

Prayer List

Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Ella Green, Alice Hall, Amanda Hatcher, Gordon Hatcher, Philip Hutton, Kim Johnson, Jim Ledbetter, Norman Lee, Mary Lynn McAleer, Tony Priola, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Tresa Snyder, Sheila Sollars

Welcome Visitors

We're glad you are with us today. Feel free to ask us any questions you may have. We look forward to getting to know you better.

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, July 31	16/16/15
	Wednesday, August 3	14
Offering	Sunday, July 31	\$780.55

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Tommy Sanders

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer	Charles Hatcher
Songs	David Snyder
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper & Contribution	Lance Green
Assistants	Levy Cox and Donald Shipley
Closing Prayer	Keith Keever

Sunday Afternoon Worship

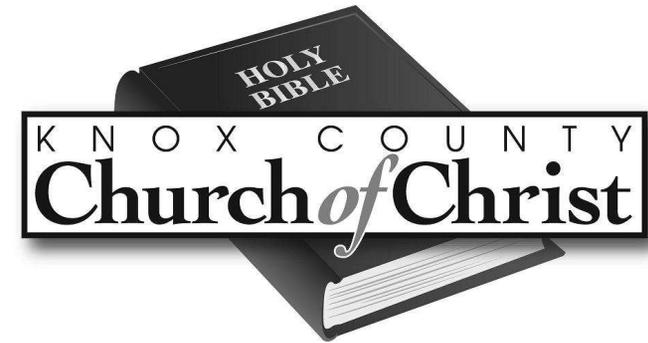
First Prayer	Lance Green
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Brad Green
Lord's Supper	Charles Hatcher
Closing Prayer	Donald Shipley

Wednesday Night

Songs	Brad Green
First Prayer	Keith Keever
Devotional	Tommy Sanders
Closing Prayer	Charles Hatcher

Knox County Church of Christ
PO Box 22441
Knoxville, TN 37933

August 7, 2011



<http://www.knoxcoc.com>

Meeting Location:
130 Mabry Hood Road
Suite 102
Knoxville, TN 37922
865.247.4620

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:30 AM
Worship.....10:30AM & 1:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM



From The Preacher's Pen

“CALVINISM: IRRESISTIBLE GRACE”

The false doctrine of Irresistible Grace teaches that a man, predestinated by God to be saved, cannot resist or reject the grace which saves him. In other words, a man who God chooses to save will be saved whether he wants to be or not. By *grace* is meant the unmerited favor of God towards man that is necessary for salvation. By *irresistible* is meant that man cannot resist, deny, refuse, or reject. The doctrine of Irresistible Grace spawns from the Calvinistic assumption that 1) man is born in sin without any good moral qualities and without the ability to do good, and 2) God has already predetermined before the foundation of the world who will be saved and who will go to Hell and man can do nothing whatever to change his eternal destiny. Both of these assumptions have been proven to be false and diametrically opposed to God's Word in previous articles – “Calvinism: Total Hereditary Depravity” and “Calvinism: Unconditional Election.” Irresistible Grace is a necessary component to Calvin's T.U.L.I.P. because if man is born in sin, and only God can, by a direct means, change the heart of the soul He has predestined to salvation, then it must follow that the predestined soul cannot resist that grace given to him by God or else that soul would still be in sin and 1) lost for eternity even though God predestined him to salvation, or 2) allowed to enter Heaven despite not being changed by God (i.e., a sinful, evil, separated-from-God soul welcomed into eternal paradise with God).

The doctrine of Irresistible Grace is accompanied by some very harsh consequences. If it is the case that God's grace is only irresistible to those He predestined to salvation, then God's grace is therefore not offered to the rest of the world. This would make God a respecter of persons. The Bible teaches “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34). Further, if it is the case that God only offers His irresistible grace to a predetermined few, and since God's grace is necessary for salvation, then God must not desire that all men be saved. The Bible teaches that it is God's desire for “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of

the Truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). According to Calvinists, if a man is not saved, it is God's fault because He is the One who predetermines the destiny of each soul and only He can change the heart of a sinner from bad to good. If God wants “all men to be saved,” and wants all men to “come unto the knowledge of the Truth,” as the Bible teaches, then Calvinists need to explain why He doesn't save all men and why He does not give all men the knowledge of the Truth they need to get out of their sinful state.

GOD'S GRACE IS OFFERED TO ALL MEN. Before God destroyed the Earth by means of the flood, “GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:5, 8). According to Calvinistic teaching, of course the earth was wicked and the thoughts of every heart were only evil continually – because God made them that way! Further, according to Calvinists, it was not the people's fault that their hearts were still wicked; it was God's fault! According to their doctrine, only God can, by a direct means, change the heart of a man from evil to good. Did God destroy these millions of people just because He did not want them to be saved? And what about Noah? Did God force His irresistible grace upon Noah so that He would be saved from God's wrath? The Bible says that God did no such thing. The Bible states, “Noah **FOUND** grace in the eyes of the LORD.” The word *found* means to get, to take hold on, to acquire, to gain. God did not force anything upon Noah; Noah sought God's grace and acquired it by means of obedience to God – “thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (Gen. 6:22). Since it is the case that Noah and his family **FOUND** God's grace, it is the case that everyone else on Earth at that time could have **FOUND** grace also. The apostle Paul commends us to “fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold** on eternal life” (1 Tim. 6:12). The Bible also teaches that God's mercy, love, grace, and kindness are extended to man “through Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:4-7). Since “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life,” (John 3:16) then it must also be the case that God's mercy, grace, and kindness are offered through that

sacrifice as well. God's love, mercy, grace, and kindness are not just for a few, but offered to the whole world.

GOD'S GRACE CAN BE RESISTED. The Bible clearly teaches that God's grace is offered to all men. The Bible also clearly teaches that man can, and has the ability to, reject, refuse, ignore, neglect, and resist God's offer of grace. Stephen preached, “ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **ye do always resist** the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye” (Acts 7:51). The Holy Spirit is the divine person who revealed God's Word to man (2 Pet. 1:21). To resist the Holy Spirit, therefore, is to resist God's Word and vice versa. Stephen, by inspiration, proclaims that man can “resist the Holy Ghost” and can do so repeatedly (i.e., “always”). The fact that Stephen states that these people had resisted the Holy Spirit means that they, by necessity, had first received the offer. What about “the angels that sinned” and God “cast them down to Hell” (2 Pet. 2:4)? Did they not “resist” God's grace? Jesus offered His grace to the people of Jerusalem, but they would not accept (Mat. 23:37). Jesus told the Pharisees and scribes, “full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition” (Mark 7:9). They could not have rejected God's commands had they not first been offered. By offering the commands, God offered them the opportunity to love Him (John 14:15) and thus an opportunity to be saved – “he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16). Jesus was “despised and rejected of men,” yet “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:3, 5). Jesus died to save those who would reject Him – “Christ died for the ungodly...But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6, 8).

God offers His grace to all men. Man can, has, and continues to resist God's grace by choosing not to obey Him. Let us accept God's grace by being obedient to His Word and remain “faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10) so that we can receive the “crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

--Brad Green