

## THE ORANGE CONNECTION



FALL 2017 SERMON SERIES

**10.29.17**

**Pastor Steve & Pastor K.C. Blacketter - Grace Alone**

Join us Wednesday night 11.1.17 for dinner from 5:15-6:00 and sermon based small groups from 6:15-7:30.

1.) We are commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Presbyterians were birthed by the reformer John Calvin. Many in your group may not have grown up Presbyterian. What is your church background, if any, and what is one thing you appreciated about the church you grew up in?

2.) Why do you think we have so many denominations now? Is this a good or bad consequence of the Protestant Reformation?

**Read Revelation 21:1-7**

3.) A key thought in vs. 5 is that God is "making all things new." What would you like to see God "make new"? What would you prefer for God to not change?

## **Read Ephesians 2:4-10**

4.) How might you explain the concept of grace to a non-Christian and what are some examples you could use?

5.) Paul (and Martin Luther) say grace is crucial. Do you think religion tends to be more performance-based (focus on good works) or grace-based? Why?

6.) Is it possible to abuse grace? What would that look like?

7.) So how are grace and good works suppose to come together in our lives (see vs. 8-10)?

## **Application**

8.) Who is someone that exemplifies grace to you – both living it and extending it? Try to give examples of how you see this in the person.

9.) How can the church do a better job of teaching grace? Extending grace?