

Prepare for an

AWAKENING

Based on the book by Stovall Weems

WEEK 6 :: APRIL 13, 2011

Ground Zero of Grace

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

—ROMANS 5:18, NIV

Early in my Christian life, I got mixed up with a group of people who set themselves apart from others in terms of the discipline of their lifestyle. The main “ministry” of these people seemed to be rebuking, judging, and preaching their version of holiness.

I thank God that He helped me escape from that kind of legalism. If I’d stayed with those folks, I might have maintained a record of superficial obedience, but I never would have been awakened to a love relationship with the Lord.

It’s not that holiness isn’t important. It is! What’s wrong with the legalistic approach is emphasizing our own works instead of the work of Christ. And that “work,” above all, was His willing sacrifice for us on the cross.

There’s a good reason that, every time we take Communion, we are forced to think of Calvary. There’s a good reason we observe Good Friday every year. The death of Christ, and the resurrection that followed, are the central acts in the drama that led to our salvation. We need to turn back to that time in remembrance again and again.

And as we do so, let us also remember that Christ’s was no ordinary death. It was a death in which the Son of God agreed to pay for the sins of all of us. Every man, woman, and child who trusts in Christ may now be forgiven and accepted by the heavenly Father. Good Friday indeed.

It is because of Christ’s death on the cross that we can live every day in an atmosphere of grace and not judgment.

To live by grace is to live solely by the merit of Jesus Christ. To live by grace is to base my entire relationship with God, including my acceptance and standing with Him, on my union with Christ. —JERRY BRIDGES

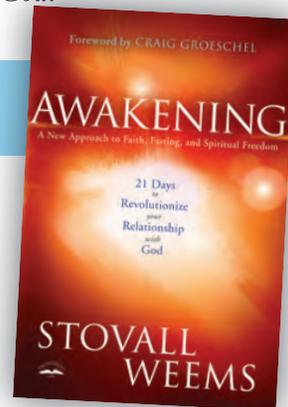
The ultimate test of our spirituality is the measure of our amazement at the grace of God.
—D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

Bible Reading Plan: Luke 23:26-56

Prayer Focus:

After reading the story of Christ’s death on Calvary, close your eyes and imagine that you are there. What are you feeling? What does it all mean to you? Tell Him.

Based on the book, *AWAKENING: A New Approach to Faith, Fasting, and Spiritual Freedom* by Stovall Weems



About the Author

Stovall Weems is the founder and lead pastor of Celebration Church in Jacksonville, Florida, a thriving, multi-site church with locations both regionally and internationally. In addition to being a pastor, teacher, and conference speaker, Stovall leads Awakening, a 21-day spiritual campaign of prayer, fasting, and personal devotion that takes place each January. Stovall and his wife, Kerri, have three children. Learn more at www.awake21.org.