



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

Good Grief, Charlie Brown?

Based on Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Cor. 8:1-5, 9:2

Charlie Brown: *Matt S. (Shirt)*
Linus: *Michael (Shirt)*
Snoopy: *Ryan (Hat, scarf, Nose & Ears)*
Woodstock: *Oliver (Feathers)*
Schroeder: *Mattias (iPod, "Piano" & "Beethoven Bust")*
Pigpen: *Matt W.*
Lucy: *Kelli (Can/Sign)*
Sally: *Lauren*
Patty: *Peri*

Setting: Charlie Brown pacing back and forth, Linus enters.

Charlie: *(Pacing back and forth.) Good Grief! (Thinks to himself, decides on something, and walks tot the left. Stops Suddenly. Shakes his head.) Good Grief! (Walks back to the right.) Good Grief!*

Linus: Hey, Charlie Brown, I've been watching you for a while. It looks like you have a problem. What's the matter?

Charlie: Well, you see, Linus, I'm struggling with how God would want me to live in a world rife with change. The change brings me great grief.

Linus: Ah, hense the "Good Grief." But what do you mean, Charlie Brown?

Charlie: Everything's gotten so complicated.

April 27, 2008

Page 1

©2008 David Skarshaug (www.alcames.org). Conditions for use: (1) If you use all or parts of this script in any form, please consider sending a suggested \$25 donation check made out to "The ROCK" to the following address: Ascension Lutheran Church, 615 Kellogg, Ames, IA 50010. Reference the script title in the memo on the check. (2) Do not sell any part of this script, even if you rewrite it. (3) You may reproduce this script for internal use, but all copies must contain this copyright statement.

Good Grief, Charlie Brown?

Linus: You'll have to be more specific, Charlie Brown. Perhaps you could give me some concrete examples of just what you mean.

Charlie: Well, take my dog, for instance.

Linus: Snoopy? (*Snoopy appears in background, followed by Woodstock.*)

Charlie: Yes. Remember how he used to sit on top of his doghouse and pretend he was a famous World War I flying ace out to do battle with the Red Barron? (*Snoopy is acting out an epic battle in the background.*)

Linus: Yes.

Charlie: Well, now he's developed an internet gaming web site where he and thousands of folks all over the country are simulating famous dog fights from World War I. He does a daily blog and everything.

Linus: That's great, Charlie Brown! You should be proud of Snoopy! He's an entrepreneur.

Charlie: Entrepreneur? He's my dog! Now, when I ask him to come out and play shortstop with the team, he just snaps his fingers and points to his empty food dish. (*Snoopy snaps his fingers, looks at Charlie, and points to his food dish.*)

Linus: Dogs get hungry, even blogging the internet, Charlie Brown.

Charlie: But he insists on a vegan diet now. He says none of his software developing buddies eat meat or eggs or dairy products. (*In despair.*) Who ever heard of a dog that doesn't eat meat?

Linus: The times, they're a changin', Charlie Brown. Hmm. Perhaps we should go see Schroeder. Surely Schroeder will understand your dilemma, Charlie Brown. (*Boys walk over to Schroeder who is playing loudly upon his miniature piano.*)

Good Grief, Charlie Brown?

- Charlie: Hi Schroeder. *(No response.)* Hi Schroeder. *(Still no response. Charlie looks at Linus.)*
- Linus: I've got an idea. *(Linus grabs Beethoven off the piano. Schroeder stops playing and angrily pulls the earplugs out of his ears.)*
- Schroeder: Hey, what's the big idea taking my bust of Beethoven? You put that back.
- Linus: Just trying to get your attention, Schroeder.
- Charlie: Since when do you listen to an iPod when you practice piano?
- Schroeder: It's the wave of the future, Charlie Brown. Besides, it keeps Lucy from trying to whisper sweet nothings into my ear when I'm practicing.
- Charlie: Hmm. Perhaps you have a point there. *(Pigpen enters room.)*
- Pigpen: Hi, guys. Mind if I hang around here?
- Schroeder: Pigpen, I thought you were still under contract with that Regina Vacuum Cleaner company.
- Pigpen: I was, but they gave me my walking papers. They said the studio was a smoke-free environment now, and I'd have to leave.
- Linus: But you're dusty, not smokey!
- Pigpen: Hmm. That's even worse. Dust mites and the like. You know.
- Linus: Well, I think we all need to take these issues up with a higher authority.
- All: Dr. Lucy! *(Charlie, Linus, Pigpen, & Schroeder walk over to Lucy.)*

Good Grief, Charlie Brown?

Charlie: Lucy.

Lucy: Ahem (*looks cross at him.*)

Charlie: Oh, sorry, DOCTOR Lucy.

Lucy: Ahem (*looks cross at him.*)

Charlie: Oh yes. (*Reaches into his pocket and pulls out a nickel and plops it in the can.*)

Lucy: I'm sorry, we no longer take cash. We only take credit cards unless you have an open account with us. You can fill out a credit application on line if you wish. [www dot Doctor Lucy dot com](http://www.dot.DoctorLucy.dot.com).

Charlie: (*Slaps his forehead.*) Argh!!

Lucy: (*To Audience.*) American Express—the official Credit Card of the 2008 Drake Relays.

Linus: Lucy!

Lucy: Very well, I can see you are in need of help. No, let me guess. The tin man wants a heart, the lion wants courage, the scarecrow wants a brain, and the round headed kid can't figure out how to get home.

Linus: Well, actually we're all struggling with how God wants us to live in a world of change.

Lucy: Oh, well why didn't you say that in the first place. All you need to do is follow the 10-step Macedonian Process like our friends at Ascension Lutheran Church did when they set out on their Fundraising Campaign in 2005.

Charlie: Ascension Lutheran? Fundraising Campaign? The 10-step Macedonian Process? What's all this?

Lucy: Where have you been, Charlie Brown? Don't you remember that the people at Ascension started a 3-year fundraising campaign entitled "Find Us Faithful" back in 2005.

Good Grief, Charlie Brown?

- Charlie: Oh, I sort of forgot.
- Lucy: A less sensitive therapist might call you a blockhead at this point, Charlie Brown. But fortunately, you have me instead. And I'm a real sweetie, right Schroeder? *(To Audience)* Schroeder is my Sweetee.
- Schroeder: Well actually...
- Linus: So Lucy...
- Lucy: That's Dr. Lucy. You know, like Dr. Phil and Dr. Laura and...
- Schroeder: Doctor Doolittle.
- Lucy: Always a charmer!
- Linus: Yes, Dr. Lucy, tell us about this 10-step Macedonian process that the good people of Ascension used in their "Find Us Faithful Campaign".
- Lucy: It's all in 2 Corinthians, when the early church was raising money for the desperate plight of the Christians in Jerusalem. The poor folks in Macedonia responded to the need. Perhaps with some help from my assistants, Sally & Peppermint Patty we can review the steps.
- Sally: 2 Corinthians 9:2 reads *"For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you...were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action."*
- Lucy: So you see, the Macedonians were open to change. They listened to Paul and to God. That's step 1.
- Patty: 2 Corinthians 8:5 reads *"And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will."*

Good Grief, Charlie Brown?

- Lucy: That's steps 2, 3, and 4. Step 2, they found God's will. Step 3, they renewed they're commitment to God. And Step 4, they renewed they're commitment to the church.
- Sally: *2 Corinthians 8:2 reads "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints."*
- Lucy: That's steps 5 and 6. Step 5, they caught the vision that God had given them. And Step 6, they actually begged for the opportunity to share in the vision.
- Patty: It's also steps 7, 8, and 9. Step 7, rather than focusing on their own problems (namely poverty), they focused on God's will. Step 8, they gave to make the vision happen. And Step 9, their giving was even to the point of sacrifice.
- Lucy: Then returning to 2 Cor. 9:2, we remember the last Step: they rejoiced at taking part in God's vision for the future.
- Charlie: But that all sounds like it only applies to monetary giving toward a campaign, like the 3-year building campaign at Ascension.
- Sally: Big brother. That campaign wasn't just about money. It was about how God wants all of us to be open to everything he puts in front of us in the future.
- Linus: She's right, Charlie Brown. We need to develop a God-like heart: be open to change, listen to God's call, catch his vision, get excited about the change, and do everything necessary to be a part of that change.
- Schroeder: So really, it applies to other things too: like calling a pastor and planning future ministries.

Good Grief, Charlie Brown?

Pigpen: And it all aligns neatly with the gospel message for today too: you know, where Matthew 6 says that we should lay up treasures in heaven. That means to value the things God values. That will require a willingness on our part to change.

Charlie: Hmm. And we know that change—even God-pleasing change--always brings with it some measure of grief. Maybe Grief really is Good then. I was right all along.

All: Good Grief!