

P604

Grace Notes Radio Program

THEME: Why trust a computer for life?

SONGS: How deep the Father's love for us 3:18
Come just as you are 4:30

INTRO: COMPUTERS...what would we do without them? You can't even go through a checkout line or complete a bank transaction if the computer is down. According to the 2010 statistics for Internet Usage, almost 29% of the 6.8 trillion people, worldwide, use computers. That's an increase of 445% in the last 10 years. Yes, there's a wealth of info that can be found and, can be helpful, but there's one problem. Viewers tend to believe that if the text 'looks good' on the screen, it must be accurate. How many times have our computers been infected because we've believed a lie? How many wrong decisions have we made based on incorrect data?

Are we too dependent on this technology, designed by human minds to run our life? Shouldn't we rather search for real truth and direction for life in God's Word?

Today on Grace Notes, our host, Barbara Sandbek will continue with this train of thought, so stay tuned.

The other day my mom and I had a debate on the proper way to hang bathroom tissue – do you believe it? To settle the matter, I went to my trusty computer and did a search. Sure enough, there WAS an article written on the subject and guess what? I was right. Yes, almost anything you want to know can be found by searching the internet. Everything, that is, but what's in store for our lives.

Did you know that Almighty God has a custom-designed program for your life - one that will never fail and is never outdated?

In Jeremiah 29:11, God confirms this by saying...

I know the plans I have for you - plans to PROSPER you & not to harm you; plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE.

Computers keep track of the smallest bit of info. But listen, Matthew 10:30 says that God numbers even the very hairs of your head. Don't you want to know and be known by a God so loving as to care about you in this way?

In Psalm 139:16 King David wrote...

ALL the days ordained for me were written in your book BEFORE one of them came to be.

Can we know this plan? Yes, by reading God's Word, the Bible, and searching for it through prayer and fellowship with Him.

Every once in a while I get an email warning me not to open a particular email because it contains a virus that will destroy the heart of my computer and cost a lot to fix it.

I'm grateful for that warning – it has saved me several times.

Would you like to be warned before you open yourself up to something destructive? You can be, but not from a computer. God's Word, the Bible, instructs us in the right way to live and steers us away from the path of destruction - if we choose to follow the advice. But, despite the warnings in God's Word, we've all opened our heart's door to a virus called sin. Our hearts are infected. That's why we often can't understand what God is saying to us in His Word.

Romans 3:23 says...All have sinned & come short of the glory of God (that's His perfect plan for us).

Sin has destroyed our relationship with a Holy God. We are not on the same wave-length – the connection is severed.

There is a price to be paid according to Romans 6:23...

The wages of sin is death

(eternal separation from God-no access to Him forever)

BUT...the Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gift of Salvation, Jesus died and rose again to extend to us, offers a PERMANENT fix for the virus of sin. Jesus paid the FULL price to correct the relationship problem once and for all. His sinless blood covers our sin and allows God to see us in right standing with Him.

But, we have to open our hearts and receive that Gift individually. When we do, our hearts will be illumined to understand His Word.

Computers are built with dollars in mind, but God programs with LOVE in mind.

By believing in Jesus as our Savior, we will experience forgiveness and the depth of God's love in a way we have never known before.

*** HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE ***

God's plan is to restore the Glory man had before we sinned – and to use His followers on this earth to GLORIFY Him.

Philippians 2:13 says...

It is God who works IN you to will and to act according to His GOOD purpose.

Just as an infected computer needs rebuilding, our infected character needs to be rebuilt, too.

2 Peter 1:5-7 says...

Make every effort to ADD to your FAITH, goodness, and to goodness, knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, perseverance (or patience), and to perseverance, Godliness, and to Godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love.

Notice, FAITH starts the process. It comes only from Jesus. He's the author and finisher of it. It is up to us to add the other attributes to the faith He gives.

For years my faith was weak, because I added nothing to it. Yes, I knew I needed Jesus for Salvation, but I wanted to do thing my way. Because of this, I often doubted my salvation.

Verse 9 explains why I felt that way...

If anyone does not have them(the attributes), he is nearsighted and blind and has FORGOTTEN that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

You see, Romans 10:17 teaches us that..

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by Word of GOD.
I wasn't reading the Word.

It's like having a great software package at your fingertips and never exploring it or using the Help Key.

As a computer programmer, I often had to make adjustments to programs others had written. Since everyone thinks differently, I couldn't just be satisfied with an overview before I made the change. I had to get into their mind by reading and digesting every line of code and then make my updates conform to their design.

We need to know the mind of Christ. We can't do it our way and succeed. Romans 12:2 says...

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

YOU matter to God. Jesus died, not just to save your soul for eternity, but to make you a member of His family and to bless you by using YOU in His service.

God has a mammoth computer with a folder marked 'the Book of Life'. He wants to write YOUR NAME in it.

Do you know Jesus? You can right now. Just ask Him to come into your heart and save you.

Are you a Believer? You can experience more of Jesus by taking time to learn about Him. Start now. Come to HIM – just as you are...

***** 4:30

*** COME JUST AS YOU ARE ***

If you've been blessed by this Grace Notes program, please write and tell us at...

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Until next time, let your grace notes be a song of praise!

