



Jenny and Eric Johnson

Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul described the young believers in Thessalonica in this way: “how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” Paul captured the essence of faith and what it means to be a believer. This letter will address the second.

What does it mean to serve the living and true God? On the evening of His crucifixion, “when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end...knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper.... He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the

disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.” Why? Because Jesus was giving His disciples a living parable of His entire life and ministry. It revealed the grace of God in Jesus.

The love of God is on display here – a love that stooped in humility to fulfill the needs of a dirty, fallen world. Jesus, in full knowledge of who He is and where He is going, finishes the task for which He came. Jesus loved and served His disciples. His conversation with Peter explained the meaning of this service. Peter had said, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” This must point to the once-and-for-all aspect of His life and work on the cross. Jesus’ death and their faith in His finished work washed away their sins. Furthermore, His insistence on washing their feet while acknowledging that they are clean (except Judas) underscores the need for believers to be washed on account of daily sin. This requires grace.

Jesus then explained how His work will transform their lives. He said, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to

wash one another’s feet.... Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than His master.... If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” The self-sacrifice of Jesus becomes the life-transforming power and pattern for all of God’s children. They love and serve because He first loved and served them. He had given them an example. Now knowing who they are, they will become like Him in this context by washing feet. This portrays the daily need of helping one another deal with the effects of any lingering sin that accumulate as believers walk through each day. Having received grace, they will now extend grace.

Serving the living and true God means to recognize that His Son has loved and served us, and now we desire to love and serve Him by lovingly serving others. We are convinced that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. Thank you for sending us to wash feet.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Eric

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

The Adult Life Ministry

Grace Opportunities:

- Recommend us to a friend
- Join one of our 16 groups
- Help us start another group
- Financially invest with us
- Pray for us

VANTAGE POINT

November 2021

Ministry Corner

Adult Life is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry relying on private support – and your generosity. Your gifts are investments in the biblical counseling, discipleship, and evangelism of people who may have little hope, and need more faith. Please consider joining us now with a monthly investment. Adult Life is now doing business as Vantage Point Ministries – Enjoying Life from the Vantage Point of God's Grace. Use the enclosed envelope and make checks payable to "Vantage Point" or "Adult Life." Thank you!

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Prayer for local mission with adults...

Eric and Jenny Johnson
Extending God's grace to all adults through our new efforts to train leaders and raise additional investments.
Men and Women meeting in relationship groups will grow in grace.
Our ministry to the men and women at Northampton County Prison.
Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults.
New groups to begin.

Contact Information

Facebook – AdultLifeInc and
www.adultlifeinc.org

Adult Life, Inc.

4416 Greenfield Rd,
Bethlehem, PA 18017
ericjohnsonlv@hotmail.com
484-554-9129



Philly's Godfather's Group

Leader: Bill Lloyd

Ministry Update

Vantage Point seeks to relationally engage all adults with God's grace through community. We reach across the full spectrum of faith from those who have no faith at all to those who have found a vital faith. We have found that many adults have left the traditional church, some have lost their way, some are listening for the first time, and a few are leading their friends to faith. The needs of each group of these adults are vast and varying. We now train other adults leading groups, and have begun preparing others for leading.

Over the summer, this ministry focused on God's word from the Apostle Paul, who described what genuine biblical faith looked like in his first letter to the Thessalonians. He described these young

believers as having experienced three things:

- turning to God from idols,
- serving the living and true God,
- and waiting for His Son from heaven.

These three attributes are great metrics for us to pray and consider as we work with any adult. In my last letter, I addressed what it means to have turned to God from idols. My asking, "What are your idols?" has led to many great conversations with adults whether one-on-one, in counseling, or with groups. Pastor Timothy Keller wrote an excellent book on the subject entitled "Counterfeit Gods." I credit him for shaping my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

The Adult Life Ministry