I. Only God Can Create Life.
   A. Let us make man in our image.
      Genesis 1:26
   B. God has absolute power over us.
   C. God has absolute authority over us.
   D. He will make us what he desires.
   E. There is nothing alarming in the knowledge of God.

II. Only God Can Condemn Sin.
   A. The clay was marred in the potter’s hand.
   B. The potters’ creative work was hindered by two things:
      1. Original sin
      2. Willful disobedience
   C. The free will of man may obstruct the will of God.
   D. Eventually God’s plan will be complete.
   E. One day every knee will bow every tongue confess. God will judge

III. Only God Can Cure Sin.
   A. The potter reduced the clay into a lump again.
   B. Mans’ sin debt is cured when he gives up his plans and schemes and comes to God seeking forgiveness.
   C. The potter maintained an intent to create to create anew.
   D. Romans 5:20 reads that where sin did abound grace did much more abound.
   E. Each proclamation of God’s Word is a fresh opportunity to find forgiveness from God.

IV. Only God Can Change Life.
   A. The Lord said that the day would come when he would build the house of Israel and Judah. I have watched over them to throw down and to plant saith the Lord. Jeremiah 31:27,
B. God humbles us to reprove us.
C. The house of David is fallen, and I will raise up his ruins. Amos 9: 11-15
D. Note the example of a man called Nebuchadnezzar: a man who refused to repent of his ways. READ Daniel 4:29ff
E. Remember God’s word to Israel to remember the promise to inhabit the land. Deuteronomy 8: 2-4

Conclusion:
A. Only God knows whether we are a vessel of honor or a vessel of dishonor.
B. Our wisdom is to turn from our hardness and impenitent hearts, and allow God to lead us into full change. Romans 2:4
C. Then will we address God “We are the clay, and thou art the potter. Isaiah 44:8
D. If we repent and urn to God we find love.
E. Then can we be fit for the masters’ use.

The Amazing Grace of God
Ephesians 2:4-8

Introduction: Grace means the favor of God. Grace is God offering to man what man doesn’t deserve. Bro. Vernon Bar use to say, “Grace is all that God the Father has done, is doing, and will do for man. Grace is all that Jesus the Son has done, is doing, and will do for man. Grace is all that the Holy Spirit has done, is doing, and will do for man. Paul normally started and ended each letter with admonitions concerning the grace of God. The song, Amazing Grace is one of my favorite songs. Grace is so amazing to us all. Let’s do an acrostic of grace.

I. The Grace of God – G

A. G stands for God
1. Grace is God’s grace. The source and supply of grace comes from God.
2. Notice how verse 4 starts out. The first 3 verses describe man’s lost condition. Verse 4 starts out with, “But God…”
3. God is the builder and maker of the universe. God is righteous and faithful in character and His dealings with man.
4. God is rich in mercy, love, and grace.

B. G stands for good.
1. Grace will always seek what is good for man. Man cannot find good without God.
2. God’s goodness leads man to repentance. Romans 2:4. God’s goodness can break the heart of a lost sinner. God’s goodness can break the heart of the backslidden saved person.

C. G stands for giving.
1. God gives life to each and everyone of us. Genesis 1: Psalm 3:5
2. God showers down His blessings upon us daily.

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3. He has given to us His Precious Son as our sacrifice for sin and Savior of the world. John 1:29

D. G stands for gladness.

1. The things of life will not last. They are here for a few days and then they will be gone.
2. Paul instructs us to rejoice in the Lord always. Philippians 4:4
3. When the Lord saves a soul, He gives that soul joy and gladness. Acts 16:34

II. THE GRACE OF GOD - R

A. R stands for righteous.

1. A righteous God offers grace. Grace offers man righteousness.
2. A guilty sinner can be made righteous before holy God.
3. Grace offers to the person described in verses 2 and 3, the righteousness of God.

B. R stands for right

1. The lost sinner is wrong. His life is not right with God.
2. God’s grace shows wrong man how to make things right.
3. It is good to know you are right with God. It makes life right.

C. R stands for Redeemer.

1. Grace points man to the Savior. Redeemer, and Deliverer.

II. THE GRACE OF GOD - A

A. A stands for affection.

1. Grace shows us how much love or affection Christ has for us.
2. “...for his great love wherewith He loved us.” V4
3. Grace shows us God’s love. Jesus died for us. Romans 5:8

B. A stands for accessible.

1. Jesus was willing to leave heaven and His glory to live and die for us. John 17:5
2. Jesus taught the one person and the multitude about the things of the God.
3. Jesus is accessible any time, any place, and to anyone. Hebrews 4:16
B. A stands for amazing

1. Grace causes us to stand amazed at the God of grace and the grace of God.
2. God's grace is full of wonder. It causes us to marvel. It amazes us.
3. The grace of God offers to sinful man God's salvation and glory. "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus."

IV. THE GRACE OF GOD - C

A. C stands for Christ.
   1. Christ means the anointed one. He is anointed of God.
   2. Grace points all to Jesus the Savior of the world, who lived and died for all.
   3. Jesus is the compassionate, caring, comforting Savior and High Priest.

B. C stands for calling.
   1. Grace calls out and cries out to man. Grace calls on all to repent and believe.
   2. Grace calls the lost to salvation.
   3. Grace calls the saved man to serve the Lord.

C. C stands for cleansing.
   1. The people described in verses 2,3 can be washed and cleansed.
   2. Confess your sins to Jesus and He will cleanse you of all unrighteousness. I John 1:9
   3. He can cleanse you of all unrighteousness. Sin is dirty. Sin makes you feel dirty.

D. C stands for communion.
   1. The person described in verses 1-3 can be made to fellowship with God. I John 1:6,7
   2. Grace offers a sweet communion with a loving, caring Father.

V. The Grace of God – E

A. E Stands for exhorting
   1. God’s grace exhorts or encourages man
   2. Grace exhorts one and all to be saved and the saved to serve.
   3. Our text verses exhort and encourage all of us.

B. E stands for edifying
   1. Grace offers edifying to mankind
   2. Edify means to build up. It should build us up to know Jesus loved us enough to die for us
   3. Grace will never put you down, but it will pick you up and build you up

C. E stands for exalting
   1. A lost hell bound sinner is offered everlasting life in Jesus Christ
   2. We are aliens and strangers to God and we become the children of God. Galatians 3:26
   3. We are made heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Romans 8:17
D. E Stands for eternal

1. *We are given eternal life when we receive the Lord.* John 3:15,16
2. *We will live eternally with Jesus and serve Him.*
3. *This life is very short and temporal, but we have life in Jesus which is eternal.*

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Conroe, Tx.

The Great Faith in God
Hebrews 11:1-6

Introduction: This is the faith chapter of the Bible. God’s Word speaks often of faith. We are saved by faith. We obey the Lord by faith. We do the Lord’s will and work by faith. Faith is to trust, rely, and depend upon God. The Bible speaks of the two walks. One is a walk by faith. The other is a walk by sight. Faith is so vital a subject. We fulfill or fail on the grounds of faith or the lack of it. Have faith in God, He is on His throne.

I. The Great Faith in God – F

A. Father

1. Most of us had fathers that worked to provide for all our needs.
2. We were fed, clothed, sheltered, and took care of to the best of our parent’s ability
3. God wants us to depend upon Him to provide for us just like our earthly fathers.
4. We became His children by faith. Galatians 3:26. We are saved by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8

B. The faith

1. The wise man said, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart...” Proverbs 3:5
2. Hebrews 11 lists many Bible characters who had faith in God and His Word.
3. We must depend upon Him entirely and completely for our salvation.
4. We must rely on Him as we labor and serve Him.

C. The fruit

1. Faith in God will always bear fruit. Faith will manifest itself in works.
2. The author James discussed at great length how that faith is manifested in works.
3. Faith is the fruit of the Holy Spirit of God. Galatians 5:22
4. Nearly everything done by every New Testament church is done by faith in God.

II. The Great Faith in God – A

A. The acceptance

1. Verse two tells us we understand some things by faith.
2. All of us have faith in something or someone. Faith in God accepts God and what God says.
3. We do not doubt, question, or deny what God says, but we accept what He says.
B. The applying

1. When you were saved, you accepted God’s Word and then you applied it or obeyed it.
2. We are called upon to step out on and by faith in daily life.
3. God wants us to trust Him. We can put Him to the test. We can try Him.
4. The application is simply do what God has told you to do.

C. The aide

1. The flesh will always say, I can’t, we can’t etc., when it comes to what God wants us to do.
2. Faith always believes and trusts in God. We know He can do what He has promised.
3. Great faith in God has made small people great giants and monuments in the faith.
4. Faith emphasizes the person and power of almighty God.

III. The Great Faith in God – I

A. The importance

1. Faith is so important that without it, we cannot be saved. You won’t believe God or accept His Son.
2. The saved person cannot please God without faith. V6 You will say can’t, you will quit, and you won’t work without faith.
3. You must have great faith to please God.

B. The inspiration

1. A meek man called Moses became a great leader of God’s people.
2. A young man in his father’s house became a great leader and deliver in Israel called Gideon.
3. The youngest man is Jesse’s house became the king over God’s people. His name was David.

C. The imperative

1. Faith is a must. We cannot please God if we do not have faith.
2. Lost sinners will go to hell without faith in God.
3. The saved person will live a defeated miserable life without faith in God.
4. Churches will dry up and die if they do not have faith in God.

IV. The Great Faith in God - T

A. The truth

1. We are to have and exercise faith in God, not in man.
2. You can trust God because He is able to do what He says He can.
3. He is a faithful God. We can rely upon Him. You can depend upon His Holy Word.

B. The trust
1. Read His Word regularly to know Him and His will for your life.
2. Trust Him in all of life. When you go to the store, hospital, doctor, bank, or funeral home, trust Him.
3. Trust Him with all your heart. It is more becoming to trust God, than to cry to the world.

C. The thinking

1. As you read God’s Word, think on it and about it.
2. Paul tells us what to think on in Philippians 4:7,8

V. The Great Faith in God - H

A. The Heart

1. We are to trust the Lord with all the heart. Proverbs 3:5
2. Faith comes from the heart, not the head.
3. The heart wants to believe and obey the Lord. The head causes us to question and doubt God.

B. The Hearing

1. The Lord wants to tell us something. He has a word for us.
2. A wise man listens and obeys the Lord. Mathew 7: 24-26
3. “So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Romans 10:17
4. We are to listen to God and not lean to our own understanding. Proverbs. 3:6

C. The holiness

1. Those who are striving to live for God will hear Him and obey Him.
2. Holy God wants His holy people to wholly follow Him.
3. Sinful lives will not listen or heed God’s Word. A holy people will be a people of great faith.

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe, Tx.

The Wonderful Love of God
John 3:16-18

Introduction: This passage is known by the young and the old. God’s love is unmerited and unearned. He loves us because He is God and God is Love. Love isn’t the only attribute of God, but is one of them. We sing the song, “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” God’s love can be felt and experienced and expressed. The greatest proof of God’s love is Jesus died for my sins on Calvary as a sacrifice. He paid my sin debt. Let’s do an acrostic of the word LOVE.

I. The Wonderful Love of God - L

A. The longing of God

1. God created Adam and Eve upright. He wanted to share His glory and creation with them.
2. Eve and Adam sinned. There could not be any more fellowship with God.
3. God longs to be reconciled to lost fallen man. II Corinthians 5: 19,20
4. He isn’t willing that any should perish, but all come to repentance.
B. The loving of God

1. God loves each and every one of us. He showers each life with blessings.
2. He gives us life each day. Psalm 3:5 He gives us a mind to think with, a heart to feel with, eyes to see, ears to hear, feet to walk, and hands to work with.
3. He blesses us materially, physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.
4. His love cannot be explained. It cannot be understood. It can be accepted.

C. The lingering of God

1. God lingers near unto the mankind He has created.
2. He wants to give help to the living.
3. He wants to give hope to the dying.
4. He wants to give strength to the hurting.
5. He wants to give comfort to the sorrowing. I Thessalonians 4:18

D. The languishing of God

1. Jesus lamented over the people of the holy city Jerusalem. He was troubled because of what they did to His men and they wouldn’t come to Him. Matthew 23:37
2. When God determined to destroy the people by a flood, He gave them 120 years to repent and seek His forgiveness. Genesis 6:3
3. When the Lord determined to destroy Sodom, He wanted to get Lot out of it before He destroyed it with fire and brimstone.

II. The Wonderful Love of God – O

A. The offering

1. All of the Old Testament offerings were types or pictures of Jesus Christ.
2. John the Baptist pointed Jesus out as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29
3. Jesus was willing to die the death on the cross for us. Philippians 2:8
4. He laid down His life that we might be saved and have eternal life.

B. The opportunity

1. The songs HE INCLUDED ME and WHOSOEVER SURELY MEANETH ME express the love of God.
2. God’s will is for all or everyone to be saved. I Timothy 2:46
3. Whosoever calls on the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13 Whoever believes has everlasting life v.18

C. The opening

1. Jesus is the Door to salvation and blessings. John 10:9
2. A longing God opens His arms out wide to receive all or everyone.
3. He tells the lost sinner to repent and believe. He tells the saved to obey.
4. Jesus is very open about serving and living for Him. Mark 8:34

III. The Wonderful Love of God - V

A. The value

1. Loves puts a value on people and things. Love loves the unlovable.
2. God values mankind so much that He was willing for His only begotten Son to live and die on Calvary.
3. Jesus took our place. He died in our stead. He gave up His life for us.
4. You study, examine the death of Jesus, and seek the truth concerning what Christ suffered for us. You will realize how great a value He has put upon you.

B. The victory

1. I have always loved the song, “Victory in Jesus.” There is victory in Jesus.
2. Paul was teaching about death and resurrection in I Corinthians 15. He thanked God for the victory in Jesus Christ. V 27
3. Jesus tells the lost person how to experience victory. I John 5:4
4. When you repent and believe, you will be victorious. When you trust and depend upon the Lord, you will be victorious.
5. Jesus tells the saved person how to experience victory. I John 5:4

C. The virtue

1. We are to add to our faith virtue. II Peter 1:5 Virtue means moral excellence.
2. The Lord wants what is best for us. To live the wrong way brings heartache and heart break.
3. Jesus lived and died to offer to all a better way of life.
4. Drink, drugs, evil desires, and a lack of virtue has ruined many a life.
5. God’s love offers to one and all a better way of life.

IV. The Wonderful Love of God - E

A. The experience

1. It is wonderful to realize and know that God loves you
2. God is love. I John 4:8 He wants you to experience and feel that love.
3. It is a blessing to be around people who know they are loved.
4. John 3:16 is a powerful passage of God’s Word.

B. The expression

1. God is love. He has expressed His love
2. His love is expressed in Jesus dying for us. He lay His life down for us. John 10:17,18
3. When He saves a soul that soul experience His love. The saved also express that love.
4. A missionary to Kenya, Africa showed us a wife beater. He told us when men were saved in that country, they no longer used the wife beater.
C. The endless

1. The father of the prodigal son never stopped loving the son.
2. He was waiting, watching, and wanting his son to return.
3. God never stopped loving the nation of Israel. He doesn’t stop loving the lost.
4. He doesn’t stop loving us, when we stray and sin against Him.

D. The effectiveness

1. God’s love can break the heart of the lost
2. God’s love can break the heart of the sinful.
3. God’s love can break our will.
4. God’s love tempers His justice.

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The Wonderful Peace of God
Philippians 4:6-9

Introduction: Verse six admonishes us to pray and present our supplication to God. We are to let our requests be made known to Him. If we obey verse 6, the peace of God will keep our hearts and minds. We are to think on the things described in verse 8. They were to do or practice what they learned, received, heard, and seen in Paul. The Lord’s peace would be with them, if they did. Let’s do an acrostic on the word PEACE. The Lord’s peace is to rule in our hearts. Colossians 3:15 Jesus has left us His peace. John 16:33

I. The Wonderful Peace of God – P

A. The pardon

1. Redemption is the forgiveness of sins according to Ephesians 1:7
2. John the Baptist and Jesus began their ministries with the teaching of repentance. Matthew 3:2:4:17
3. God forgave us for Christ’s sake. Ephesians 4:32. Our justification brought the peace of God to us. Romans 5:1

B. The presence

1. Knowing Jesus as our personal Savior brings peace and joy. Acts 16:34
2. We are begotten unto a lively hope in Christ Jesus. 1 Peter 1:3
3. He lives with our hearts. His Spirit resides within us. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20
4. Jesus is the Mediator between God and man. 1 Timothy 2:5 God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. 2 Corinthians 5:18,19

C. The purpose

1. Apart from God man has no lasting purpose or goal. He doesn’t know how to direct his steps. Jeremiah 10:23
2. We are born to honor and glorify God. We were saved to fulfill this purpose. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20
3. Jesus gives us meaning and reason for living. John 10:10
D. The perception

1. Lost man looks at life with the physical or material view.
2. Jesus gives us spiritual life and perception.
3. To discern life properly gives us peace with God and of God. We can accept and be satisfied with life.

II. The Wonderful Peace of God – E

A. The endearing

1. God’s peace rules in our hearts when we are right with God and we realize how much He loves us.
2. It is amazing and marvelous to know and realize Jesus cares and loves us supremely. John 3:16
3. This peace endears us to Jesus and Jesus to us.

B. The edifying

1. The message of the glorious gospel edifies and builds us up.
2. It causes us to know we are loved the way we are.
3. This helps our self-worth and gives us confidence.

C. The exalting

1. Jesus will save a lost hell bound sinner who repents and believes.
2. He makes us sons, heirs, and a holy people before God.
3. We were enemies when Christ died for us. We become His children. Galatians 3:26

III. The Wonderful Peace of God – A

A. The advocate

1. We are sinners saved by the grace of God. Ephesians 2:8,9
2. We will sin against God, but we have an advocate in Jesus. I John 3:2
3. He intercedes and pleads our case. Our sins do not destroy our salvation.

B. The aiding

1. In times of trouble and tribulation the Lord has promised us His peace. John 16:33
2. The Lord’s grace is all sufficient. II Corinthians 12:9
3. Jesus accompanies His churches and His people as they do His work. Matthew 28:20

C. The always

1. He will never leave us or forsake us. Hebrews 13:5,6
2. He is a very present help in time of trouble. Psalm 46:1
3. We can cast all care upon Him for He cares for us. I Peter 5:7

IV. The Wonderful Peace of God – C

A. The confidence

1. Peace of heart and mind gives warmth and confidence. We depend upon the Lord knowing He is able.
2. The 3 Hebrew children knew the Lord God could deliver
them, but if He didn’t they wouldn’t worship the image.

3. Peace gives hope, help, and happiness to those who have it.

B. The calmness

1. Jesus calmed the storm that came upon the disciples. Matthew 8:23-27
2. Jesus often calms us in the storms of life. He gives us peace and tranquility.
3. The Devil and circumstances upset us, but His peace calms us down.

C. The comfort

1. God’s peace comforts and consoles the child of God. 1 Thessalonians 4:18
2. Elijah was discouraged and down hearted, but the Lord sought to comfort him.
3. The Lord was there to comfort Job as he experienced his troubles.

D. The care

1. The Lord has put a hedge about His children. Job 1:10
2. His angels encamp around the saints of God.
3. He loves us and has proven His love without doubt.

V. The Wonderful Peace of God - E

A. Then ensamples

1. Peace has its perfect work and fruit. 2. The peace of the Lord ruling in our hearts is an ensample to others.
3. This calmness and peace comes from God.

B. The esteeming

1. The Lord highly esteems each of us.
2. The peace of God highly esteems us
3. We feel self-worth and love from a loving heavenly Father.

C. The expelling

1. The Lord’s peace expels doubts and fears
2. The Lord’s peace expels discouragement and down heartedness
3. The Lord’s peace expels disobedience and defiance.

D. The entrusting

1. Peace entrusts sickness to the Lord
2. Peace entrusts sorrowing to the Lord.
3. Peace entrusts suffering to the Lord.
4. Peace entrusts sadness to the Lord.
5. Peace turns everything over to the Lord.

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