

Grace Line

The Metaxoi Memorandum: To Those Who Will Rule With Jesus In The World To Come

January 2010: Volume I

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I trust that your spiritual life is vibrant, your family blessed, and your ministry thriving. I also hope you are looking forward to this new year of service for the King.

As I am sure you know, the designation of Metaxoi is a special partner, one who helps King Jesus rule His kingdom. (For we have become Metaxoi of Christ if we hold fast our confidence firm until the end. Heb.3:14.)

As a leader in the Church of Jesus Christ you have a strategic role that many do not have, which is to educate, encourage, and exhort fellow believers in their walk with Christ. As a result you have a larger responsibility. My goal is to provide you with a resource that will help you stay on top of certain theological issues that impact your ministry.

As a pastor or teacher you serve in many important roles and provide numerous essential functions. If you have seen the movie "*Blindside*" or know enough about football, you know that there is a variety of people who are needed to make the team successful. I have served as a pastor, so I understand some of the roles you play every day.

"We act as coaches: teaching church leaders and individual believers how to avoid foreseeable conflict and become skilled at resolving differences and restoring peace in their relationships.

We serve as trainers: coming onto the field when people are injured by conflict and need the power of the gospel to heal their hearts, forgive great wrongs, and inspire them to stay with their marriage or their church.

We also act as referees: stepping in when believers clash, reminding them of God's boundary lines, mediating disputes, and making it possible for estranged people to reconcile and continue working together to display the love of Christ and advance His kingdom."

We consider it a high calling and honor to guard the blind side of God's people. Few things in life are as rewarding as preventing a divorce, rebuilding unity in a shattered congregation or getting a missionary back out in the field. Each of these roles we play is described and prescribed by God's word. It is essential that we maintain our time in the word of God so we can do the work for God. So, let me encourage you, and exhort if necessary, as you prepare for 2010 -- fight the "Tyranny of the Urgent" and make sure that you "Sharpen the Saw" so you can serve effectively and efficiently for the Lord. Remember - "Live with the End in Mind."

Right Now Counts Forever...

Today's Theological Conundrum

I assume that you are aware of the document, *The Manhattan Declaration* (TMD). If not, I advise you to go read it - NOW. (www.ManhattanDeclaration.org) In a nut shell, it is “Evangelical and Catholics Together” Round Two. It is a movement of Chuck Colson, some Evangelicals, Roman Catholic Church, and Eastern Orthodox leaders in an attempt to galvanize “Christians” to create a block-vote power base. I agree with the ends they seek--- No abortion, no active euthanasia or gay marriage etc... but I am concerned about their means of accomplishing their goal. Please read the TMD document. I would also like you to consider a paper I wrote that reflects my thoughts without trying to issue a final decision. (If you are interested, email me and I will send it to you.) Regardless of your view of either document, it is a call to pray for our country and ask the Lord to save us from the potential disasters for the church or to guide us through them and present the fragrant aroma of Christ to a lost and dying world.

Resources: Leaders and Readers

Books to Purchase

*Let me pass on to you a new resource that is vital for answering many questions that come from those who adhere to radical Calvinism or to some of the teaching of John Piper. The book is a dissertation that I supervised at Phoenix Seminary and later published. It is called *Back to Faith: Reclaiming the Gospel Clarity in an Age of Incongruence* by Dr. Fred Lybrand. It is an attempt to respond to the cliché, ‘We are saved by faith alone, but the faith is not alone.’ This book evaluates the cliché and both the logic and theology behind it. I think you will find it to be very pastor friendly and people helpful. I know that many of you have people who listen to and who are blessed by many things Dr. John Piper says. However, we also know that many people are confused or corrupted by some of the things he says. I think you will find this book a real help for your ministry. To order it you can email me or go through Amazon.

* I hope you are aware of the issue regarding the Cross-less Gospel that is being articulated by many who are in the grace theology movement, especially the leadership of the Grace Evangelical Society. I feel that this is a dangerous error and one that needs to be addressed. I have written on this many times, but a new book has come out that is the best source to understand and refute this error. *The Gospel of the Christ: A Biblical Response to the Crossless Gospel Regarding the Contents of Saving Faith* by Tom Stegall. This is a book you need to read. It is long and costly, but I exhort you to read it for the sake of the church and the Lord Jesus. You must be up on this issue.

*Finally, let me tell you of another resource. It is a booklet that I wrote called *The Glorious Grace of God: Understanding Free Grace theology*. It is a 35 page booklet that is written for laypeople (Only two footnotes and no Greek!) It is a simple way to get the basics out on the table in a non-offensive way to further discussion. It is an inexpensive tool with valuable content. To order the booklet, email me. Check out more details on www.GraceLine.net.

Websites to View

- www.GraceLine.net
- www.FreeGraceAlliance.org

Each of these websites contains information and resources that may be of use to you.

Spiritual Formation Seminar

I have taught and written about Spiritual Formation or Soul Care for many years for the seminary and the local Church. I have put together a seminar on Spiritual Formation designed for the local church. If you think this would be helpful for your people I would welcome the opportunity to come and do the seminar. It is called: "*Right Now Counts Forever.*" I can do it on a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon. It can be 3-5 hours depending on your needs. It can be longer, but I find less is more. Please let me know if you would like to talk about this spiritual life training.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for me as I am working on a book that will help people understand a biblical view of Spiritual Formation.
- Please pray that the Lord will give me favor with many of the students at Phoenix Seminary and that He would miraculously provide me with the opportunity to speak with some of the faculty.

I hope the *Metaxoi Memorandum* is helpful to you. If you have any feedback in terms of other ideas for topics and issues to cover I would welcome it. Click on GraceLineMinistry@cox.net to send me your feedback. I hope to send a *Metaxoi Memorandum* out each quarter.

May the Lord lead and protect your walk with Him and lead you into a more rich and robust life of faith.

Serving Him with you
Until He comes for us,

Fred Chay
President, Grace Line

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Right Now Counts Forever...