

## Appreciating the Grace of God

Lancaster, June 17, 2022

### How should I respond to the grace of God?

- Last night, we addressed the grace of God.  
We noted it is God's favor, His part in our salvation
- Grace is also the PRIME factor in our salvation.
- But it does NOT remove our need to respond.
- It can be abused in many ways

## How Should I Respond to The Grace of God?

Lancaster, June 17, 2022

### I need to deal with my sins

- As noted, God has done His part
- **Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 2:11; etc.**
- In scripture, men heard the truth and were convicted - **Acts 2:37-38; 16:29-30; 9:6; etc.**
- I need to obey the gospel - **Acts 2:38**
- As a Christian, I need to take care of my sins - **Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9**

### I need to deal with my sins

What about sins that I struggle with?

- Most, even as Christians, have weaknesses and spiritual struggles - we are prone to sin (NOTE: We do NOT have to sin) - **Galatians 5:16-17**  
- Satan exploits these - **2 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8**
- It is these struggles that we often wrestle with in our minds and cause us to doubt our salvation
- How do we deal with these?

### I need to deal with my sins

What about sins that I struggle with?

- First, understand that we cannot persist in sin and be pleasing to God - **1 John 3:6-9; Romans 6:1-2**
- But, if we are truly striving to do right and working to overcome our sins and weaknesses, we ought to be living with assurance - **1 John 1:7-9; 2:1-2; etc.**

## I need to deal with my sins

I must do what I can to overcome

- We cannot persist in sins and be rebellious and expect God to be pleased with us OR to ignore what we are doing. We HAVE TO keep trying!
- We must NEVER give up!
- **Romans 12:21; 1 John 5:4-5**  
**Luke 13:24** - strive!  
Consider **Galatians 5:24**, we must crucify the flesh with its passions

## I need to deal with my sins

- BUT, in these matters know that God's grace IS greater than our sins
- **Romans 5:20-21**, (but do NOT forget **6:1-2**).  
- He has forgiven and wants to forgive us - **2 Peter 3:9**, applies to struggling Christians as well

## I need to deal with my sins

- God's grace IS greater than our sins
- Know that when He forgives, He forgets - **Acts 3:19** (blotted out - erased),  
**Jeremiah 31:34**;  
**cf. Psalms 103:11-12**
- BUT, we have to be doing our part!  
We CANNOT dismiss our need for repentance!

## I need to deal with my sins

- Can we reach a point where we cannot be forgiven?
- It is possible - **1 John 5:16; Hebrews 6:4-6**.  
- Such is descriptive of one who has CHOSEN to harden his heart, seared his conscience - **1 Timothy 4:2**  
- He is in a state RIGHT NOW where forgiveness is impossible  
- Even then, I believe one can return, but it is up to him to do so! (e.g. Manasseh)  
- There is NO guarantee that such will happen

## I need to resolve to live for Him

- Because of God's grace I am a new creation
- **2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:3-4; Ephesians 4:17**  
- I put on the new man  
- I live soberly, righteously, and zealously - **Titus 2:11-14**  
- I obey Him - **Hebrews 5:9**;  
**cf. 1 John 1:5-10** - walking in the light

## I need to resolve to live for Him

- Because of God's grace I am a new creation
- If I truly appreciate God's grace, it is going to change me!  
It will be reflected in the way I talk, walk and even think.  
It will be evident.

## I need to be thankful

- Thanksgiving is the appropriate response to God's grace
- **2 Corinthians 9:15** - thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.
  - 9 times (NKJV) the word for grace is translated "thanks" - **2 Timothy 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:57**
- We always give thanks - **1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20**
- Can I EVER thank God enough?

## I need to humble myself

- Truly appreciating God's grace puts me where I belong in relation to him
- **Matthew 5:3** - poor in spirit  
**James 4:6, 10** - He gives grace to the humble, He lifts us up  
**Luke 17:7-10** - speaks of a servant doing his work and still realizing he is unprofitable - gratitude leads to humility!

## I need to trust Him

- Appreciating God's grace means that I know He can do what needs to be done! This is what FAITH is about!
- **Hebrews 11:6**  
**Ephesians 1:12-13** - in Him you also trusted  
**Hebrews 13:9** - let your heart be established by grace - confidence

## I need to show Him reverence

- Knowing what His grace has done, He is worthy of my utmost respect!
- **Hebrews 12:28** - we serve Him with reverence and godly fear  
- reflected in the way I worship Him - cf. **Colossians 3:16; John 4:24**

## I need to use my abilities

- God's grace is available to everyone, but we are all different.
- **Romans 12:6** - our gifts are given to us by His grace. Will we use what we have and be content with that?
  - God has ALWAYS demanded that we give Him our best - cf. **Matthew 6:33; 22:37; Romans 12:1; Colossians 3:23; etc.**
  - If we truly appreciate God, we will not give Him "leftovers"

## I need to show grace to others

- God's grace appreciated will NOT be kept to ourselves
- **Matthew 28:19-20** - we need to be striving to reach others  
**Romans 1:7** - Paul's greetings to others included grace (more than a word)
  - I need to serve others - **1 Peter 4:9-11** - good stewards of God's manifold grace

## I need to show grace to others

- God's grace appreciated will NOT be kept to ourselves
- Why would I want to keep it to myself? cf. **1 Corinthians 9:16**; **2 Corinthians 5:10-11**  
**Luke 24:32** - did not our hearts burn within us?

## I need to keep studying His word

- In His word, we learn of His grace - how to live with it, etc.
- Grace is associated with His word - **Acts 20:32**  
**2 Peter 3:18** - grow in the grace and knowledge of Him

## I need to accept who I am

- **1 Corinthians 15:9-10** - Paul acknowledged this
  - This includes my past, where I am right now, my abilities and limitations.
  - I cannot let my past keep me from moving forward - **Philippians 3:13-14**
  - I need to make the best of who I am acknowledging that this is how God made me
  - Remember that God does NOT expect more of me than I am or can handle

## I need to know I can fall from grace

- **Galatians 5:4**; **Hebrews 12:15**
  - While God's grace is great and can keep us, we must never forget that we can CHOOSE to walk away!
  - As long as we live, we have not yet reached the goal - **1 Corinthians 9:27**

The grace of  
God

Consider again **1 Corinthians 15:10**,  
*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

The grace of  
God

What are you doing with  
His grace in you?