

Madison Heights Christian Church 
(Disciples of Christ)
149 Main Street
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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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A Wonderful Blessing

We received a wonderful blessing from Jesus Christ when he redeemed us from the curse of the law. Obedience to the law was observed by the people in order to keep from being punished. However, grace has a magnetic appeal because it is based on love. An example that I often use is the relationship between children and their parents. The children that respect and appreciate their parents are obedient out of love and appreciation. God, out of love, changed everything when God exchanged law for grace. God's law is a law of love and it is a blessing that we have received. Jewish identity was based on law and they had a hard time sacrificing their heritage and identity. Through Christ Jesus we have a new covenant. The old covenant law was repeatedly broken by the nation of Israel. The new covenant was given to us by Jesus Christ himself. As prophesied by Jeremiah this new covenant will not be broken.

Recently I read a story that I thought had an interesting lesson. It was about high school student that was a good athlete. He was even voted the most valuable player. However, one evening he just could not get his mind into the game because his girlfriend had recently broken up with him and during the game she sat on the front row with her new boyfriend. Needless to say his performance was terrible. The key points that the author of the story made is that the devil uses our weaknesses to undermine us and every Christian must admit some kind of defeat. When your concern is what others will think of you then you are committed to the expectations of others. The advice given is to live by God's expectations, not the expectations of others. Getting rid of unreasonable demands takes off a lot of pressure. So, admit that you took your eyes off of Jesus. That last sentence is the one that stuck with me. Admit that you took your eyes off of Jesus.

We have received God's blessing. God redeems us and saves us. We deserve punishment for disobedience but what we get instead is love and grace. To free us from something that we rightly deserve is a really great thing. It is a wonderful blessing. Christ set us free. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. We don't earn God's love by following rules and we don't receive the Holy Spirit by observing the law. What God deserves is our love, respect, honor, appreciation, and devotion. Christians live by faith. We are called to express our love and appreciation for God's blessing that is freely given to us. I hope you respond to the blessing by showing God your love and giving back to God according to how we have been blessed.

Thank you,

George