

GRACE... NO GREATER GIFT
MINI-SERIES ON THE GRACE OF GOD

PART 5

"THERE IS GRACE..."
"When the Pain Won't Go Away!"
(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

INTRODUCTION:

PAUL'S STORY:

- You cannot _____ Paul's story apart from the _____ he experienced.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

—1 Corinthians 15:10

- You cannot _____ Paul's story apart from the _____ he experienced.

"For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life."

—2 Corinthians 1:8

PAUL'S STORY...

1A. ...IS ONE OF _____ . (12:7A)

"Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations,..."

"...of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

—Ephesians 3:7, 8

2A. ...IS ONE OF _____ . (12:7B-9A)

"...there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me..."

1. Pain can lead us to a place of _____ . (v. 7b)

"...for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself!"

2. Pain can lead us to a place of _____ . (v. 8)

“Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.”

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

—Hebrews 4:6

3. Pain can lead us to a place of _____ . (v. 9a)

“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

3A. ...IS ONE OF _____ . (12:9B, 10B)

“...for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ...for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

4A. ...IS ONE OF _____ . (12:9B)

“...for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

5A. ...IS ONE OF _____ . (12:10)

“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

4. Pain can lead us to a place of _____ .

“For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,...”

—2 Corinthians 4:17

CONCLUSION: