We don’t know how proud and self-reliant we are. It is the fiery trials that apply heat to our faith and cause the dross of unbelief in the form of doubt, fear, anxiety, anger, jealousy, bitterness, selfish ambition, fear of man, and more to rise to the surface. And when we see the dross, we can fear that our faith may not be real.

And that’s what God wants. For when we see the horrible sin in us and feel our helplessness to get rid of it on our own, it pushes us in desperation to trust Christ’s work on the cross alone. When we see our numerous weaknesses and feel our helplessness to be strong on our own, it pushes us to search out and trust Christ’s promises to us alone.

We can have no security from gifts, labors, services, or past experiences; but that from first to last our only safety is in the power, compassion, and faithfulness of our great Redeemer. (234)

It is the various kinds of pressing, painful, exposing trials that teach us to trust in Christ for everything — to really “live by faith in the Son of God” ([Galatians 2:20](#)).

And so God grows the full assurance of faith in us and causes the joyful, peaceful fruit of righteousness to grow in us through trials. He wants our faith to rest fully on the Rock of Christ, so that we “rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead” ([2 Corinthians 1:9](#)). Because, as Newton said,

“We are never more safe, never have more reason to expect the Lord’s help, than when we are most sensible that we can do nothing without him.” This is the paradox of assurance. (234)

Through Many Dangers, Toils, and Snares

Newton spoke of assurance from experience. He said,

In mercy [God] has frequently stirred up my nest, shaken me in it, and forced me to fly to him, when I should otherwise have dropped into sleep and [false] security. (221)

For Pastor Newton, the sweet God-given gift of assurance looked much like verse three of his famous hymn, "Amazing Grace":

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Our assurance of salvation does not come from a confidence in some subjectively measured inner witness, nor how warm our affections for God are at any given moment. Rather, our assurance comes from a growing confidence in Christ's saving work that purchased the fulfillment of all his great promises to us ([2 Peter 1:4](#)) and his power to keep them.

Greater assurance comes through stronger faith. And faith only grows stronger through the vigorous exercise of testing.

SOME FUN FOR BIG "KIDS"

Places in the Old Testament		
V	K	E
Z	B	Z
A	Q	U
I	U	J
R	V	I
Y	E	H
S	O	U
S	B	H
A	W	A
R	D	Q
C	P	M
K	N	Z
O	Q	M
C	C	E
O	B	R
K	O	T
X	M	X
B	Q	A
S	M	P
H	Y	L
Assyria	Edom	Jerusalem
Babel	Egypt	Judah
Babylon	Gilead	Nineveh
Bethel	Horeb	Samaria
Canaan	Israel	Shechem
Eden	Jericho	Sinai
		Ur

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Kids' Corner



Memory Verse

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." ~ Ecclesiastes 4:12

Groups of 3 Matching

David	3 sons (Gen 6:10)
Daniel	3 daughters (Job 1:2)
John's vision	3 sacred objects (Heb 9:4)
Jesus	windows in sets of 3 (I Kings 7:4)
Balaam	triple entrance way into New Jerusalem (Rev 21:13)
Mary	bowed down to Jonathan 3 times (I Sam 20:41)
Paul	prayed 3 times a day (Dan 6:10)
Daniel and his 3 friends	appear before the Lord 3 times a year (Deut. 16:16)
Ark of the Covenant	tempted by Satan 3 times (Matt 4:1-11)
Elijah	3 shipwrecks (II Cor 11:28)
Peter	visited Elizabeth for 3 months (Luke 1:56)
Noah	schooled for 3 years (Dan 1:3-5)
Mordecai	3 times hit his donkey (Num 22:21-35)
Israelite men	stretched himself over a dead body 3 times (I Kings 17:21)
Job	instructed in a vision 3 times to eat animals that had previously been unclean (Acts 10:9-16)
Solomon's Temple	commanded to fast for 3 days (Esther 4:15-16)

Speaking of 3s... Who or What is this "3":

Dry land, sea, fruit bearing plants _____

Seth _____

Levi _____

Gnats _____

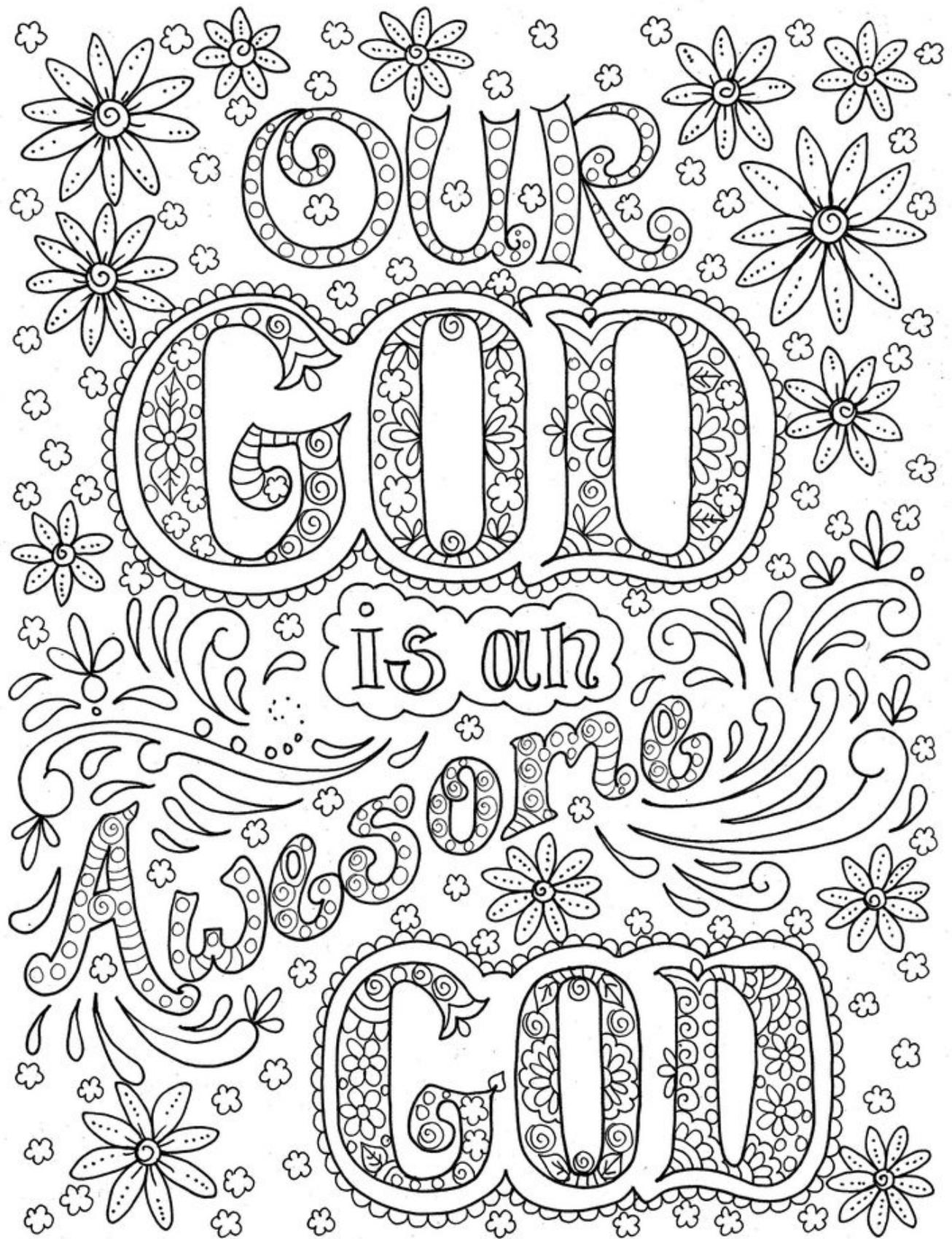
"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God..." _____

Asa _____

Shamgar _____

Church in Pergamum _____

God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit _____



SOMETHING FUN TO COLOR!