

Call of Grace Ministries

Come unto Me . . . I will give you rest

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August 14, 2025

“. . . Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. . .”

Hebrews 3:15 (NKJV)

The event/conversation below is being shared with the family's permission.

As I walked into the hospital room, I introduced myself to the family members that were there. Then I turned to the bed where the patient lay. Bill. His sister, Geri, had called and told me that he was in the hospital. She asked me to talk with him after having first asked Bill if he would like to talk with me. Her concern? Was Bill saved or would he be condemned?

“Hey Bill. I’m Dennis Mohr. Do you remember me?”, I asked. (I had officiated his mother’s funeral twenty years ago.) Bill nodded affirmatively as he struggled for his next breath behind the oxygen mask. “Geri said you might like to talk”. Bill nodded again. I looked around the hospital room for a moment then I said, “Bill, did you know I met your mother when she was in the hospital”. Bill shook his head. “She was a sweet lady.”, I added, “I’m as confident as I can be that she’s with the Lord in heaven now.” Bill smiled. Then I said, “When your time comes, whether it’s tonight or a hundred years from now, will you be in heaven with your mom?” “Yes.”, Bill said. “Why do you believe that Bill?”, I asked. His countenance got a little tenser behind the oxygen mask and in as loud a voice as he could probably muster, Bill cried out, “Well, I’ve always tried to do right by people!”. There was no mention of Christ. “I’m glad that you have Bill. It’s a good thing to do. We should always do our best to treat people well. Can I share with you what the Bible says about the good things we do?” Bill nodded. I said, “God had one of His prophets (Isaiah) write this down a long time ago, so we would have it. God says that our works are like filthy rags.”. I continued, “Bill, what can you do with a filthy rag? You can’t clean a windshield with it. You can’t clean a table with it. Bill, you know that a filthy rag needs to be thrown out, either with the trash or into the fire.” I paused as he considered that for a moment. Then I said, “Bill, do you go to church anywhere?”. Bill shook his head. “I know your mother’s story, so I’m fairly confident that you went to church at least through high school. And it’s likely you were baptized at some point during that time.”. Bill nodded. “Would it be ok for me to remind you of some things you likely heard and know?”, I said. “Yes.”, Bill gasped out.

I began to speak to Bill of God’s love, quoting John 3:16 during the conversation, and asking him if he believed God loves him. Bill smiled as he nodded. “I’m glad you do.”, I said, “The Bible makes it very clear that God loves us. But we need to understand something else the Bible tells us. We have a problem. The Bible calls it sin.”

I began to speak to Bill regarding sin and God’s promised judgment on it; the smile that had been on his face disappeared. I continued to speak and reminded Bill of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus: the finished work of God for our salvation. I told Bill of the love of God displayed at the cross where Jesus died to make forgiveness available. And I shared with Bill the promise of hope inherent in the bodily resurrection of Jesus, which ensures us that mercy and forgiveness have been made available to us through Jesus’ sacrificial, atoning death on the cross.

As I shared these truths, interspersing Scripture at various points, I continually asked Bill if he understood what I was talking about and if he believed the truth of what he was hearing, to which Bill had repeatedly said, "Yes.". Now, I asked this again and again Bill replied affirmatively. Then I said, "Then I hope you understand that you don't want God's justice, you want His mercy. God's justice will send you to hell but His mercy will grant you forgiveness, peace, and God's gift of eternal life." I quoted Romans 6:23 and explained it making sure Bill understood. "Bill, I want to share two more Bible verses with you and then I want to ask you a question. Is that ok?" "Yes.", Bill said.

Paraphrasing Romans 10:9, I began, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, believing in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Bill this verse tells us that we can be rescued from the dangers of judgment and hell if we will believe and trust in what God has done for us through Jesus." I continued, "The very next verse in the Bible sounds almost the same, but it's not. What it does is tell us why the verse I just shared with you is true. This next verse says, "For with the heart you believe and are made right with God. . .", with the heart you commit to these truths we've talked about Bill. ". . .and with the mouth you confess unto salvation.", with the mouth you express that heart commitment, "Jesus, please forgive me. I need you in my life.". "Bill", I continued, "you know that we say words we don't mean and don't intend to follow through on all the time. Those are lies. And lying is a sin. To be saved, we need to be committed to the truths I have shared, trusting that God made the way for us to be forgiven and return to Him." I paused, then said, "Bill, I have one last Bible verse to share with you before I ask my question. The Bible says, "All who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." This is God's promise to everyone who believes the Lord Jesus died for them and responds to God with commitment as they turn to Him." I paused, looking at Bill. His breathing was still labored but it appeared he had ceased to struggle as much for every breath. Continuing, I said, "Bill, here is my question. Has there ever been a time in your life when you truly committed your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?"

Bill began to cry. Apparently grief-stricken, Bill cried out, "No.", and sobbed even louder as he gasped for breath. "Bill", I said, "It's not too late. You can commit your life to Jesus today. Would you like to do that?". "Yes!", Bill cried out, with the strongest voice I had heard during our time together. I talked to Bill a little longer then led him in what many call a "sinner's prayer". Before he prayed, I stressed the importance of heart commitment to Bill again, reminding him that words without commitment ring hollow and mean nothing. As we prayed, his voice became labored again but he continued, speaking out loud as a public testimony to those in the room of his confession, his faith, and his desire. After we prayed, I looked at Bill. He was crying again but his countenance was one of joy rather than grief. Bill looked at me, grasped my hand tighter and said, "Thank you. Thank you.", over and over. I smiled at Bill as I silently thanked the Lord for the privilege of being used by Him.

Bill died near the end of July this year, just a few days before his 82nd birthday and three short days after he cried out for Jesus to come into his life. As with Bill's mother, I am as confident as I can be that Bill is with the Lord now. (I say, "as I can be", because I cannot truly know the heart of another man; only the Lord can know this.) The family had not expected him to pass away that soon; while they knew Bill's death was imminent, they thought there would be more time, as do we all. But truly, only the Lord knows when we, too, will pass and our opportunity to turn to Him will end. For Scripture tells us that when we die, judgment comes (Hebrews 9:27); at death, our eternal fate is sealed.

What will your fate be? I ask you to consider your salvation with an open mind and heart. *Are you sure you're sure that you're saved?* Did you walk an aisle to the front of the church? Bill Did. Did you pray a prayer with the pastor? So did Bill. Were you baptized? Bill was, too. Yet when He was gently reminded of the truths that lead to faith, the Holy Spirit brought conviction to Bill that he had never responded to these truths with his heart, only with his head. My friend, is this you?

If you're reading this and approaching the thought of your salvation with a "Ho-hum" complacent attitude, you may want to reflect a little harder and longer on the first question in the previous paragraph. For if gratitude and awe have no part in your attitude regarding salvation, was your response to the Gospel truly from the heart? Ask yourself the question I asked Bill, "Has there been a time in your life when you truly committed your life to the Lordship of Christ?" Then let the Lord speak to you regarding the truth of your salvation.

Also, consider your family, friends, co-workers, and that person you feel like you ought to talk to and haven't. Do they need to hear what God has made available to them? And if they need to hear, do you love them enough to tell them? *Please talk to them today, for only the Lord knows the number of their days!*

I know the last few paragraphs above may sound harsh. If I have offended you, please forgive me. But know these things were shared out of love with the desire that all would know the mercy and grace of God that can be theirs through Jesus.

Cindy and I will continue serving the Lord in local missions until we leave for Kansas to serve with our Brothers and Sisters on the John 3:16 mission (Sept. 5-15). As well, the Lord has provided me many opportunities to preach or otherwise share His truth with His people, for which we are grateful.

We request your prayers for the following:

- Pray the Lord's people will humble themselves that He would heal our land (2 Chron 7:14).
- Pray for the peace of Israel.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
 - May those who know Him govern with godly wisdom.
 - May those who are lost be drawn to honor the Lord with their lives.
- Pray for His church to have a "kingdom focus".
- Pray the members of Bill's family who heard the Gospel shared with him will each consider their own position/condition before the Lord. . .and respond to Him.
- We ask that you pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace

Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are thankful to the Lord for your service to Him with us. If you or your church believe we could be of service to you, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

Dennis & Cindy

~Cindy's Bottom Line~

In 2 Corinthians 6:2 we read "**Now is the day of salvation.**"

Do you hear the urgency in that message? God is offering you grace and forgiveness. Committing yourself to His Lordship is the most important decision you can ever make. Do not delay!

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. All donations to Call of Grace are used for ministry expenses. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.