



November 2023

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

**T**eddy, only eight years old, was dying in the hospital of a rare blood disease. He was admitted two weeks before in critical condition, and his health had steadily gone downhill since then. One or both of his parents had been at his bedside for these two weeks, and then yesterday his doctors told them it seemed like Teddy's condition had stabilized and he might have 4-6 weeks to live.

Teddy's mother and father felt they could both go home for a day and take care of some pressing matters, and then return the next day. But during the day when his parents were gone, Teddy's health alarmingly deteriorated, going from bad to worse. He was moved from his room to intensive care and his parents rushed back to the hospital.

They had not talked with Teddy about death—it was too painful and they held out hopes he would not die. It was now late at night, and the mother and father tearfully realized their son might not make it through the night. The chaplain in the small hospital had gone home. Very few staff members were on duty during what was called, tragically in Teddy's situation, the graveyard shift.

The on-duty doctor knew of one nurse, near retirement, who was working and, knowing her to be a woman of faith, called her. "Teddy's parents are wondering if you could join them and talk with Teddy, and assure him God loves him." This lady, a mother and a grandmother, was not Teddy's nurse, but all the staff in the hospital knew about Teddy. This nurse silently prayed and then walked into intensive care to join Teddy and his parents who had just arrived.

She sat down next to him on his bed and took his hands in her own. Teddy's eyes were closed. He was laboring to breathe, even with the help of a ventilator. "Teddy, listen to me. God loves you. You may be leaving this hospital soon, and if you do you will go to live with God in his house. You need to know that you will be with him and he will love you forever and ever."

Teddy's eyes slowly opened, and his grasp on the nurse's hands tightened. "Tell me again," he said. After she again assured Teddy of God's love, he looked up and in a barely audible whisper said, "Tell God thank you. I love him too."

It doesn't matter whether we are eight years old, or 78, 88, 98 or more, we thank God for his love. **We thank God for the riches of his grace.**

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no man can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:4-10, my emphasis).*

Here are some highlights of this extraordinary biblical passage:

- His GREAT LOVE for us
- He is RICH IN MERCY
- We are saved BY GRACE
- God's KINDNESS IS EXPRESSED in Christ Jesus
- Our salvation is NOT from us, NOT by works
- Our salvation is THE GIFT OF GOD
- We are created, a new creation, in Christ, to do GOD'S GOOD WORKS

When we as Christ-followers ponder the wonderful depths of God's love, mercy, grace and forgiveness, we do so in utter amazement about what Paul calls "*the riches of his grace.*"

Life in Christ is love. Life in Christ is grace. Life in Christ is mercy and forgiveness. Life in Christ is giving, the generosity that flows out of the grace and love of God.

Here we are, at THANKS-GIVING...and as I have noted before in Thanksgiving letters, that one word is made up of two separate words. With that perspective we can learn and appreciate so much about **the riches of God's grace.**

Some time ago I was reading essays about being thankful, many of them titled or employing the phrase "*what matters when all is said and done.*" After reading them I wrote my own reflection for Thanksgiving, [an essay about what matters in the end.](#) My essay is adapted from many other similar ones, and I call it ...

### What Matters, In the End

*Someday our eyes will see no more sunrises or sunsets*

*Someday music and delicious food will not be as important*

*Someday our days of wine and roses, and our days of heartache and grief will end*

*Our life will end—all that we collected and accumulated will pass to others*

*What we owned or what others owed us will not matter*

*In the end, degrees we earned, the size of our house or our bank account will not matter*

*It will not matter whether we were male or female, beautiful or brilliant*

*It will not matter if we were black, white, yellow or brown*

*In the end political parties, nationality and religious distinctions will not matter*

*In the end all that will matter is the love and grace of God*

*God's love and grace will endure and remain, forever*

*God's love and grace is all that matters, in the end.*

Here we are at THANKS-GIVING.

The two actions of giving thanks and thanks-giving go together, hand in glove. *Thanks* breeds giving and *giving* gives birth to gratitude.

**We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.** God's grace is love, and out of his grace and love, as Jesus lives in us, we give. There is no divine grace without giving. There is no divine love without giving.

Grace is poured out when we give. The doors to love and mercy are opened wide by the riches of God's grace. *Giving is therefore one of the supreme hallmarks of following Christ—it is in service to others that we realize what really does matter in life.* It is in love for others that we realize how God loves us, now and forever.

It is in and through THANKS-GIVING that the rivers of God's amazing, never-ending grace flow. **God gives—God gives and gives and gives.** Giving is his nature, and through his love and mercy and grace we drink deeply of what it means to give and be generous.

With deep thanks-giving please accept the gratitude of all whom CWR/PTM is blessed to serve. THANK YOU for helping, serving and supporting our ongoing, collective work to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and proclaim the love, grace, mercy and forgiveness of God—who is rich in grace!

As Teddy neared the end of his eight years of life on planet earth, he whispered, "Tell God thank you. I love him too." As you and I give thanks—as we celebrate THANKS-GIVING—as we are grateful for **the riches of God's grace**, may we also say "Thank you God. We love you too."

Thankful with you and for you, in Christ's service,

Your brother in Christ,



Greg Albrecht

President, Plain Truth Ministries

**PS.** We share these two notes from friends who are thankful for the ministry of CWR/PTM, which you help to provide through your prayers and generous offerings.

*I hope to never take for granted how much this ministry has meant to me over the years, and how meaningful the messages are from all those who contribute their time to present such grace-filled and loving truth to each reader. Thank you for the nourishing spiritual banquet we receive each month.—Arizona*

*My husband and I truly appreciate this ministry so much. Just to know the grace of Jesus—well there are no words to describe it.—Texas*

## CWR/PTM Prayer List—November 2023

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

*Please pray for my wife who has “long Covid” symptoms. She’s not able to sit up very long.—California*

*Please pray for my friend—she is struggling with pain in her hips to the point that she can’t walk.—Maine*

*Please pray that CWR/PTM materials will continue to be approved by the Dept. of Criminal Justice so inmates like myself can continue to receive them. Please also pray for our protection from physical and spiritual dangers.—Texas*

*Please continue to pray for our family pasture and livestock; they need moisture. Thank you for your continued prayers for my spiritual, physical, emotional and cognitive health.—Arizona*

*Please pray for relief from the pain in my right arm and leg. May God bless everyone at CWR/PTM.—West Virginia*

*Please pray for all of us who are elderly and on fixed incomes. The cost of living and inflation have really caused a severe hardship and burden. Thanks to everyone at CWR/PTM for all the encouraging materials.—Tennessee*

*Please pray for my cousin who is struggling with cancer of the blood. She’s now in hospice care.—North Carolina*

*Please pray for my daughter who had a stroke, that she will make a full recovery.—Missouri*

*Please pray for my dad who broke his hip, requiring surgery.—Wisconsin*

*Please pray for recovery from anemia. My red blood cell and hemoglobin counts are low.—Maryland*

*I pray for each and every one of you involved with PTM and thank you for all you do.—Ontario, Canada*

*Please pray for my wife’s ongoing health issues, and for my sister who suffers with pain and feels abandoned.—Florida*

*Please pray for all those who are lost, lonely and feel that they have no help. Pray God will help them and heal their mental and emotional problems.—Tennessee*

*I appreciate your prayers. I miss my son who passed away, but I’m so happy he is not suffering anymore.—Georgia*

*I pray that the gospel will continue to be proclaimed with ever-increasing strength, power and clarity and that God’s kingdom will be established in his perfect way and time.—New York*

*Please pray for relief of pain in my back and left knee; it is bone rubbing on bone.—Minnesota*

*Please pray for me to be healed of leukemia, and pray for encouragement.—Indiana*

*Please pray for my son who is in the military and hoping for a career change for the better.—Florida*

*Please pray for our family to have unity, especially my son and his wife who are going through a divorce.—Texas*

*Please pray for me. I had an unexpected seizure while visiting a friend in another state. Tens of thousands of dollars in medical bills are due and my health insurance may not take care of it.—Wisconsin*

*Please pray for my daughter’s best friend that the results of her biopsy will be benign and please pray for my granddaughter to turn to God and be healed of her addiction. —Tennessee*

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.