

Our Heavenly Heritage

Part 5 God's Grace Revealed in Us

1. Endure Suffering so others may know Jesus Christ.

"For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles" . . . ¹³ So, then, I ask you not to be discouraged over my afflictions on your behalf, for they are your glory."

Ephesians 3:1 & 13 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul gave a glimpse of his sufferings for Christ- ²⁴ Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. ²⁶ On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers; ²⁷ toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing. ²⁸ Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches."

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 (CSB)

¹⁹ Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; . . . To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. ²³ Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings."

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (CSB)

2. Embrace The Grace of God in Jesus Christ.

. . . assuming you have heard about the administration of God's grace that he gave me for you. ³ The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have briefly written above. ⁴ By reading this you are able to understand my insight into the mystery of

Christ. ⁵ This was not made known to people in other generations as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things."

Ephesians 3:2-9 (CSB)

⁷ But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, ¹¹ assuming that I will somehow each the resurrection from among the dead."

Philippians 3:7-11 (CSB)

3. Express the wisdom of God in Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. ¹¹ This is according to his eternal purpose accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him we have boldness and confident access through faith in him."

Ephesians 3:10-12 (CSB)

¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect. ¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved."

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 (CSB)