

Grace: From Start to Finish

Sermon Notes

October 30,2022

A. Rethinking The Nature of Grace In Our Lives

1. We need to stop preaching grace to the sinner and "grit" to the Christian!
2. The Bible teaches that salvation is by God's grace!
(Ephesians 2:4-5)
3. Grace not only redeems the sinner, but grace continually _____
the Christian! (Philippians 1:6)
4. ***Reflection/Discussion Question:*** *Reflect on the teaching and preaching you have received on the topic of grace through your years in church. What are some of the more prominent themes that you have heard regarding "grace?" Was the teaching you received on grace more focused on "redeeming the sinner" or "growing the Christian?"*

B. Grace: A Resource For Every Need

1. **Grace enables me to say "No" to _____!** (Titus 2:11-14)
 - Grace changes my reason for obeying God (John 8:1-8)
 - Grace leads me to think "How close can I get to God!"
 - Grace also gives me a new power to obey! (Romans 6:13-14)
 - ***Reflection/Discussion Question:*** *How does grace affect my motivation for obeying God and my ability to obey Him?*
2. **Grace equips me to _____ effectively!**
 - Grace not only motivates me to serve, but grace enables me to serve!
(I Corinthians 15:10)
 - All Christians have been gifted by God to serve the Body of Christ!
(Romans 12:4-8)
 - ***Reflection/Discussion Question:*** *In what ways has God gifted you to serve and build up the Body of Christ?*

3. Grace empowers me to overcome life's _____!

- Note Paul's struggle with his "thorn in the flesh" and God's response to him... (I Corinthians 12:7-10)
- **Reflection/Discussion Question:** *When have been some times when you have taken God at His word and "have approached the throne of grace and received mercy and grace in your time of need?" (Hebrews 4:16) What did you learn from these experiences?*

4. God's grace encourages us to keep _____ in Christ!

- We don't understand grace very well if we are living a lifestyle of the minimum.
- Grace should produce in us a desire for spiritual _____! (II Corinthians 5:14-15; Hebrews 10:24)
- *We cannot in good conscience settle for a mediocre, undisciplined, "just enough to get by" kind of faith once we have tasted of grace!*
- **Reflection/Discussion Question:** *Reflect on your own spiritual growth over the past year or two. How have you grown as a follower of Jesus during this time? What strategies are you using to grow in the likeness of Christ?*

5. God's grace will enable us to _____ the race!

- God did not send His son just to get us started. God sent His son Jesus to bring us all the way home!
- There was enough grace shed on Calvary's Cross for every person here to finish the race!
- **Reflection/Discussion Question:** *Reflect on some faithful, devoted followers of Jesus who have either "finished the race" or they are in "the last few miles of their race." What lessons have you learned from them? How have they encouraged you to continue "running the race?"*