

I remember emailing Zane and telling him that I’m getting a bit tired and that I feel like sitting out a few plays, to use an athletic metaphor, for the time being, though I don’t actually plan on doing that. (It turns out I had [and still have] a kidney infection, so that heightened my fatigue.) He emailed me back and urged me to keep fighting the good fight and pointed me to Luke 6:26: “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.” Thanks, Zane. I needed that.

## Prayer Requests

Please pray for the speakers and attendees for the Seattle and Charlotte regionals, for the editing and completion of our NT Commentary project, for the GES staff, Jeremy, Kyle, Ross, and Bob, for the GES Board (Troy, Brad, J.B., Jeff, and Bob), for Free Grace churches, for our newsletters, journals, and book publishing, for Bob to get over the problem with his kidneys (hematuria), and for our website.



Jeremy, Brad, Jeff, Troy, Bob, and Kyle

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. We are committed to proclaiming the grace message far and wide as best we can. Your partnership makes it possible. Thanks so much.

## Notes and Letters

### Liked the July-August Grace in Focus Newsletter

I enjoyed reading every article in *Grace in Focus*, July/August. Thanks for pointing out so clearly that Jesus “called for people to believe in Him, the Son of God, in order to have everlasting life.”

I read “We Must Through Many Tribulations Enter the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22),” with great interest. I like the way you always tell to whom particular statements are addressed, as you did in this article: “Paul is exhorting the new believers in Galatia to continue in the faith in spite of coming tribulations.”

~Bill, email

### Had a Great Time at Southern California Regional

I had a great time at the conference! I trust everybody else did as well.

~FC, Email

### Thanks for Stepping Up to the Plate

Just a quick note to say thanks for stepping up to the plate in defending us against the charge of the “crossless gospel” folks. I am a little surprised Pastor Rosker didn’t take you up on it, especially with your willingness to go to Duluth. Your actions are an encouragement and you are greatly appreciated.

~WM, email

# Partners in Grace

September 2007

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## Southern California Regional GES Conference San Juan Capistrano, CA August 24-25

The messages and fellowship were excellent. My message, “The Gospel Means Good News,” was well received. In it I showed that the terms gospel, evangelist, and evangelism refer most of the time in the NT to good news about Jesus Christ that is broader than what a person must do to do be born again. I argued that there isn’t a single place where *gospel* refers only to the saving message.

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Spike, Bob, Steve, and Brad

## Standing Firm on the Saving Message of the Lord

We posted a notice on our website about my challenge to one of our critics, Pastor Dennis Rokser, to debate me at his church and our National Conference. He turned me down. We then gave people an opportunity to comment.

As I write (Thursday, August 30th) we’ve had 171 replies to my blog in one week. This controversy, while it tears me up inside, is probably good for GES and for the cause of Christ. It is getting a lot of people to be aware of the issues.

One thing quite noticeable in the posts is that people who criticize us are often quite insensitive and even rude in their posts. In my opinion they are hurting their own position since their venom is not attractive.

The Lord and His Word are under attack here. I note that those who disagree do not argue from the Scriptures, but from their logic or from their tradition.

Here are a few of the responses to my post:

“Anyone who has read Zane Hodges’ series ‘How to Lead a Man to Christ’ in JOTGES would not conclude that he or GES is proclaiming a ‘crossless gospel.’”

“Those who are attacking GES for teaching a ‘crossless gospel’ are actually attacking the Bible.”

“You say, you do not preach a ‘guttled,’ or ‘crossless’ gospel, but when you make statements that say a person does not have to understand or know about the cross to be saved, it comes across as being ‘crossless.’”

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## Fiscal Year-End Financial Report

August Budget	\$32,100	YTD Budget	\$62,686*
August Revenue	\$19,702 <-\$11,266>	YTD Revenue	\$50,670 <-\$12,016>

\*Our fiscal year runs from July-June



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The gospel is a full orb concept that includes Jesus’ return and His establishment of a glorious righteous sin-free kingdom. The Bema is even part of the good news message.



*Bob with Frank and His Tract Display*

Dr. John Niemelä gave a great message on the Upper Room Discourse. He showed that it is evangelistic even though only believers were present when the Lord spoke this discourse. While many people point to the Upper Room Discourse as proof that John’s Gospel is not solely evangelistic in nature, Niemelä showed that argument isn’t valid.

Pastor Neil Anderson gave a super message on 2 Cor 13:5. He showed that the issue there is not



*Antonio da Rosa, his son, Jacob, and Carlos at the SoCal Regional Conference*

assurance of eternal life, but assurance that the Corinthian believers were doing well in their Christian lives. He did extensive study and it showed.

Pastor Tim Nichols and Evangelist Frank Tyler gave



*The Men Who Spoke at the SoCal Regional Conference*

super messages as well. Unfortunately the taping system failed in Frank’s talk. But Tim’s is on the MP3, which contains all the messages, including the workshops, for just \$5 (which includes S&H).

There were six outstanding workshops by Campos, Cortez, da Rosa, Nichols, and Niemelä (2). You can see their titles on the website under “Regional Conferences.”

Attendance was down this year, so we are considering moving the conference to sometime other than summer for next year.

Commentary Needs Support

Jeremy and I are working hard on the project. We estimate that it should be completed and ready to go to press next summer. Please pray for us as there are so many other things we do it is hard to just do commentary, but that is what we need to do to finish it.

We currently have \$27,000 in savings for the project from gifts given in the past. It will cost approximately \$25,000 for half of the author’s fees (due at printing—the other half will be paid every six months based on commentary sales) and \$25,000 for the first printing of the commentary. Thus it would be very helpful if we had another \$23,000 or so by the time we print. If not, we will need to borrow money from the general fund to pay for the printing (which is fine, but it will draw down our reserves, something we’d prefer not to have to do).

All gifts to the commentary project are dedicated for that use. If you have some extra funds and would like to help with the printing costs, please put “commentary” on the memo line of your check. If you’d like to split a gift, put “general fund, \$X, commentary, \$Y” on the memo line.



*The Matriarch of the Wilkin Family, Bob’s Sister, Pam, and Bob during a family visit in Southern California*

Victor Street Bible Chapel

August 4

Check it out online at our website where you can hear the message. While I wasn’t preaching the passage specifically about the spiritual condition of Simon Magus, I did cover that in the sermon. I think you will enjoy it.

During the Lord’s Supper meeting I spoke on the glory of the Lord Jesus as evidenced at the Mount of Transfiguration and Mount Sinai (and even in the incident of the woman caught in adultery, John 8:1-11). While that message was not taped, I’ll be happy to send you an email copy of the text of the message. Just email me at bob@faithalone.org and I’ll attach the message.



Standing Firm continued from pg. 1

“Each sign recorded in the book of John was for the purpose of showing that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah (the giver of eternal life). One does not have to wait to get to the eighth sign which is the cross and resurrection... Any one of the signs was enough to show that this Jesus is the giver of eternal life to the one who believes in Him for it.”

“I am appalled at the basic ignorance of the doctrine, found in Soteriology 101 that seems to abound... The Gospel is the Good News of the finished work of Christ done in Calvary and in His open tomb, and not what must I do to be saved.”

“You did not give a direct answer to a simple, direct question. You danced all over and around it, but you did not answer the question. Thanks anyway.”

“Bob Wilkin is a heretic... Wilkin is a big talker full of a lot of hot air and deceit.”

“Your criticism is of a tone that is simply unChristian.”

“I think your dad should have tanned your hide more frequently.”

“Please take the blog off your website. It’s getting embarrassing.”

We will take this discussion off in a few days. Please continue to pray for us.

I plan to respond to the various charges over time in our newsletter, journal, and conferences.



*The July 30th Board Meeting*

Your Dollars Matter

Lately GES and I (and Zane Hodges, John Niemelä, René Lopez, and Jeremy Myers) have been under a fair amount of attack from people both from within and outside the Free Grace movement.

While this has been painful, it is ironic that a GIF reader had asked me to explain Acts 14:22, dealing with persecution, and I wrote a *Grace in Focus* article about it (see page 4 under notes and letters) just before a new wave of attacks came.

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