

## The Bible 20/20 Week 46: "The Power of Grace" (11-22-20)

**Reading this week:** Galatians & Ephesians

**Review: Current Series** - "Rediscovering the Power of the Church" (So Far: The Gospel, Love, Community)

**Today: "The Power of Grace"**

### **Ephesians 1:2 (ESV)**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Note:** In the following verses Paul gives a soaring explanation of this Grace (vs 3-14). also (3:14-21)

- **The mind-blowing power of Grace - it's beyond what we have imagined!**
- **This is why we have a song like - "Amazing Grace"**

**Paul keeps things a little simpler when he opens his Letter to the Galatians . . .**

### **Galatians 1:3-4a (ESV)**

(3) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, (4) who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age

**Note:** This simple clear explanation is immediately followed with an essential warning . . .

### **Galatians 1:6 (ESV)**

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel

**Note:** Grace is easily distorted. Beware that you understand Grace properly, that you may walk in its power!

**Example** - Personal story: The beautiful morning moon

## **1) Grace brings Freedom for a New Life**

### **Galatians 4:8-9 (ESV)**

(8) Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. (9) But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

**Note:** We can so easily return to old patterns, so be careful

## **2 basic patterns addressed here in Galatians . . .**

### **a) Free from Works of the Law**

### **Galatians 2:16 (ESV)**

yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

**Note:** Works of the law do not save, it is the promise of God that saves!

## b) Free from Sin

### Galatians 5:13, 17 (ESV)

(13) For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. . . (17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

**Note:** What the flesh desires is not our only desire now - Grace rescues from sin & offers a new way!

**Example: Luke 15 - 2 Lost Brothers** (an exploration of the Freedom offered by the Father's Grace)

**The way to freedom and a new way of life?      Death!**

### Galatians 2:20-21 (ESV)

(20) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- The essential quality of Grace? It is found and experienced in the presence of God!
- The new way of life Grace offers - death to Self / alive in Christ

**Grace enables us to experience Gospel Power (Week 1 of this series)**

## 2) Grace produces Health & Growth

**Freedom's purpose - growing in the Way of Love (Week 2 & 3 of this series)**

### Galatians 5:13 (ESV)

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

**Note: We are set free in order to Grow in the Way of Love!**

**Freedom from . . .**

### Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

### Galatians 5:18 (ESV)

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- **So, we need to be around the God who is Love and full of Grace, in order to produce real fruit!**

**Free to . . .**

### Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Consider the Parables of Jesus: wheat & weeds, sowers, vines/branches, unproductive trees**

**Galatians 5:25 (ESV)**

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

**Note:** Remember - Grace is found & experienced in the Presence of God. So walk this out daily!

**See Ephesians - This new way of life describe in practical detail . . .**

**Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)**

(1) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (3) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Notes:** Life in the Spirit is life in community - Chapters 4-6:9 all about unity in the Body of Christ

**3) Grace brings Victory****Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV)**

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

**Note: Grace brings strength, perspective, & victory!**

- (vs. 10) - Strength for the fight
- (vs. 11-12) - Know the real enemy & keep your focus there
- (vs. 13) - The fight is real, but so is the victory
- (vs. 13) - Stand in Grace - there is no other way!

**Conclusion:** Grace is found in the presence of God, and is our ultimate hope for experiencing true freedom, walking in real love, and standing in victory!

**Let's Pray!**