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Meeting Our Real Need

Elder Charles Moore

None of us is an island. We are mere mortals. Indeed, we are complex human beings who have genuine needs. Some of our needs are more outward and obvious than others. All of us have physical needs for food, shelter, clothing, and health. When these needs go unmet, the result is obvious to everyone in a very short time. But outward and physical needs are not our only needs. The greatest need any of us have is the need for Jesus Christ.

Christ brings to us salvation. He died on the Cross in payment for the penalty of our sin. There He reconciled us to God. Our judgment was borne by Christ, who died in our place. Through Him we can be forgiven. Through Him we can be reconciled to God. **Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Romans 5:1)

The effect of that exchange is **peace with God**. You see, God's salvation brings peace. To have **peace with God** means that the war is over. It means that the struggle has ended. We have made an unconditional surrender. And this unconditional surrender has brought an end to the conflict and made peace.

Now it should be said that making peace with God does not automatically bring peace in every area of our lives. You can make peace with God and still

experience conflict and struggle in various situations and circumstances. But making peace with God is the essential first step toward receiving another kind of peace - the peace of God. **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 4:6-7)

This is a wonderful peace. This is the kind of peace that enables you to withstand the storm. This is the kind of peace that is not based on circumstances. It transcends circumstances. Indeed, it transcends our ability to comprehend it. We are even amazed that we are experiencing this peace when the circumstances are such that we should be experiencing great anxiety. We must experience peace **with** God before we can experience the peace **of** God. You cannot have the second without having the first. And if you have the first, then you can receive the second. God's salvation brings peace.

What we receive in salvation is the grace of God. Trusting Christ means

grace. . . . **through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.** (Romans 5:2a) A common definition for grace is "God's unmerited favor." That means that God has given us what we do not deserve. When we deserved condemnation, God gave us grace. Instead of being objects of His wrath, we become objects of His love and mercy. But in this passage, Paul speaks of **this grace in which we now stand**. He is not simply speaking of grace generally. He is speaking of a specific kind of grace that has been granted to us. We **stand** in this grace. It is because of what our **Lord Jesus Christ** did that **we have gained access by faith into this grace**. And the benefit that access gives us is acceptance by God. God's grace brings acceptance. Access means acceptance.

John Phillips tells the story of a little boy who once stood outside the gates of Buckingham Palace in London. He wanted to speak to the king but was harshly rebuked by one of the guards at the gate. He began to cry and walk away. Then along came a very well-dressed man who asked the little boy to explain what was wrong. After he had heard the story, the man smiled at the lad and said, "Here, hold my hand, sonny. I'll get you in. Just you never mind those soldiers." As the little boy took his hand and they walked toward the guards, he was amazed as he saw the soldiers stand at attention and present arms. They walked past the guard and into the palace. They continued along carpeted

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halls, through huge doors, past many officials, until they were standing before the throne of the King. The little boy hadn't known that he had taken the hand of the Prince of Wales, the king's son! Through him he had gained access. And if we take the hand of the King of Kings' Son we will gain access and acceptance by God. It is a wonderful thing to have acceptance. Acceptance is one of the greatest needs that we have. God's grace brings acceptance.

Another benefit of knowing Christ is that it gives us hope. Without hope, living turns into despair. Hope is one of the essential inner qualities that is needed to keep us going during tough times. **And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.** (Romans 5:2b)

In his book *Dare to Believe*, Dan Baumann illustrates the unique experience of knowing that something is ours, yet longing to enjoy it more fully. He explained that at Christmas time he would always do a lot of snooping, trying to find the gift-wrapped presents and figure out what was in them. One year he discovered a package with his name on it that was easy to identify. There was no way to disguise the golf clubs inside. Baumann then made this observation: "When Mom wasn't around, I would go and feel the package, shake it, and pretend that I was on the golf course. The point is, I was already enjoying the pleasures of a future event; namely, the unveiling. It had my name on it. I knew what it was." But only "Christmas would reveal it in its fullness."

The glories that await the Christian defy our comprehension. What we can grasp about them, however, fills us with great anticipation. We look longingly to that day when we shall enjoy heaven in all its fullness.

This kind of hope also brings with it a certain joy. God's hope brings joy. This is why Paul could say that **we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.** This hope is an anticipation of better things to come.

What we've been talking about are inner characteristics or attitudes based on faith in God. Receiving these inner attitudes comes from placing our complete trust in Jesus Christ. And the amazing thing about these inner characteristics is that they are not dependent on our circumstances. They transcend our circumstances because they find their basis in someone who is not affected by our circumstances. So, in the midst of our circumstances, we can exhibit peace, the confidence that comes from being accepted, and the joy that hope brings and an anticipation of better things to come. As a matter of fact, the worse the situation becomes, the more obvious the inner qualities become.

The month of June was filled with heat, cool breezes, graduations, illnesses, recoveries and summer camp. Remembering the wonderful surprise the men gave the women for Mother's Day last year, the women pulled off a surprise Father's Day Breakfast for the Fathers and surrogate fathers of the church. They had meals served to them at tables set with tablecloths and received bookmarks for their Bibles. We are thankful to the men of our church who raise children and seek to emulate God's care for children.

Berty Lane was in town this month from Arizona for her mother Marianne Snow's heart bypass surgery. We're happy to hear it went well.

Charlie Moore had a busy month trying to keep up with and pay a visit to various of his relatives who were in which hospital recovering from health problems: niece Virginia Begeman (surgery), brother Gary (triple by-pass), sister-in-law Marcia (adhesions pain), sister Cheryl (diabetic coma), and sister Connie (as yet undiagnosed stomach pain). He also had time to truly enjoy a visit with Laurie Eckles and her dad, Don Begeman, at his home. It's a lovely place with a beautiful interior courtyard where they enjoyed some sun and comfortable outdoor furniture.

Summer camp was blessed again this year, despite some interesting mishaps which began when the sink unit dramatically fell onto the floor just prior to the start of the first night's meal and ended with a missing camera and a finally repaired but unused water slide. 67 campers were enrolled this year and Megan Stahl was chosen as camper of the year and Chelsea Navarre as camp counselor of the year. Teachers taught this year around the theme of Jesus' miracles and included Rob Vaughn, Doug Vaughn, Kathy Smeltzer and Kay Nevil, and Joe Smeltzer. Tim Begeman did evening Vespers talks and concentrated on positive apologetics which points to the truth of the gospel by offering reasons to believe and negative apologetics which answers objections and clears away obstacles to the gospel while Lloyd Smith focused on using facts about the way God made our bodies to show His infinite care. The camp wrap-up meeting featured some wonderful leftover macaroni and cheese and potluck treats brought by attendees.

Verl Wright, Tisha Begeman's father, has been very ill this month, having lost 85% of the functioning of his heart but has a wonderful in home nurse. However, prayers of his family and friends have been answered and he has had some really wonderful days this month where he has been able to do things he hasn't been able to do for a long time like mowing the grass and fishing off the dock. Please continue to pray for him and his loved ones. Also remember Karyn Zajackzowski. Charlie and Rene Moore were able to visit with her and Ted briefly this month and were encouraged to see that her legs look much less painful. However, she still gets tired and suffers from poor health. Marcia Moore also desires your prayers as she awaits word on whether she can have surgery to relieve pain.

Gary and Judy Bayer, missionaries now working in Detroit's Southwest community, are contemplating a ministry move to either Boston or Colorado.

Joe and Kathy Smeltzer have had another significant month. After seeing Bekah graduate from high school and hosting her party, they went off with Bekah to Washington D.C. to see Bekah's art work on display in the halls of the Senate. Then they were off to East Lansing to see their

daughter Carrie DeHaan inducted into the medical school's 'white coat society'. We know that must feel good. It also felt VERY good for Stephanie Fasbender to be honored recently with a beautiful glass trophy of a hand reaching for a star at a luncheon in Macomb County for being a person who has applied herself diligently to overcome great obstacles.

Violet Chapman celebrated her 90th birthday with her four children.

Terrie and Dave Fedor finished the month of June by leaving summer camp to pack and leave on a cruise in *cool* Alaska. They had a wonderful time with several good friends and good traveling companions. They came back well-rested and with lots of photos.

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Roy and Bennie Gee brightened up our June days by being guests of the Petersburg Church of God the first weekend. We offered to keep them and were very pleased that they came and spent a few days with Dale and I. Our church decided to attend the Petersburg en mass so we could enjoy Roy and the fellowship of others. While they were here, that Sunday was Katie Nevil's graduation party so under my persuasion they followed us to the other side of the state to crash the party as Bennie said. They had planned to visit Andrews University as Roy had been a student there many years ago. Andrews is very close to where Jim and Kay live. All the plans fell together and they ended up traveling around in Indiana before boarding that plane for California. We enjoy their time with us so much and wish Auburn was a lot closer.

Katy Nevil had a great graduation day with many festivities thrown in. It started with church and Katy giving her speech that she later gave for baccalaureate service. They came home and the Nevils served a delicious buffet brunch. A sprinkle of rain did not even dampen the spirits of everyone there. Next, Katy attended the baccalaureate service and gave her speech. An hour later everyone went to the graduation ceremony. At five the open house started with lots of goodies to choose from. Jeff, Melinda, Katie, Brian, Dale and I were there for part of the day. Many family members were present from different areas of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Katy had many awards displayed all over the Nevil home. Our congratulations for your many accomplishments, Katy.

Don Begeman experienced some difficulties that week and was hospitalized briefly. Tests were done and he recovered quickly. He is back at his usual abiding place.

David and Ruth Charles traveled north to be at their two granddaughters graduations. We will be happy to see them in our midst for a few weeks before Florida calls them home.

Health problems interfered this year to complicate pre-camp preparations and prevent participation of several members of the local church in the annual Hamilton Family Reunion. Terrie Fedor came down with a severe infection that got better just prior to camp. Dale Begeman was hospitalized for tests earlier this month to see how to properly time his prostate treatment in conjunction with the heart blockage that was discovered. It began to look like he would need bypass surgery the Friday before camp started but as it turns out, he will be able to be treated with medication to dissolve the blockage and proceed with his planned prostate surgery on July 17. Please pray with us that both his health conditions are healed.

As usual, youth camp hosts quite a few of the outlying folks. We are always happy to see Sonya Pease from New York. She brings her paints, her quilts and other needle work she is doing and lots of cookies and heads to Michigan. We had a wonderful week together. At crafts Rachel Sottile has found her niche and she drafted sister Laurie as well as many others to assist her. Sonya taught one-stroke painting on trays and Rachel molded everyone's hands so all kept busy. Diane did her usual beautiful job of basket weaving.

Of course the kitchen is a busy place with Lynn Vaughn assisting Terrie Fedor with salad fixings and Sally Smeltzer and Ruth just pitching in wherever needed. I cannot leave the kitchen without thanking our usual crew of Dave Fedor, Jeff Begeman, Mary Begeman, Carol Fruchey, Jean Lane and newcomer Kristin Vaughn. At camp we all serve in the kitchen somewhat because we all eat, so people come in and do something and then hit the road to their real duty. Each one who does anything is greatly appreciated. (If I did not mention your name it is because I have part-timer's disease. That means I only forget part of the time.)

I talked to Dorothy Layton at length this month and would especially like to congratulate Justin Cecil DeLacy Bishop on his graduation from high school. He is Lisa Bishop's son and Dorothy's grandson. After a lovely graduation exercise the family gathered at Dorothy's to eat and celebrate. Then there is news about Deborah's four-year-old granddaughter Rebecca breaking her leg. She is currently in a cast and has to get around in a wheel chair. She and Zack, her brother were scheduled to vacation with Deborah and Jim Stoner this next week. There will be a shift in plans now. Get well quick, Rebecca!

In a newsy note from Rip and Norma Ripley I found out that Rip is suffering with a bad knee and is visiting the doctor these days. Norma continues with her back problems but they both are very thankful that they get around and get to eat out with Robert, Adrina and children frequently.

Ellen Momberger writes that she keeps busy with baking, quilting and painting. She is looking forward to a vacation trip early in July with her son and his family to Monument Valley, Santa Fe and then to Canyon DeChelly for a few days. That really sounds exciting to this easterner who does not get to travel out west much. Hope you all have a great trip, Ellen.

It is so nice to get notes from people all over this good old USA and live a little with my imagination. We appreciate all of you out there and will be reporting again in July for that great month in which we get to celebrate Independence Day! Let me know what you do.

CHURCH OF THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Fasten Your Seatbelts

The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on - Fasten Your Seat Belts. Then, after a while, a calm voice said, "We shall not be serving the beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence. Please be sure your seat belt is fastened." As he looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice of the announcer said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us."

And then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightning lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash.

The pastor confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm."

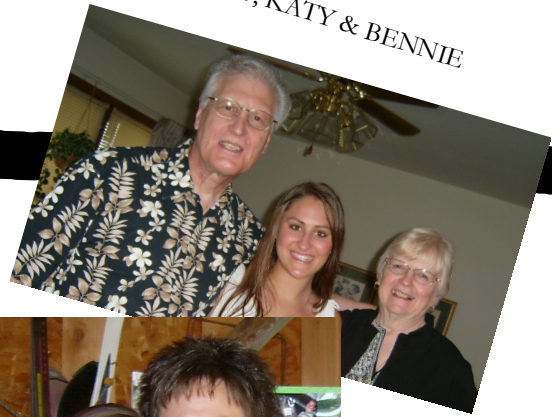
Then, I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently the storm meant nothing to her! She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat; she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly.

Sometimes she closed her eyes, then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs, but worry and fear were not in her world. When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm, when it lurched this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid." The minister could hardly believe his eyes.

It was not surprising therefore, that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, our pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. Having commented about the storm and behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid. The child replied, "Cause my Daddy's the pilot, and he's taking me home."

There are many kinds of storms that buffet us. Physical, mental, financial, domestic, and many other storms can easily and quickly darken our skies and throw our plane spinning out of control. We have all known such times, and let us be honest and confess, it is much easier to be at rest when our feet are on the ground than when we are being tossed about a darkened sky. Just remember: Our Father is the Pilot. He is in control. He is taking us home!

ROY, KATY & BENNIE



JOHN, CAROL, JUDY, JANET, VIOLET



BEKAH & KATHY



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