



**Volume XXXVIII**

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**ZERO**—Zero is an interesting figure. It is actually defined as a figure without a quantity or number, yet zeroes are really important. You cannot have a million dollars without a lot of zeroes, or a billion dollars without even more zeroes. Generally, zeroes don't play a big part in our lives unless we stop and look at it more closely. Usually zeroes are a bad thing.

Think about all the things that would be painful if you had a zero--profits from your business for the last month, what you got on your last Algebra test, your bank statement balance. Yep, that is bad news.

One the other hand, zero is a really good thing. How so? Well, the doctor's report came back after your tests and they found zero cancer cells in your body. Zero is good. If you thought about the traffic tickets you have gotten over the last five years and it was zero, that's a good thing. Zero can be good time and time again--zero heart attacks, zero flat tires, zero hurricanes, house fires, car wrecks, headaches. Count your blessings (which will be more than zero).

While zero can be bad and it can be blessed, it is interesting to look in the Bible and realize that there are no zeroes. Well, not the number at least or the lack of a number. The Bible does reveal that there are some wonderful things that you and I can celebrate that are zero in nature. Pause for a moment and think about each one of these things.

**One**-- the total of all the people on the planet for all times that God does not love—ZERO! See John 3:16.

**Two**—the total of lies that God has ever told us—ZERO! Titus 1:2, *"...God, that cannot lie..."*. You can believe Him. When the sun is shining you can believe Him; when the clouds arrive you can believe Him. Whatever is going on in your life, you can believe Him. Praise God!

**Three**—the number of people who will go to Heaven without trusting Jesus—ZERO! Jesus died for all people everywhere (whosoever), but each one of us can either receive or reject Christ. Your eternity is decided by your decision for or against Jesus. John 3:36, *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

**Four**—the total number of people who Jesus refuses to save—ZERO! John 6:37, *"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

**Five**—the number of sins that God will not forgive—ZERO! Search the Scriptures and you will find that God saved murderers, drunkards, adulterers, thieves, criminals of every stripe and description. He will forgive you of your sins. My prayer for you is that you will reach out to Him as He reaches out to you, and you will not be a zero but one more whose name will be written in the Lamb's Good of Life. ---J Futral

*"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind."* Matthew 13:47

**Number 4**

**JESUS CHRIST—THE REVELATION**—Jesus Christ is the revelation of the eternal God and it is only as we know Him that we can know God. But how do we acquaint ourselves with God apart from Christ? That's impossible! Christ the man is the revelation of God (John 14:9). What an opportunity we have to meditate much on God in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures! If we look closely we will discover that the attributes of God can be discovered in the Lord Jesus. He is the one mediator between both God and men (1 Timothy 2:5).

Christ is the door (John 10:9). Doors either let people in or keep people out. When Christ claims to be the door, one of the things He is stating is that the knowledge of God comes to us exclusively through Him. He is the full and final revelation of God.

He is in the Father, and the Father is in Him (John 14:10).

He that has seen Him has seen the Father (John 14:9; John 1:18).

He is *"...God... manifest in the flesh..."* (1 Timothy 3:16).

His name is *"...Immanuel...God with us"* (Matthew 1:23).

He is the *"...Saviour..."* (2 Timothy 1:10).

He is the *"...Christ"* (Matthew 1:16).

He is the anointed One, filled with the Spirit without measure (John 3:34).

He is *"...the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"*(John 1:14).

He is the one who lovingly took our condemnation (Romans 8:1).

He is this same one Who is with us (Matthew 1:23).

He is above us (Psalm 57:11).

He is beneath us (Deuteronomy 33:27).

He is within us (Colossians 1:29).

He is all around us (Psalm 125:2).

He is the brightness of the Father's glory and *"...the express image of his person..."* (Hebrews 1:3).

As we learn to focus on Him and His glory, we will discover how to not focus on ourselves. Then we will be fully satisfied with the gospel blessings of abounding grace and life that come through Him alone. --M McKee

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**GRACE**—Ephesians 2:7, *"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."*

Grace is God's love in action. Grace has many avenues of expression. We say grace at meals; some are graceful; we can be gracious; at the bank we take advantage of grace periods—and all that is gratifying! On the other hand, there are those who are ingrates or disgraceful.

However, God's grace supersedes any discussion of grace exercised on our part. His grace is all-encompassing. His grace is expressed by open arms

that lead to a forgiving heart. His grace is undeserved yet extended to our grateful souls. Justice is what we deserve, but grace is what God proffers. His treatment of us is far different from that which we have earned—thank God!

It is grace that saves us and grace that keeps us. It is grace that bought us and grace that preserves us. It is grace that makes us alive and grace that helps the old man die. It is grace that helps us through life and a grace that will carry us on to eternal life.

It is grace, my friend, which has been offered so freely in our behalf; and Paul calls it “...*the exceeding riches of his grace...*” (Ephesians 2:7).

Thank God for His grace! --Tim Green

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**INVISIBLE**—Colossians 1:16, “*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him*”.

Life under the sea can be nasty, brutish, and short if you don’t have an effective form of camouflage. The cuttlefish’s skin, for instance, holds some ten million color cells, allowing it to impersonate a chunk of a coral, a clump of algae, or a patch of sand. But for animals in the open ocean, there’s no place to hide. For them, the best camouflage color is no color at all—transparent bodies allow them to partially blend into their watery surroundings. And now, a scientist has discovered that some of these animals possess yet another magician’s trick—antireflective coatings that render them nearly invisible.

Laura Bagge, a marine biologist and doctoral student at Duke University said, “They are really hard to see when they are in the water. The only thing that gives them away is their eyes. The retina has to be pigmented; that’s the way it collects light.” Bagge is a specialist on invisible crustaceans—mostly notable, predators known as hyperiid amphipods. She discovered that some hyperiids enhanced their invisibility by making use of antireflective coatings. Some hyperiids’ legs were covered by extremely tiny structures called nanoprotuberances, which look like shag carpet. The idea is that it basically dampens the reflections, softens the reflections in the same way that hanging carpet on a recording studio wall softens sound waves. God’ creation is full of amazing things!

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**NATURE-INSPIRED WOUND GLUE**—Researchers at MIT were searching for a better way to quickly seal wounds in critical lifesaving situations. They looked to an unusual place for inspiration—barnacles, the small sea creatures that attach firmly to rocks, ship hulls, and other wet, dirty surfaces. By mimicking the properties of the barnacles’ sticky proteins, the MIT team created a bio-compatible glue that can adhere to human tissues even when covered in blood, forming a seal within 15 seconds. This is far faster than the several minutes it takes for sutures or patches with blood-clotting features to do the same.

Barnacles are a type of arthropod. Although they once were thought to be related to snails, it turns out they are actually related to crabs and lobsters. They

are exclusively marine and tend to live in shallow and tidal waters. Psalm 104:24,25, “*O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.*” -RD

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**DOG TIRED**—An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me and I gave him a few pats on his head. Then he followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later he went to the door and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned this note to his collar, “*I would like to find who the owner of this wonderful, sweet dog is and ask if you are aware almost every afternoon he comes to my house for a nap?*” The next day he arrived for his nap with a different note pinned to his collar. “*He lives in a home with 6 children, two under the age of three. He’s trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?*”

“*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*” (Matthew 11:28).

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**SNAILS GOBBLE THEM TOO**—Tums have some unusual fans—snails! The calcium in Tums tablets is exactly what the slow crawlers need for strong, healthy shells, So owners regularly plop a few Tums tablets into their snail tanks to keep them happy, or grind them up to make the food they call “snail Jell-O”. Snail owners recommend sticking with fruit flavors as the minty ones burn the snail’s foot. -RD

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**FISHY QUESTION**—The riddle from last edition asked who was the Bible’s greatest comedian? The answer is Samson, because he brought the house down! (Judges 16:29,30). This time the question is factual. What wealthy man in the Bible had fourteen thousand sheep? Look it up!

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### “COUNTRY” SPEAKING

--You’re not holding your mouth right. (You are not concentrating.)

--Y’all stay and eat; we have a gracious plenty. (Memaw forgot she was no longer feeding all the kids and cooked too much.)

--I’m just give out. (I’m exhausted.)

--Let’s go loafing this morning. (Let’s ramble with no particular destination and no schedule to keep.)

--You better get off your high horse! (You need to remember who paid for your braces, college education, wedding, etc.)

--Put that in your pipe and smoke it! (Deal with it!)

--It’s coming up a cloud. (A storm is approaching.)

--It’s finally fairing off. (The storm is over and the sky is clearing.)

--I’m going to bed; y’all stay as long as you like. (Go home already!)