

LIVING BY GRACE

Essentials for Living – Message 1

“Whatever I am now it is all because God poured out such kindness and grace upon me...”

1 Cor. 15:10a (LB)

“From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.”

John 1:16 (NIV)

WHAT IS GRACE?

G _____

“If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.”

Rom. 11:6 (NASB)

“All of us need to be made right with God by His grace, which is a free gift ... through Jesus Christ.”

Rom. 3:24 (NCV)

R _____

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves. It is the free gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Eph. 2:8-9 (NIV)

“People receive God’s promise by having faith. This happens so the promise can be a free gift.”

Rom. 4:16a (NCV)

A _____

“The promise is not only for those people that live under the law of Moses. It is for anyone who lives with faith like Abraham.”

Rom. 4:16b (ICB)

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Rom. 10:13 (NIV)

C _____

“We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved.”

Acts 15:12 (NIV)

“... many people have received God’s gift of life by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ.”

Rom. 5:15b (NCV)

“Jesus has the power of God. His power has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know Him.”

2 Peter 1:3 (ICB)

E _____

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Rom. 6:23 (NLT)

“The Lord longs to be gracious to you.”

Isa. 30:18

HOW TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE

Essentials for Living – Message 2

“A sweet friendship refreshes the soul.”

Pr. 27:9 (Mes)

1. BE _____ AND TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

“For the Holy Spirit, God’s gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them.”

2 Tim. 1:7 (LB)

2. BE _____ OF THEIR NEEDS.

“Look out for one another’s interests, not just your own.”

Phil 2:4 (GN)

“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, God forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

Col. 3:13 (NLT)

3. BE _____ WITH YOUR WORDS

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Eph. 4:29 (NIV)

4. BE _____ ABOUT PROBLEMS.

“An honest answer is the sign of a true friendship.”

Pr. 24:26 (GN)

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted...”

Pr. 27:5-6 (NIV)

5. BE _____ WITH INFORMATION.

“A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.”

Pr. 11:13 (NIV)

6. BE _____ TO THE RELATIONSHIP.

“A friend loves at all times.”

Pr. 17:17 (NIV)

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Pr. 18:24 (NIV)

USING THE BIBLE TO MAKE DECISIONS

Essentials for Living – Message 3

“If you want better insight and discernment... learn the importance of reverence for the Lord and of trusting Him. He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time.”

Pr. 2:5,9 (LB)

SIX WAYS TO TEST A DECISION

1. THE IDEAL TEST:

IS IT IN HARMONY _____ **?**

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

Ps. 119:105 (NIV)

2. THE INTEGRITY TEST:

WOULD I WANT EVERYONE _____ **?**

“The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”

Pr. 10:9 (NIV)

“Knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin.”

James 4:17 (LB)

“If someone believes something is wrong, then he shouldn’t do it because for him it is wrong.”

Rom. 14:14b (LB)

3. THE IMPROVEMENT TEST:

WILL IT MAKE ME _____ **?**

“Everything is permissible – but not everything is beneficial, ... (and) not everything is constructive.”

1 Cor. 10:23 (NIV)

4. THE INDEPENDENCE TEST:

COULD IT BECOME _____ ?

“All things are lawful for me, but I will not be dominated by anything.”

1 Cor. 6:12b (RSV)

“I can do anything I want to IF Christ has not said no, BUT some of these things aren’t good for me. Even if I am allowed to do them, I’ll refuse to if I think they might get such a grip on me that I can’t easily stop when I want to.”

1 Cor. 6:12 (LB)

5. THE INFLUENCE TEST:

WILL IT HARM _____ ?

“Each of us will give an account of himself to God... Try to live in such a way that you will never make your brother stumble by letting him see you doing something he thinks is wrong.”

Rom. 14:12-13 (LB)

“Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; we must bear the ‘burden’ of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others...”

Rom. 15:1-2 (LB)

6. THE INVESTMENT TEST:

IS IT THE _____ ?

“Be very careful how you live. Don’t live like those who are not wise. Live wisely. I mean that you should use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times. So don’t be foolish with your lives. Learn what the Lord wants you to do.”

Eph. 5:15-17 (ICB)

HOW TO INVEST YOUR LIFE

Essentials for Living – Message 4

“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Eph. 2:10 (NIV)

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTING YOUR LIFE

Matt. 25:14-30

1. OWNERSHIP:

Everything I have _____

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.”

(vs. 14)

2. ALLOCATION:

God has given me some _____

“To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability.”

(vs. 15)

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us”

Rom. 12:6 (NIV)

3. ACCOUNTABILITY:

God expects me to _____

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts.”

(vs. 19)

One day God will ask ME: What did you _____

with what you were _____ ?

4. UTILIZATION:

It is wrong for me to _____

- **1st man doubled his talents. (vs. 16)**
- **2nd man doubled his talents (vs. 17)**
- **3rd man _____ his talents. (vs. 18)**

The master's reaction: (vs. 26-27) "you wicked, lazy servant"

5. MOTIVATION:

_____ **keeps me from using my talent.**

"I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground."

(vs 25)

6. APPLICATION:

If I don't use it, _____

"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents."

(vs 28)

The way to invest my talents is through:

7. COMPENSATION:

If I use my talent wisely, I will _____

"His master replied, 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things – I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

(vs. 23)

When are you going to "Move into Ministry"?

HOW TO TELL GOD YOU LOVE HIM

Essentials for Living – Message 5

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Matt. 23:37-38 (NIV)

“Expressing my love to God” is called _____

1. BY _____ TO HIM

“Sing out your thanks to Him; sing praises to our God...”

Ps. 147:7 (LB)

Regularly – Occasionally – Rarely

2. BY _____ WITH HIM

“I love the Lord because He hears and answers my prayers. Because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I have breath!”

Ps. 116:1-2 (NLT)

Regularly – Occasionally – Rarely

3. BY _____ TO HIM

“I am the good shepherd I know My own sheep, and they know Me... and they listen to My voice.”

John 10:14, 16 (NLT)

Regularly – Occasionally – Rarely

4. BY _____ WITH HIM

“If anyone is ashamed of Me and My teaching then I will be ashamed of him when I come with the glory of My Father...”

Mark 8:38 (ICB)

2 WAYS: COMMUNION & BAPTISM

“When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace – a new life in a new land! That’s what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.”

Rom. 6:3 (Mes.)

“Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as He did Christ.”

Col. 2:12 (Mes)

“Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe – Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise.”

Gal. 3:27 (Mes.)

Regularly – Occasionally – Rarely

5. BY _____ TO HIM

“Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.”

Rom. 12:1 (Mes)

Regularly – Occasionally – Rarely

6. BY _____ TO HIM

“Just as you excel in faith, in speech, in knowledge and in complete earnestness... see that you also excel in the grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love.”

2 Cor. 8:7-8 (NIV)

Regularly – Occasionally – Rarely