

A rich storehouse of God's power

WORD OF GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE

"The power and impact of the Word"

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"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" – 2 Tim 3:16-17

We are delighted to share with you the outcome of the last session of **School of Biblical Preaching in Rovno, Ukraine**, which was held on **April 21 – 29, 2009**. There were 56 students and 60 listeners (we had 10 last session) from different levels of church leaders. This is the result of continued influence of the Word of God among pastors and ministers of that region. A magnificent scope of God's work has been manifested through these desperate for the truth and eager to learn pastors. Ninety per cent of these different age students were pastors from local churches.

During the 10-day session, pastor Vitali Rozhko emphasized the topic of Biblical Counseling, and challenged the students to absorb the definition, necessity and theological ground for biblical counseling. Besides that, in light of Scripture, he thoroughly explained the process of sanctification, characteristics of a biblical counselor, key elements of counseling process and marital counseling. It is impossible to instruct or counsel others without the knowledge and practice of all of these essential elements of a biblical counselor. Biblical counseling must be biblical throughout.

It was very well noted by pastor Vitali that over two years, these faithful students have grown spiritually enough to demonstrate their shepherding skills and the ability to biblically influence those surrounding them. Students testify that this school helped them change their approach to sermon preparation and appreciate the responsibility of the pulpit. One said, "I realize the power and impact of the Word, the earnestness and accuracy needed in preparation, and the attitude required towards this privileged task." Also, many others say that their lives have changed since the beginning of this school – "this change progresses by strengthening of God's authority and changes my worldview."



After the daily 8 hour sessions, students were also given a load of homework to perform for the next day. As a result, some students were forced to take "power naps" during break times to catch up with their sleep after staying up all night to study the material. This session helped students to grow in their knowledge of biblical counseling. They were encouraged to accurately handle the Word of Truth when dealing with problems, whether their own or those of others.

Please pray that each student can now take the Word of God that is authoritative and sufficient for our need to be more like Jesus, and teach others how to effectively minister it to themselves and others.

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"Church – a forgotten treasure"

"This is my second year of listening to pastor Alexey's sermons and attending the conference in Kharkov, where he was teaching, and I just now am beginning to understand which direction the church must advance," says a 24-year-old youth pastor



Following the *School of Biblical Preaching* in Rovno, our pastors Alexey Kolomytsev and Vitali Rozhko were also participating in the annual **Shepherd's Conference in Kharkov, Ukraine**, which was held on **May 1-2, 2009**. Registration was sold-out two months before conference to 630 pastors and church leaders, while others were willing to pay extra to be allowed to enter. This was the biggest conference we had in the last four years.

These pastors came from different churches throughout Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Byelorussia and Germany. Many testified that this conference had an immense impact on the ministry of the pastors and their churches:

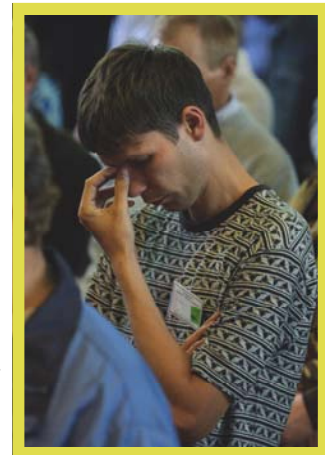
"During these two days, the greatness and glory of God were exposed. Our brothers experienced a serious and deep perception and reevaluation of their own relationship towards the key biblical truths. A great example of the high spirit and dedication to God's work was seen in the speakers and we were impressed to see a real illustration of an exemplary church - Word of Grace Bible Church. In other words, what we heard—it is the true life of your church. This is a greatest blessing." -says a participant of the conference

This year, our pastors geared the audience on the theme of the **"Church – as a forgotten treasure."** They addressed the fact that through Christ, God inseparably linked man to Himself (Eph 1:22-23). Thus the head and the body possess the same nature, they live for one another. The body lives through the life of the head, it serves the head, it seeks interests of the head and it submits to the head. The head truly seeks the welfare of the body, it edifies the body, and it cares for the body – what a delightful and soothing truth for us to dwell on!

Unfortunately, for many Christian ministers today the priority of the church is forgotten. Various parachurch organizations with their programs and gimmicks are much more popular today than the church. This is one of the main reasons for the incredible weakness of today's Christendom. Russia and Ukraine experience this problem in a greater degree than many others. Despite enormous evangelistic and missionary efforts, there are very few solid influential churches that could serve as a model for others.

Christ presents a clear and concise standard of the Church structure: biblical teaching and leadership, unity with one another, profession of the Gospel, and true worship. These truths enlightened the eyes and hearts of many pastors who desire to lead the church in the manner of God's design.

What a surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. We pray that these pastors would continue to dwell on these truths and to show others the merits of God's Kingdom through their personal exemplary lives that would be manifested in their hearts, families, work, ministry, etc.



"...I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." – Matt 16:18

Nothing is able to change a life like God's grace. Grace is at the heart of our faith, and has infinite significance for the lives of every believer. This theme was pastor Alexey Kolomyitsev's specific focus at the **Rostov conference**, which took place on **May 9th - 11th** of this year.

The material presented at the conference was based on a study of the first half of the second chapter of Ephesians (Eph. 2:1-10), which is a rich storehouse of God's truth about His grace. Each participant had a remarkable opportunity to learn the true value of grace, celebrate grace, rejoice in grace and to meditate on its triumph. Grace is the only means that saves and radically changes life.



This was the 4th annual conference on Rostov put on by Word of Grace Bible Church and its Bible Institute. It attracted many people who are earnestly interested in biblical truth. About 400 people attended the conference this year, many of which came from different cities and even countries.

It is pleasant to note how the atmosphere of the conference and the attitude of its participants changes every year. The people crave the truth more, not only to know it, but more importantly – to practically live it out. And by the mercy of God, His word has produced deep work in the hearts of these people over the course of the conference.

Here is some of the feedback from the conference:

"Greetings!!! First off I want to thank our almighty God, because over the past couple of years, while visiting a baptist church, our family happened to get a copy of a CD with your sermons. And the Word, like a hammer started to shatter my worldview, my opinions, and my ideology. Our family's thirst grew as we listened and could not be quenched. Praise God. God showed us mercy through a new internet connection; we visited your site and found out about the "Word of Grace" conference at Rostov... And the truths which we heard are like a sword penetrating me so deep that I'm at a loss for words... They break the foundations on which it seemed I was building my life... and bring me to trembling... Your labor is not vain!!! We are praying for you and your ministry!!! And may the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified through your ministry!!!"

"I saw a true church with sensible theology, devoted members, at the center of which was the Word of God."

"The conference became a source of living water; I thank the Lord for the church, and for the great grace of hearing God's Word."

Praise God, that the church in Rostov, in which Andrey Vovk and Vladimir Gorozhankin lead the pastoral ministry, is developing and growing in the knowledge of God and their likeness to Jesus Christ. This church is increasingly becoming a center for the spread of Biblical influence in Russia. Effective expository preaching, commitment to shepherding, sound doctrine, and biblical philosophy of ministry allow the members of this church to have steady growth in maturity, becoming a light for many people living around them.



Please continue praying for God's Word to continue its work in the hearts of people in this area.



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“Shepherding a Child’s Heart”

The story repeats itself again and again - children are born, and then their parents are faced with a question. How do we bring up our children so that they have righteous ambitions and values in their own lives? While parents are lost in their search for the answer, their children fall in love, marry, have their own children and, inevitably, find themselves facing the same question.

Unfortunately, not all parents and grandparents are able to state with confidence that they know what the biblical approach to raising children is.



That is why, **on May 15-16**, Word of Grace Bible Church invited **pastor Tedd Tripp** to speak to the parents of the local church, as well as many visitors, presenting to them a biblical case of **“Shepherding a Child’s Heart.”**

The father, grandfather and pastor Tedd Tripp did not just share his personal experience raising his children, nor did he teach parents to manipulate their children in hope to simplify their parental duties. Instead, he stressed that Scripture is the only unfailing standard in accomplishing this important, God-given task. Through Scripture, the minds of parents were sharpened to understand that child-rearing starts from their own submission to God and His Word. That is the only way their children can be enabled to make godly decisions.

“Children should observe in the life of their parents the joy of the knowledge of God and a relationship with Him. Until they are absolutely certain that Christ is the

only treasure in the life of their parents, children will not be persuaded to serve God,” Tripp stated.

This conference led many participants to reevaluate their goals and methods of child-rearing. Parents were reminded that children are a gift from God, entrusted to parents for a very short period of time, and, at the same time, are used as His tools to edify their own hearts. As they worship God, parents teach their children to do the same – to obey God in every decision of their heart.

We pray that this story will repeat itself again and again – children are born, parents turn to the standards of Scripture and become true, biblical examples for their children. Their children grow, build God-honoring families, and bring up godly children. As a result, the church is built up for the glory of God.

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