

PAUL: PERSECUTOR TO PREACHER

Grace

Icebreaker: How would you define grace?

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. (Phil. 1:2; 4:23)

Grace “to you” – Paul and grace received...

- **A free gift given from God** – “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 3:23-24) - **How do you feel about the concept of sin? What evidence do you see in our world of sin?**
- **A free gift embraced by faith** – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9) - **Read this passage carefully. Observe it. Have you done this by faith? Why or why not?**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. (Rom. 5:1-2)

Grace “with you” – Paul and grace released...

- **To motivate you in purity** – “...but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.” (Rom. 6:13b-14) - **How would you personally apply Romans 6:13-14?**
- **To shape you in identity** – “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect.” (1 Cor. 15:10a) - **How would you answer the question, “Who am I?” Does your answer naturally include the spiritual, or something else?**
- **To empower you in ministry** – “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...” (Rom. 12:6) - **What unique way(s) has God’s grace been given to you for empowerment in ministry?**
- **To strengthen you in weakness** – “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (2 Cor. 12:9-10) - **where are you weak?**

‡ **The will of God will never leave you where the grace of God cannot keep you** – “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Cor. 9:8)

- **To compel you in love** – “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Eph. 4:32-5:2) - **By grace, name ways you extend love to others. In other words, how can you be imitators of Christ in the relationships around you?**

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...The grace of the Lord
Jesus be with you. (1 Cor. 1:3; 16:23)*