

Grace Denied and Supplied by John Piper

Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)

The need for inner strength arises not just from the depletions of everyday stress, but from the suffering and afflictions that come from time to time. And they do come.

Suffering is inevitably added to heart-weariness on the way to heaven. When it comes, the heart may waver and the narrow way that leads to life may look impossibly hard. It's hard enough to have a narrow road and steep hills that test the old jalopy's strength to the limit. But what shall we do when the car breaks down?

Paul cried out three times with this question because of some affliction in his life. He asked for relief from his thorn in the flesh. But God's grace did not come in the form he asked. It came in another form. Christ answered, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Here we see grace given in the form of Christ's sustaining power in unrelieved affliction — one grace given, we could say, within the circle of another grace denied. And Paul responded with faith in the sufficiency of this future grace: "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

God often blesses us with a "grace given" in

the circle of "grace denied."

For example, on a beastly hot day in July, the water pump on our car stopped working, and twenty miles from any town we were stranded on the interstate in Tennessee.

I had prayed that morning that the car would work well and that we would come to our destination safely. Now the car had died. The grace of trouble-free travel had been denied. No one was stopping as we stood around our car. Then my son Abraham (about eleven at the time) said, "Daddy, we should pray." So we bowed behind the car and asked God for some future grace — a help in time of need. When we looked up, a pickup truck had pulled over.

The driver was a mechanic who worked about twenty miles away. He said he would be willing to go get the parts and come back and fix the car. I rode with him to town and was able to share the gospel with him. We were on our way in about five hours.

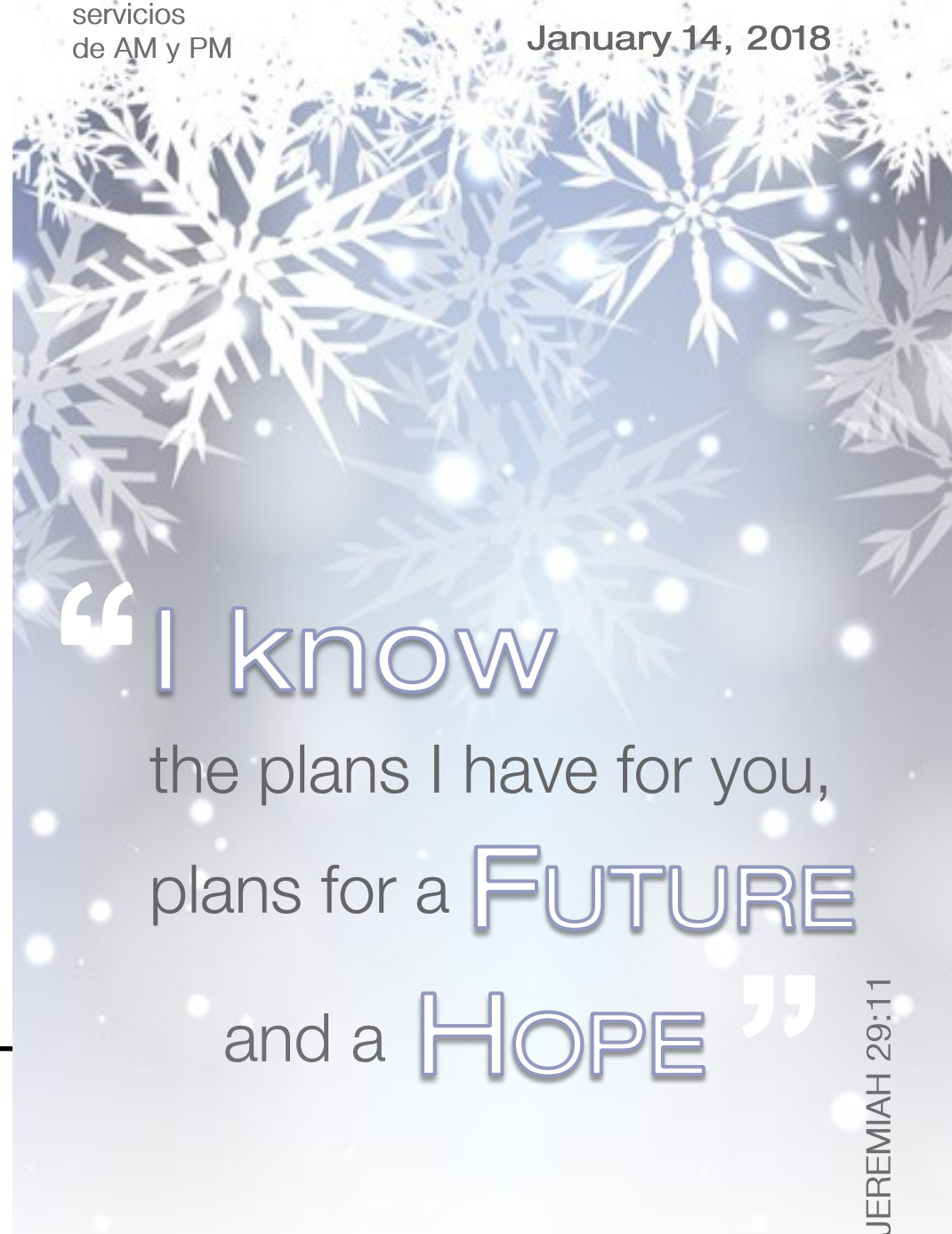
Now the remarkable thing about that answer to our prayer is that it came inside the circle of a prayer denied. We asked for a trouble-free trip. God gave us trouble. But in the midst of a grace denied, we got a grace supplied. And I am learning to trust God's wisdom in giving the grace that is best for me and for unbelieving mechanics and for the watching faith of eleven-year-old boys.

Traducción
simultanea
al español
disponible en
servicios
de AM y PM



GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

January 14, 2018



“I know
the plans I have for you,
plans for a **FUTURE**
and a **HOPE**”

JEREMIAH 29:11

Events

Today
Communion-Evening Service

1/17 Youth Prayer 7:15 PM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm
919-563-9249 www.grbc.net

Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Michael Lopes

Opening Hymn

Agnus Dei

1. Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia.

(Chorus) Holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

You are holy, holy are you Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen

2. Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia.

(Chorus)

You are holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:24-44, page 834

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

There is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

(Chorus) Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son,

And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain. **(Chorus)**

When I stand in Glory, I will see His face,

There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. **(Chorus 2x)**

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Preparatory

#580 It is Well

Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Stu Johnston

Opening Hymn

Here I am to Worship

Light of the world

You stepped down into darkness

Opened my eyes let me see

Beauty that made this heart adore You

Hope of a life spent with You

(Chorus) Here I am to worship

Here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely

Altogether worthy

Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days

Oh so highly exalted

Glorious in heaven above

Humbly You came to the earth You created

All for love's sake became poor

(Chorus)

I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross (repeat)

(Chorus)

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Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55, page 615

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory/Preparatory

Sermon

Communion

#139 Jesus, I am Resting

Pastor Andy Dunkerton

Pastor Charles Fortner

#431 Just as I am

#356 Not Worthy Lord

Be Unto Your Name

We are a moment, You are forever, Lord of the ages, God before time;

We are a vapor, You are eternal, Love everlasting, reigning on high.

(Chorus) Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,

worthy is the Lamb who was slain;

Highest praises, honor and glory -

be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer, Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save;

You are the love song we'll sing forever, bowing before You, blessing Your name.

(Chorus)

(Key change) (Chorus)

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