

GRACE II

9/30/07

Opening Discussion:

Last week we shared how that it is God's grace alone that makes us acceptable in His sight, by making us righteous, holy and perfect before Him. We can approach Him boldly because of this "robe of righteousness" He gives us as a covering the moment we trust in Him for salvation. However, grace is much, much more than simply being forgiven.

These two definitions of grace speak volumes....

- **GRACE = Unmerited, Undeserved Favor (*Guilt v Grace complex*)**
- **GRACE = God's Riches At Christ Expense**

John 1:16 (N.I.V.) – *“From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.”*

Roman 8:32 (N.I.V.) – *“He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us – how we He also, along with Him also give us all things?”*

*Message #2: GRACE - BLESSING AFTER BLESSING...

There is an incredible Old Testament story that God uses to vividly paint a picture that has it's parallel in New Testament truth, showing several of the blessings that are ours because of God's grace. The story, found in identical passages (II Kings 25:27-30 & Jeremiah 52:31-34), details six blessings Evil-marodech (King of Babylon) bestowed upon Jehoiachin (Babylonian prisoner for 37years) after he identified with and befriended Jehoiachin when he was briefly thrown in prison by his father Nebuchadnezzar. It is later, after he ascends the throne to begin his reign, that he grants these blessings.

Jer. 52:31-34 – *“ In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Evil-Merodach¹ became king of Babylon, he released Jehoiachin king of Judah and freed him from prison on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month. He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table. Day by day the king of Babylon gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived, till the day of his death.”*

1. _____

Eph 1:7(N.L.T.) “ *...He purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are forgiven.*”

Eph 2:1,4(N.I.V.) – *“...you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins...” / “God, who is rich in Mercy, made us **alive with Christ**”*

***Discussion:** In what way did Jehoiachin suddenly being freed after 37 years in a Babylonian prison vividly illustrate our situation when Christ freed us?

2. _____

Eph 1:6(N.L.T.) - *“So we praise God for the wonderful **kindness** He has poured out on us.”*

Eph 1:7(N.L.T.) - *“He is so rich in **kindness** that he purchased our freedom...”*

Eph 1:8(N.L.T.) - *“He has showered His **kindness** on us...”*

Eph 2:7(N.I.V.) - *“...that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His **kindness** to us...”*

***Discussion:** How does the story of the “prodigal son” illustrate this point?

3. _____

Eph 2:6(N.I.V.) - “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the Heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”

***Discussion:** What is the significance of being seated in heavenly places with Christ?

4. _____

Luke 15:22(N.I.V.) - “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’”

***Discussion:**

- Why was it important to get rid of the prison garments?
- How does the story of the “Scarlet Letter” relate to this point?
- What do the robe, ring, and sandals each represent?

5. _____

Mt 6:11(N.I.V.) - “Give us today our daily bread”

***Discussion:** When we’re saved, a party is thrown in heaven on our behalf; but why is “daily bread” so important?

6. _____

Phil 4:19(N.I.V.) - “And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious Riches in Christ Jesus.”

Mt 6:33(N.I.V.) – “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

***Discussion:**

- Can you give examples of God’s provision for you?
- What prerequisite is given in the Word to receive God’s provision?

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound. That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind, but now I see.

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed!

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we first begun.

