

# October 2010 Newsletter



*"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us." Ephesians 1:7, 8*

This morning as I left home to come to work at church, I decided to pay attention to the level of water in the retention pond just across from the Fairgrounds on the east side of Peach Avenue. This pond was added to the landscape within the recent past to help address water run-off issues as they relate to the topography and the homes in that area. There was a day this past summer when the water was extremely high, looking as if it were reaching into the side yard of the home just to the north of it, and perhaps even into the yards of the homes to the east. This morning, the water level was high again, reaching just about the same levels as it had on that summer day not too long ago.

We know the importance of water in our lives. Yet, we also know that there are times when we receive too much water through the rains that come and the floods that sometimes accompany them. It is in those times that we seek to protect ourselves from the deluge. But there is a gift that we have from God that God lavishes on us, that can do us only good and no harm. In fact, this gift is what makes it possible for us to know and love God, and be blessed by him in wonderful ways including having a relationship with him in this world and the one that is to come. This gift is God's grace, a gift he has lavished upon us.

I like the word "lavish." Even so, we don't use that word much in our everyday conversation. Maybe we think it's a word that belongs to the rich and famous who have abundant worldly possessions. Maybe we think that anything done lavishly is done wastefully. Maybe we think that there is no way that we would deserve anything done lavishly for us, or even have the opportunity to experience lavishness of any kind. But the truth is that our God, who is awesome, has, is, and continues to lavish his grace upon us. With God there is no shortage of his mercy, forgiveness and love. You will never have the experience of going to God to receive these things and be sent home to reapply at another date. This is why the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord, is good news.

So with the writer of the letter to the Ephesians (see above Scripture) we also praise God saying: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world..."* Yes, blessed indeed is our God.

Peace in Christ,  
*Pastor Ruth*