

GraceNotes

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church

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GROWING IN GRACE “IN BETWEEN”

“Once upon a time” and “happily ever after”.... Such are the beginning and ending chapters of our romanticized storylines of literature and life. They represent the prototypical nostalgic look back and idealistic look ahead. And it’s not all fiction. Sometimes real life begins and ends the same way. But, more often than not, a reality check of trial, trouble, or tribulation intrudes and the storyline is interrupted.

If “once upon a time” and “happily ever after” were the sum total of life, then there would never be any problems. The reality, however, is that there’s so much in between. “In between” is where life happens. “In between” is where we are now. All the difficulties come in the course of living. Even with a great start and a greater ending, along the way life is fraught with bumps, bruises, and burdens. Trials, troubles, and tribulations ebb and flow. The temptation is to shrug and philosophically sigh, “Well, that’s life.”

But are we really left with nothing more than a measly philosophical quip of resignation? The Bible says, “All things work together for good to those who love the Lord” (Rom. 8:28). Translated? For lovers of God, all things in between “once upon a time” and “happily ever after” are being worked out in concert for our best interest and highest good as well as for God’s glory. Faith in that promise determines life’s coping capacity.

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE together, let us proceed in that faith. Moreover, let us be sure to know that “once upon a time,” “happily ever after,” and everything “in between” belong to Jesus. From beginning to end He is Lord. As He said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Rev. 22:13). Someone said, “That means Jesus is the ‘Bookends’ of life.” Indeed...He is! But all the books – yes, all the materials – “in between” also belong to Him. As Scotty Smith proclaims in his 2021 Gospel Coalition article, “We don’t live between bookends of change, randomness, and mere possibilities; we live smack-dab between the most glorious of Bookends – Jesus Christ, our Lord.” That settles and secures everything in between “once upon a time” and “happily ever after.” Knowing and believing who’s in control empowers us to live from faith victory to faith victory.

In Between,
Ed

