

Amazed at Grace – or Grace for Granted – March 17, 2021

Eph. 2:8-9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

- Grace is God loving us first ... in spite of sin ... accepting us as we are, desiring to draw us to Himself. Sin separates us, grace joins us together. Grace is God’s gift to us... a gift that redeems us and renews us.
- **Rom. 3** - There is no difference between us as people – “²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”
- Jesus justifies us; God sees us thru filter of grace. We’re made righteous thru the blood of Jesus.
 - **1 John 2:2** – Jesus “is *the* propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of *the* whole world.”
 - **Propitiation** – “the act of regaining the favor or goodwill;” atonement; sacrifice.
- **That is Grace.** Making us better. Making us right. Giving us favor.
 - But the price was high; sacrifice great. It should still amaze us. We should see the cross w/wonder, not familiarity. See ourselves as better.
 - **1 Cor. 15:10** – “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not in vain.”
 - We need to recognize it, revere it. And let it renew & regenerate us.
 - Ex: Death row inmate w/ 2d chance; is grateful for redemption. Doesn’t make same mistakes. Lives a new life.
 - We’re all repeat offenders; but we shouldn’t have live in a never-ending cycle of sin-forgive-grace-sin...
 - **Deut. 6:3** – “be careful to obey so that it may go well with you”
 - Grace should guide our lives; obey God, please Him
 - “God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant.” – **Rom. 5:20**
 - Sin used to rule us, but “now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God” & eternal life – **Rom. 5:21**
 - So “then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more & more of his wonderful grace?” – **Rom. 6:1** Of course not.
 - Grace allows us to “live new lives.” – **Rom. 6:4**

- But we aren't perfect.
 - **1 John 1:8** - "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."
- **John 1:16** – "From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace."
 - Grace exists in unlimited supply. We receive "grace in place of grace already given," from God's abundance.
 - Desires may tempt us to sin. We'll screw up at times & do it again.
 - We won't be perfect, but we must be persistent.
 - We must continue forward, pick up, start again. Don't give up. Don't beat yourself up. Don't live with shame. Grace is still there, to free us.
- **God's Grace** is His desire to bless us... gives us more than we ask. Make us better versions of ourselves. Jesus is dying to give us places of favor w/God.
- His grace is greater than our sin, bigger than our past failures. Our past should remind us of His grace, so we don't relive our guilt. Live free.
- Celebrate Grace, honor it, live in it; but don't take it for granted.

- Song of the week – You're Grace Still Amazes Me