

**WELCOME TO THE GRACE PLACE**

January 7 and 8, 2012

Welcome to The Grace Place and to 2012! This weekend I am starting a new sermon series entitled "How to Be Rich". This series of sermons is not focused on showing you can "become", but rather how to "be" rich. It seems to me that we are totally confused about what being rich is all about and how to respond to our to God's blessings in our lives. This weekend's message is entitled "Good News, Bad News" and will help us to clarify what true riches are all about. This series of messages will help to focus on what we do have rather than what we do not have. It will help us to understand that chasing the carrot of prosperity is not what it is promoted to be. I believe this series of sermons will help us to focus on the things that really do matter, rather than chasing things to do not have any lasting benefit.

Our new Grace Place 2.0 growth track begins this Sunday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in the Connection Center gym. There will be a light lunch served followed by Church 101. The growth track meeting will last about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Church 101 is the class where you have the opportunity to join the church and find out a lot more about our focus and strategies. In subsequent weeks we will be offering at the same time and same location:

- Essentials 201 – January 15th, 1:00 pm.
- Discovery 301 – January 22nd, 1:00 pm.
- Dream Team 401 – January 29th, 1:00 pm.

The growth track will be offered each month starting in February on the 1st through the 4th Sunday. We believe there are four things all of us must do if we are going to be a growing, maturing follower of Jesus Christ:

- Faithfully attend worship each weekend.
- Participate in a small group ministry.
- Take the Growth Track.
- Become a Dream Team member and use the Spiritual Gifts, passions, and personality God has given you to serve in a ministry in the church.

Our Growth Track will help you better understand where you best fit in the ministry focus and strategies of The Grace Place. I know that many of you say I have already taken the old classes; do I need to take these classes? The answer is yes because they will better introduce you to our new strategic focus for our church. Also, you will be able to better discover your ministry "sweet spot".

Thank you for joining us for worship. I trust you have a wonderful week and Happy New Year!

Pastor Rick

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