

Grace *Today*

John MacArthur

Pastor-Teacher

August 24, 2025

Vol. 30, No. 34

Bill Brandenstein

Minister of Music

Featured
On Finishing Well



Today at Grace

9 and 11 am

Worship Services
Fellowship Groups
Grace Kids
Spanish Ministries

After Morning Services

Welcome Center
Member Center
Grace Books
Scholar's Desk
Steeple House Coffee

On the Patio

- Alzheimer's-Dementia Ministry
- Fundamentals of the Faith
- Hope Bible Study
- Local Outreach
- Men of the Word
- Missionary in Training

1 pm

Neighborhood Outreach
(Tower Basement)

5 pm

Prayer Meeting (H114)

6 pm

Evening Service
Adventure Club

See back for building locations.

During the 11 am service, interpreting in ASL is available in the Worship Center. Foreign language live-streams for the 11 am and 6 pm services are available at gracechurch.org/live.

Morning Worship Service — 9 and 11 am

Fugue in G Major

Stephen Sturz, Organist • Bach

Call to Worship

Hymn 206 *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners*

Congregation

The Mark of a Man of God

John Martin • Camp/Rice

Scripture Reading & Prayer

How Great Thou Art

Worship Choir • Hine/Forrest

Announcements & Offering

It Is Well

Philip Webb • Bliss/Krogstad

Hymn 91 *The Love of God*

Congregation

MESSAGE

What Christ Thinks; What Christ Wants

Sinclair Ferguson • John 17:20–26

Gloria

Organ Postlude • Dupré

Evening Worship Service — 6 pm

Prelude

Songs of Praise

Riley Seid

Announcements & Offering

MESSAGE

We Rejoice in the Hope of the Glory of God

John Piper • Romans 5:1–2

Postlude

The Mark of a Man of God

A godly man is such a rarity today,
 So many start, strong and true, and quickly fall away.
 A godly man will take his stand—he can't be
 bought or sold.
 Hand to the plow, he won't look back—though other
 hearts turn cold.
 He keeps the faith and keeps his conscience clear.
 He lives this life of grace through all these years.
 For my soul, it longeth, yea, fainteth
 For the courts of the Lord.

*The mark of a man of God is what he's faithful to,
 And what he's fleeing from, and what he's fighting for.
 The heart of a man of God is what he daily pursues.
 His family, friends, the Word, the church,
 and worship of the Lord.*

*The godly man daily takes up the cross of Christ and
 faithfully follows Him as a living sacrifice.*

Not ashamed of the gospel, his sufficiency's in Christ.
 The power of integrity is the passion of his life.
 Instead of reckless faith, he has proved
 that his faith works.

The ultimate priority, the Master's plan for the church.
 He's saved without a doubt because his first
 love is the Lord.

And the gospel according to Jesus is the truth
 he would die for.

He lives his life to teach the Word, in season and in not.
 For he fears more than any man, the approval of his God.
 He lovingly, yet firmly leads those placed within his care.
 And the power of his ministry is that he is
 a man of prayer.

*The godly man takes a young Timothy like me and
 teaches me to run the race,
 To carry on this life of grace.
 He sets the mark, and we keep the pace with
 this man of God.*

By Steven J. Camp, © Copyright Steve Camp Ministries.

TODAY

Welcome New TMU Students

This morning, we are honored to welcome
 The Master's University's incoming class of 2025,
 comprised of over 400 new students from all
 around the world.

Providence

by John Piper

A stunning tour of God's providence—
 from Genesis to Revelation—to
 discover the all-encompassing reality
 of God's purposeful sovereignty over
 all of creation and all of history.

"This is John Piper's magnum opus."
 —John MacArthur

Available today
 for **50% off** retail at
 Grace Books and
 the Scholar's Desk.



GRACE KIDS

Sunday School

9 and 11 am

God Blesses Israel through Balaam
 Numbers 22–24

Main Idea: God is merciful and faithful.

Application: Remember that God's
 blessing is unchangeable.

Featured Hymn: *Come, Thou Fount of
 Every Blessing* (Hymn 104)

Review: What did God allow Balaam to
 do to Israel?

Next Week: Promotion Sunday

Adventure Club

6 pm

Summer with the Savior:
A Study of the Gospel of Luke
 Lesson 9: Triumphal Entry
 Memory Verse: Luke 19:38

For Sunday School and
 Adventure Club room locations,
 visit Children's Check-In.
gracechurch.org/gracekids

ON FINISHING WELL

S ometime before I entered my eighties, I began to realize that I am now in the final chapter of my life and ministry. I want to finish well. I have been thinking much about what that means and why it is so important. Scripture and church history are full of tragic examples of men who showed great promise but didn't finish well.

Demas was a fellow laborer with the apostle Paul. He is mentioned in the penultimate verse in Philemon and in Colossians 4:14. He served in an important, strategic, and distinguished role. But in Paul's final inspired epistle, the apostle mentions Demas in a different light: "Demas, having loved this present age, has deserted me" (2 Tim. 4:10). Under the threat of persecution and the daily pressure of caring for all the churches (cf. 2 Cor. 11:28), Demas abandoned his calling.

There is a very real danger that someone who has lived and served Christ faithfully for most of his life might grow lazy, careless, fatigued, or lukewarm in the faith—and thus stumble to the finish. We all know of gifted servants of Christ who have fallen into shocking and disqualifying sins, discrediting their testimonies, dishonoring Christ, and destroying their ability to finish well.

And here is one reason this is such a problem: living the Christian life faithfully is no more trouble-free the older we get. Sanctification doesn't come any more easily with advanced age. The number and intensity of the fiery darts the powers of evil aim at us does not diminish. The obstacles we face don't get easier to overcome. Furthermore, Scripture warns us, "Let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).



The apostle Paul, steadfast as he was, was keenly aware of the dangers of falling. He wrote, “Run in such a way that you may win” (1 Cor. 9:24). “I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified” (vv. 26–27).

I want to follow Paul’s example. I want every Christian to aim for that incorruptible crown, to run to win, and to finish well. At the end of our lives, we want to be able to say what Paul said to his son in the faith in 2 Timothy 4:7–8: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day.”

Those were practically the apostle’s last recorded words. He closed the epistle with some personal remarks, but this was his final statement of triumph: “I have kept the faith.” Paul had reached the end of his earthly life, and it was an eternally triumphant conclusion. He was standing on the summit of loyalty to his Lord, and he was bloody but unbowed. There is no higher kind of triumph for any Christian.

My prayer for you, dear reader, is that you too will fight the good fight triumphantly—that you will one day finish the course victoriously, and that you will keep the faith with unwavering devotion.

An excerpt from *On Finishing Well: The apostle Paul’s strategy for a God-blessed ministry and lifelong devotion to Christ* by John MacArthur (Grace to You, 2025), 1–2, 4–7.



The Dormi Family

Sixto & Jessica, Sebastian, Nathan, Nicholas

Serving in Ecuador since 2015

Pray for the church and for the Lord's cleansing and spiritual growth. Pray also for our training center, LAPEX, and for strength and endurance for the faculty as they strive to meet the students' needs, and for perseverance and growth among the students.

| gracechurch.org/guayaquil

Faith Promise

Last week you generously gave **\$8,920**. Thank you for your ongoing support of our missionaries.

| gracechurch.org/fp

CONGREGATIONAL CARE SPOTLIGHT

Alzheimer's-Dementia Ministry

Families touched by dementia are invited to meet monthly for spiritual encouragement, helpful shepherding, and warm fellowship. Loved ones with dementia are welcome, and we offer activities and care for these family members during a portion of our meeting.

Saturday, August 30, 9 am, CC230
Info: Pastor Rick McLean,
818-909-5519

Upcoming at Grace

8/28 Elders Meeting
8/31 Right Hand of Fellowship

gracechurch.org/calendar

HIGHLIGHTS

Elders Meeting

Join our elders for a time of reflection on the ministry of Pastor John. Open to our church family.

| Thursday, August 28, 7-8:30 pm, Family Center

Short-Term Ministries Highlight

Team Madagascar

Pray for our Madagascar team, which departs for the field this Saturday, August 30, and returns September 8. Team Madagascar will serve at a teenagers' camp for students age thirteen to seventeen and a young adults' camp for attendees aged eighteen to twenty-five.

Team Members: Abby Laguna, Hannah Dick, Hope Glenn, James Campos, Jedidiah & Anne Johnson, Stephanus Tedja, Timothy Chan

| For more information or to support a team, visit gracechurch.org/stm.

Grace to You

Radio: *Myths About Salvation*

KKLA 99.5FM LA / M-F 6:30 am & 7:30 pm
KDAR 98.3FM Oxnard-Ventura / M-F 2 & 10 am; Sun 2 am
KABC 790AM LA / Sat 7:30 am

TV: "The Promise of Peace in a Worried World"

NRBTV Ch. 378 on DirecTV / Sun 6:30 pm

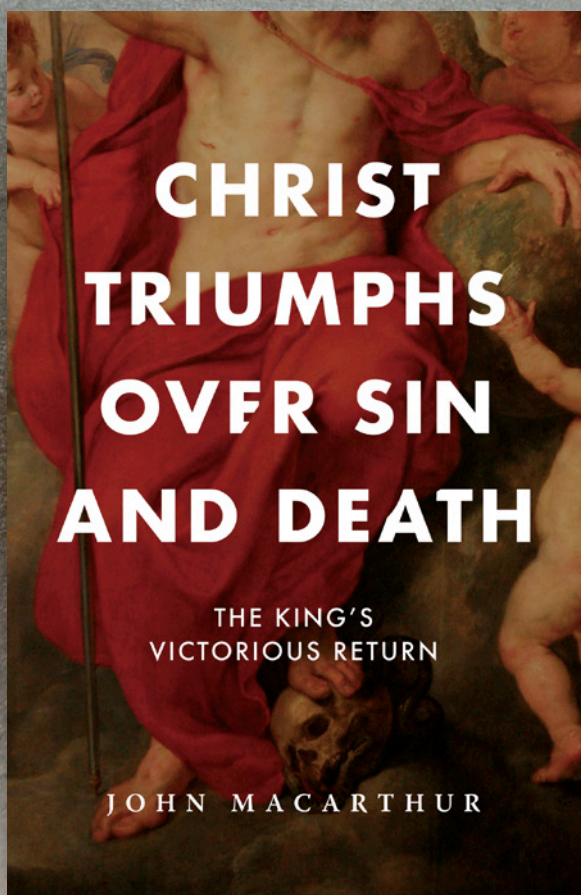
| gtv.org

With the Lord

Francine Davis is now in the presence of the Lord. We will have a memorial service in her honor on Saturday, September 6, at 1 pm in the Worship Center. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones (Psalm 116:15).

Equipping Believers
with Transforming Truth.



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Sunday Ministries

For a complete list of Sunday and midweek ministries, including those for men, women, and specific age groups, visit gracechurch.org/ministries.



9 am

- Anchored T360**
Pastor: Carl Hargrove
- Cornerstone T370**
Pastors: Nathan Busenitz, Mark Tatlock, Mark Zhakevich
- GraceLife Family Center**
Pastors: Phil Johnson, Mike Riccardi
- Steadfast T270**
Pastors: Brian Biedebach, Brian Milam
- Xchange (Middle School) T70 (Tower Basement)**
Pastor: Jay Lennington

11 am

- 180 (High School) T70 (Tower Basement)**
Pastor: Isaías Muñoz
- Commissioned T270**
Pastors: Rodney Andersen, Brad Klassen
- Crossroads (College & Young Adults) Family Center**
- Joint Heirs T360**
Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street
- Sojourners T370**
Pastors: Abner Chou, Joe Zhakevich

9 and 11 am

- Grace Kids**
For room locations, visit Children's Check-in.
Pastor: Jay Lennington
- Developmentally Disabled CC130E**
Pastor: Rick McLean
- Spanish Adult Sunday School T260**
Pastor: Josiah Grauman
- Spanish Worship Services Chapel**
Pastors: Josiah Grauman, Rubén Pidal, Tom Rios

Campus Map

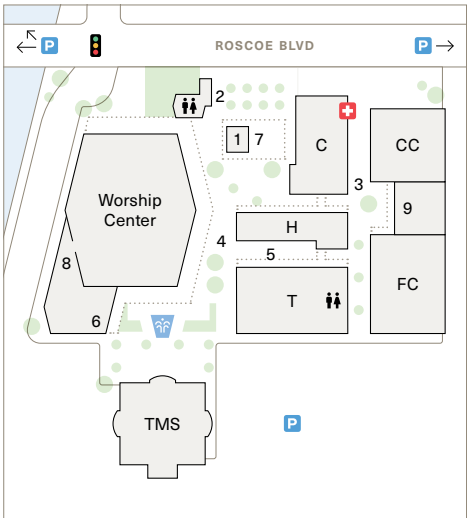
13248 Roscoe Blvd
Sun Valley, CA 91352
818-909-5500
gracechurch.org

Public Wi-Fi:
Grace Church Wi-Fi
Password:
Proverbs3:5-6

Please note that today's worship services are being livestreamed and recorded. In addition, your likeness may be recorded or photographed while on campus. Your presence on campus constitutes your permission to Grace Community Church to use images or video of your likeness.

Legend

- T Tower
- H Heritage
- CC Children's Center
- FC Family Center
- C Chapel
- 1 Welcome Center
- 2 Member Center
- 3 Children's Check-In
- 4 Patio
- 5 GraceWalk & Steeple House Coffee
- 6 Grace Books
- 7 Scholar's Desk
- 8 Prayer Room
- 9 Well-Baby Cry Room
- PM Location:
Welcome Center (1)



To glorify God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of the lost and edification of the church.

Family of Ministries

- Grace to You**
gtty.org
- The Master's Seminary**
tms.edu
- The Master's University**
masters.edu
- The Master's Academy International**
tmai.org
- John MacArthur Trust**
jmacarthurtrust.org

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