

"IN HIS ARMS, IN HIS GLORY & GRACE!" - OCTOBER 3, 2021
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
GENESIS 2:18-24; HEBREWS 1:1-4; 2:5-12; MARK 10:13-16
Promises for your pocket or purse - Carry them with you.

What things do you carry in your arms? To cradle something in your arms is far different than simply carrying it in your hands. Things of value get carried with two hands. Things that are priceless may be taken into our arms, cradled with great care. Today in Mark's Gospel, we hear Jesus taking children up into his arms, blessing them, telling his disciples to welcome children in his name. As we begin our annual giving emphasis at Lord of Life, we celebrate God has been cradling us in his arms from the very beginning. We hear God telling us to serve and to welcome others in his name. As God takes us into his arms and lays his hands on us, let us trust we will believe and we will see like never before, God's glory and grace in our midst! As God takes us into his arms and blesses us, let us trust we are precious and priceless to the Lord who will hold onto us and never let us go!

1. The Lord has been taking his children in his arms, holding them close in his glory and grace for a long time, and he is not about to stop. Hebrews 2:10; Mark 10:16

2. The Lord has been laying his hands on his children in our midst, leading us to see his glory and grace, guiding us, strengthening us, empowering us, equipping us, calling us since the beginning of time, the beginning of our lives, the beginning of our ministry and he is not about to stop. Mark 10:16

3. God's children are still looking for a place to come where they will be welcomed, touched and blessed, and not turned away; where they, too, will see and feel His glory and grace, and he is not about to stop! Hebrews 2:7-9; Mark 10:13,14-15
 - A. The circle is growing and we are blessed by all who come and witness; making God and our neighbors first, trusting God first, loving God first!

 - B. We are blessed to bless and to touch and to welcome others who are still looking, to see what we see, to believe what we believe: God's glory and grace!
 - i. Many are looking for a place, a safe place, a place to belong, to grow in spirit, thanks to The Spirit!

- ii. Many have shared their faith, that others may know Lord of Life is a place that explores and acknowledges and builds on our net worth of hospitality, welcome, authenticity, creating community for one and all!

- 4. As we believe anew, we will see anew we are God's children! We will see the glory and grace of God bless us to bless others, to point others to our trust and faith in the One who holds us in his arms, who holds us in glory and grace, and he is not about to stop! Hebrews 1:2-3; 2:11; Psalm 8; Mark 10:16; John 11:40
 - A. We are being spoken to and sanctified by the Son, our Savior, to be blessed to see and to believe even more.
 - B. We are called to see and to believe God's glory and grace.
 - C. The Spirit will allow us to balance the gifts of the majestic Creator with our call to celebrate and to share God's glory and grace placed into our care.
 - D. We will not be alone! Jesus, who welcomes us first to welcome others, will be forever holding us in his arms, blessing us all the way, and He will never let us go!