

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

His life started with biblical teaching from his mother, but the challenges of his adult life left him vacillating between murdering those who harmed him or taking his own life. His life as a sailor in both the navy and slave trade brought him to his lowest point.

On the night of March 9, 1748, John, age 23, was jolted awake by a brutal storm that descended too suddenly for the crew to foresee. The next day, in great peril, he cried to the Lord. He later wrote, “Each year at this time, I remember what the Lord had done—the Lord came from on high and delivered me out of the deep waters.”

The next several years saw slow, halting spiritual growth in John Newton’s life. In the end, he became one of the most powerful evangelistic preachers in British history, a powerful foe of slavery, and the author of hundreds of hymns, including *Amazing Grace*.

The title wasn’t originally “*Amazing Grace*” but rather “*Faith’s Review and Expectation*.” It is based on Newton’s study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17; “King David ... said, ‘Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house that You have brought me this far? And yet ... You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high decree ...’”

And here’s a nearly forgotten verse that Newton added near the end of “*Amazing Grace*.” Try singing it for yourself:

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
But God, Who called me here below, shall be forever mine.*

Excerpt taken from Then Sings My Soul, by Robert Morgan

SERMON NOTES

I Can’t Say

May 23

Should and shouldn’t say:

- ◆ We as Christ-followers should say _____ but never _____.
- ◆ We as Christ-followers recognize God’s _____ so we should never say _____, _____...
- ◆ The Gospel message is this: _____ AND _____ to _____ of _____.

In my life?

- ◇
- ◇
- ◇

MAY 30, 2021

PHIL. 4:8

Next Week:

A MAN OF FAITH
MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

Mo Philippians 4:8

Monitor your thoughts this week. How long does worry come to your mind before you speak about the truth of God? Do you refute lies with what is right? Do you turn gross conversations to the admirable?

Tu 2 Corinthians 12:9

Take time today to list a few weaknesses in your life and character. Not how God has worked in and around you to turn certain situations into powerful statements for Christ.

We Ephesians 2:8-9

What are your top five accomplishments? Let this verse remind of the surpassing great gift of God's grace that is unmerited and undeserved.

Th Matthew 18:12-14

How is God's grace and love extravagant, reckless, and wild? Why does He leave the ninety-nine for just one? Take time to praise Him because you were that one.

Fr Romans 6:1-2

God's grace is abused when we (me and you) decide to continue in sin. Leave the finger pointing at you. Let God's Spirit convict you of neglected, continual sin.

Sa Hebrews 4:16

Satan uses our failures to make us think we are unworthy of the second round of grace in our faith journey. Let this verse remind you of God's great and continual love.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Philippians 4:8. What topics is Paul talking about?
- How do our thoughts lead us closer to God or away from God?
- Share one thought you recently had that was destructive?
- How would constant negative thoughts keep you from living the life God wants for you?
- How would constant Christ-centered thoughts lead you to live the life God wants for you?
- When worry and anxiety come into your mind, what are some verses or spiritual truths you can meditate on to draw you to your hope in Christ?
- In his book, *Getting Things Done*, David Allen teaches people are mentally worn out because of repetitive thoughts. Neglecting to schedule, file, or delete information causes burnout. The same could be said in our spiritual lives. Solomon says, "As a man thinketh, so is he." (Pro. 23:7). If we don't take scriptures into our spiritual battles, we will be worn out, constantly under the same attack. What verses can you prepare for moments of
 - Anxiety?
 - Financial Trouble?
 - Relationship challenges?
 - Health Issues?