

Grace: God's Provision for Our Need Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 12:9

INTRODUCTION

Revival is... *“the extraordinary movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of _____, producing extraordinary results.”*

Revival is the Reviver at work in the life of His own, the church. **What are those marks of revival in the life of the church?** In short, **a revived heart loves and serves.** The revived heart loves God and people; serves God and serves people, especially God's people. If you find yourself making excuses for not serving Him, this is not a sign of a revived heart.!

We have considered the need and the importance of humility. The attitude that draws the attention of God; humility draws that gaze of the Almighty. Proud hearts do not respond well to God. And God does not respond well to proud hearts.

Next, we looked at Psalm 32 and saw the need for honesty...the need for a transparency before God. In other words, the need for confession of sin to God. When it comes to revival, silence is not golden. There's a blessing that accompanies confession of sin and a heaviness from the hand of God that accompanies the hiding of sin.

Last time, we considered the importance of repentance. We turned to **Psalm 51, James 4** and walked away learning that **...repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of behavior. Repentance results in hating what you once loved and loving what you once hated.** The purpose of repentance is not to make us feel better about ourselves but to restore us to a right relationship with God, so that our lives may again bring glory to Him and be used for His purposes.

When we take revival seriously...when we take seeking God humbly, honestly, repentantly, we can easily feel overwhelmed with a sense of conviction, failure and guilt; if we are not careful, we may even give up on seeking God to revive our hearts. The authors of **Seeking Him** provide us with

comforting words. They **write:** *“The good news is that God does not ask us to meet His requirements on our own - in fact, He knows we can't live humble, holy, obedient lives without Him. God makes available to every one of His children an incredible resource to make it possible for us to live a godly life. That amazing extravagant provision is called...grace.”* (Seeking Him, p. 81)

No word brings greater joy to the heart of a follower of Christ than grace. Grace is a gift from God; Grace is a gift from God. Grace - choosing to reconcile to Himself those who have scorned Him, those who have declared their independence from Him, those who have sinned against Him and deserve His punishment...His wrath.

For this morning, let us explore the richness of His grace; we can't do it justice in one sitting so we will limit our exploration to **3 aspects** of God's grace.

Let's begin with...

I. God's _____ Grace (Ephesians 2:1-10)

The most magnificent display of God's grace is seen in our salvation. Our story...the story of every believer...the before and after pic of every believer can be found in **Eph 2:1-10.**

A. EXPLAINED

Did you note the words or phrases in these verses that describe what our condition was like apart from the grace of God? Humankind's sinful condition was more than annoyance to God. Sin was not something we could apologize for, thereby patching up the relations as if we'd simply had a disagreement with God. We were children of wrath - guilty and condemned. Not a pleasant thought, is it - that our eternal soul sat on death row?

Please note what God bestowed upon us when we were 'dead in our trespasses' - mercy, love, grace, kindness.

What does this mean for you and me?

B. APPLIED

1. GOD'S grace means that we don't have to _____ our salvation

You see, this is completely contrary to human thinking. In life, everything is based on performance. We're taught as children that if we want something, we have to earn it.

Sadly, many approach God in the same way. We think we have to somehow earn salvation by our righteous deeds. The only problem is what the Bible says about our righteousness: *"We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."* (Isaiah 64:6)

2. GOD'S grace means that we don't have to _____ that our sins are too _____

God's grace has no limit! We never have to worry that our sins are too great! Most of us know the embarrassment of bouncing a check but God has no problem covering His checks. God's grace is so inexhaustible, so unlimited in its supply, that it never runs out. One of the greatest men transformed by God's grace wrote the **following**: *"I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."* (1 Timothy 1:12-15) Our sins are never too great for God to forgive when you turn to Christ. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.

God's saving grace...next, please note...

II. God's _____ Grace (Titus 2:11-14)

Once we experience God's saving grace, we don't automatically become spiritual giants who have arrived and have it all together. As children of God, we continue to need His grace for every moment of every day. We need Him to conform us to the image of His Son. **We need His grace to help us live like children of God.** Grace does more than affect our standing with God by crediting us with righteousness. Grace affects our experience as well.

The Bible puts it this way: *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."* (Titus 2:11-14)

God's grace is the dynamic quality of His life within us that gives us both the **DESIRE** and the **POWER** to obey God. John Piper rightly **states**: *"Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned. Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon."* (Piper, Solid Joys: Daily Devotionals, June 20)

God's saving grace...God's sanctifying grace...lastly...

III. God's _____ Grace (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The grace that is sufficient to deal with our _____ is also sufficient to deal with our _____.

- 2 Cor 11:24-30
- 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

"When you are in the furnace, your Father keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat." (Warren Wiersbe)

CONCLUSION

Where do we go from here?

- My friend, have you trusted in Christ as Lord & Savior? What you need is God's saving grace. Will you seek Him today? ***If you continue to resist His grace, you will experience His judgment.***
- Before we end this morning, child of God...let's make it **Personal. Please see the column to the right.** Let's take a few moments to identify some specific ways that you may need God's grace at this season of your life.

I need God's grace in my life to...

- Deal with a major disappointment
- Forgive someone who has hurt me deeply
- Seek forgiveness from someone I have wronged
- Mend a broken relationship
- Break off a wrong relationship
- Meet pressing financial needs
- Handle loneliness
- Deal with the pain of my past
- Be morally pure
- Respond to a tough situation at work
- Bear chronic physical pain
- Repent of a particular sin
- Resist a particular temptation
- Overcome a besetting sin
- Break a habit
- Guard my tongue
- Love a family member who is hard to love
- Be faithful to my spouse
- Take a specific step of obedience
- Honor my parents
- Love my wife as Christ loves the church
- Respect and submit to my husband
- Be kind and patient with my kids
- Accept a particular ministry opportunity
- Fulfill the ministry He has entrusted to me