KNOWING JESUS

GROWING IN GRACE

CCIC BELIEVE THAT:

- CHRIST IS OUR CENTER. Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- LOVE IS OUR BOND. Colossians 3:14" And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
- GOSPEL IS OUR MISSION. Mark 16:15 "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

OUR STRUCTURE:

- TO TEACH THE WORD.
- TO TEACH TO PRAY.
- TO TEACH TO LOVE GOD AND PEOPLE.
- TO TEACH TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

TEXT: 2 PETER 3:17-18

■ "Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

TOPIC: "GROWING IN THE GRACE"

■ INTRODUCTION:

- How does a plant grow? A plant doesn't grow by straining, but by abiding in a good soil, sunlight, and water.
- How does a Christian grow in Grace? Growth is gradual and nurtured. We also need three things. The Son, The Word, and The Holy Spirit. We grow step by step by abiding in the Son, the Word, and the Holy Spirit.

WHY GROW IN GRACE MATTERS?

■ "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen" Peter ends his letter with this command because he just warned about false teachers and scoffers(2Peter 3:3, 16-17) .. THE BEST SAFEGUARD AGAISNT ERROR IS NOT JUST DEFENDING AGAINST LIES, BUT ACTIVELY GROWING IN CHRIST. SPIRITUAL STAGNATION MAKES US VULNERABLE; BUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH MAKES US FRUITFUL AND STEADFAST.

- 1. GRACE AS GOD'S GIFT.
- A. Grace is God's undeserved favor and enabling power.
- B. It's not only how we are saved, but also how we are sustained daily.
- Ephesians 2:8-9"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

- 1 Corinthians 15:10" But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me."
- C. Growing in grace means moving beyond just receiving forgiveness, to living daily in His strength.

- 2. GROW IN DEPENDENCE.
- A. To grow in grace means learning to rely more on God and less on self.
- B. The more we mature, the more we realize we can't live the Christian life by our own effort.
- C. Like a branch depends on the vine, we must remain connected to Christ.

■ John 15:5 "'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

- 3. GROWTH IN CHARACTER.
- A. Grace transforms us to be more like Jesus.
- B. As we grow, traits like humility, kindness, forgiveness, and patience, become more evident.
- Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- C. Grace doesn't just cover our sin- it changes us from the inside out.

- 4. GROWTH IN SERVICE.
- A. Grace equips us with spiritual gifts for serving others.
- Romans 12:6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your [a] faith; "
- B. Growing in grace means using what God has given us to bless and build others.
- C. It shifts us from "How can I be blessed? To How can I be a blessing?

- 5. GROWTH IN GRATITUDE AND WORSHIP.
- A. The more we understand God's grace, the more we respond with gratitude.
- B. Our lives become a song of worship. 2 Peter 3:18.
- "To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."
- C. The ultimate purpose growing in grace is for God's glory, not man's glory.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Grace is God's unmerited favor and transforming power. It saves us, sustains us, shapes us into Christ's image.
- 2. Growing in grace means learning to depend more on God's strength and less on our own.

CONCLUSION.

- 3. Grace changes our character-producing humility, kindness, forgiveness, and love.
- 4. Grace equips us to serve others with the gifts God has given us.
- 5. The more we understand grace, the more we respond with gratitude and worship to God.

CONCLUSION Reflection Questions.

- 1. In what area of my life do I need to depend more on God's grace rather than my own?
- 2. How has God's grace changed me in the past year?
- 3. Is there someone I need to extend grace and forgiveness to?
- 4. What practical step can I take this week to grow deeper in grace?

CONCLUSION PRAYER.

■ LORD JESUS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING GRACE. HELP ME TO GROW DAILY IN YOUR LOVE, STRENGTH, AND WISDOM. TEACH ME TO DEPEND ON YOU MORE AND REFLECT YOUR GRACE TO OTHERS. MAY MY LIFE BRING GLORY TO YOU. IN JESUS NAME AMEN!!!!