Greetings!

What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "A fall from grace?" This phrase is often used to describe someone that has committed a particularly embarrassing, and in some cases illegal act, and because of that individual's popularity, it has somehow found its way into the public arena.

...(read more below)

God's grace...

Although this phrase is used quite often to describe the scenario I just mentioned, this is not what it meant when it was first used. The phrase, a "fall from grace" has its origin in the word of God. And like many Biblical truths over time, it has either been lost or taken on a completely different meaning altogether.

Listen to how the apostle Paul uses it in his letter to the church at Galatia in Galatians 5:3, 4: "Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace."
The word translated, "fallen away" is a nautical term which means to drift off course. And what did Paul believe they were drifting off course from? It was their trust in Christ for their salvation and their eagerness to return to their "old" way of thinking that their salvation was wrapped up in their obedience to the Law. Paul also addressed this issue in Ephesians 2:8, 9 when he said, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God (grace), not by works, so that no one can boast."

The group that Paul credits for causing the believers to "drift off course" was known as the Judaizers or the "Circumcision Party." Paul's concern was that their teaching had begun to unravel the gospel of grace that he had earlier established in their hearts.

Years ago when I taught religion classes to academy students, I reinforced the concept of salvation through the grace of God by using the word grace as an acrostic. It goes something like this: Grace stands for God's Righteousness At Christ's Expense. My prayer today is that you will not allow anyone to cause you to drift off course and fall away from the amazing grace that God has for your life. Let us never forget that although God's gift to us is "free" it was not "cheap."

Pastor Charles A. Tapp
Senior Pastor

Women's History Sabbath
This Sabbath, we honor the women who "make history" as God has called them to do.

One of those women is Celeste Ryan Blyden, Assistant to the President for Communication at the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and editor of Visitor magazine.

She will be sharing a message entitled "Desperately Seeking Signs of Maturity (Trusting God with Our Growing Pains)" at both 8:45a & 11:15a.

We're also looking forward to music being shared by the Sligo Women's Chorus and Bell Choir!

Some special women will also be honored during our 11:15a service during Sligo's 2011 Women of Hope Awards. We hope you can plan to join us in person, or by our video livestream.
Family Matters Weekend

Whether good or bad, all relationships have their moments. And on April 2, you'll learn how to turn the issues you face into opportunities for your relationships to grow.

On Saturday, April 2, you and the family are invited to Sligo's Family Matter's Weekend, featuring Willie & Elaine Oliver, directors of the Department of Family Ministries for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Whether you're thinking of marriage, or you've already been through several seasons with your mate, you'll learn how to better communicate during the "Communicating With Grace" afternoon workshop.

Enjoy worship and an inspiring message by Willie Oliver at 8:45 & 11:15 and a potluck lunch is provided.

Please invite a friend or co-worker to join you for this special day.

Click the banner above for more details and to let us know you plan to be there.

- The Best Wine In Marriage (8:45 & 11:15a)
- FREE lunch provided (12:30-2:00pm)
- Communicating With Grace (afternoon workshop)

Hope to see you there!

We hope you found this weeks' e-weekend newsletter helpful. If there is anything else you would like to see included, we appreciate your feedback. Just email us to sligo@sligochurch.org. We will continue to send this out on a weekly basis. Remember, you may choose to unsubscribe for any reason at any time, though, we hope you won't!

May God continue to richly bless you!
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote