

SAVING GRACE

Good News About Grace – Message 1

“The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.”

Ps. 145:8 (NIV)

WHAT IS GRACE?

G _____

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

Romans 3:24 (NCV)

R _____

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

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

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

Romans 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.”

Romans 4:16b (ICB)

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

Romans 10:13 (NIV)

C _____

“The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

John 1:17 (NCV)

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

Romans 5:15b (NCV)

“[Don’t] treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if we could be saved by keeping the law, then there was no need for Christ to die.”

Gal. 2:21 (NLT)

E _____

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

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

“The Lord longs to be gracious to you.”

Isa. 30:18

How will I Respond to God’s Saving Grace?

The rest of the series:

Restoring Grace - How God wipes out guilt and helps you start over.

Sustaining Grace - How God gives you the power to keep on going.

Healing Grace - How God does miracles in your life.

Liberating Grace - How to break free from perfectionism.

Assuring Grace - How to defeat your doubts.

Offering Grace - How to extend God’s grace to others.

Growing in Grace - How to become what you are meant to be.

SUSTAINING GRACE

Good News About Grace – Message 2

“God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished...”

Phil. 1:6 (NLT)

“My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that the grace of God is with you no matter what happens.”

1 Peter 5:11 (NLT)

GOD’S SUSTAINING GRACE...

1. HELPS ME KEEP STANDING _____

“Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith.”

1 Pet. 5:8

“The temptations that you have are the same ones that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can stand. When you are tempted, God will also give you a way to escape. Then you will be able to stand it.”

1 Cor. 10:13 (ICB)

2. IT HELPS ME KEEP STANDING _____

“It is God who gives us ... the ability to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and He has identified us as His own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts...”

2 Cor. 1:21-22 (NLT)

“For God is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.”

Phil. 2:13 (Ph)

3. IT HELPS ME KEEP STANDING _____

“So don’t worry, because I am with you. Don’t be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you: I will support you with My right hand that saves you.”

Isa. 41:10 (NCV)

“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”

Ps. 46:1 (NLT)

II. HOW TO RECEIVE GOD’S SUSTAINING GRACE

1. CALL OUT FOR _____

“God gives grace to the humble. So give yourselves completely to God ... Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.”

James 4:6-8 (NCV/NLT)

2. FILL YOUR MIND _____

“I am ... completely discouraged; revive me by Your Word.”

Ps 119:25 (NLT)

3. ACCEPT SUPPORT _____

“By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.”

Gal. 6:2 (NCV)

4. HOLD ON _____

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired ... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.”

Isa. 40:29-31 (NIV)

“So we don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.”

2 Cor. 4:18 (NLT)

“I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But He said to me, “My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, then My power is made perfect in you.”

2 Cor. 12:8-9 (ICB)

LIBERATING GRACE

Good News About Grace – Message 3

“You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish.”

Galatians 2:3 (NCV)

Perfectionism:

“Trying to prove my worth by being perfect.”

HOW PERFECTIONISM HARMS

* IT DEFEATS MY _____

“If you wait for perfect conditions, you’ll never get anything done.”

Eccl. 11:4 (LB)

* IT DAMAGES MY _____

“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends.”

Prov. 17:9 (LB)

* IT DESTROYS MY _____

“Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?”

Eccl. 7:16 (NNAS)

HOW TO R.E.L.A.X. IN GOD’S GRACE

REALIZE _____

“Nothing is perfect except (God’s) Word.”

Ps. 119:96 (LB)

“There is no one on earth who does what is right all the time and never makes a mistake.”

Eccl. 7:20 (GN)

ENJOY _____

“See how very much our Heavenly Father loves us, for He allows us to be called His children -- think of it -- and we really are!”

1 John 3:1 (LB)

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:31 (NIV)

LET GOD _____

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

“A relaxed attitude lengthens a man’s life.”

Prov. 14:30 (LB)

ACT _____

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...”

Eph. 2:8 (NIV)

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him.”

Col. 2:6 (NIV)

EXCHANGE _____

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest... Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.”

Matt. 11:28-29 (Mes)

“Be careful that no one fails to receive God’s grace...”

Heb. 12:15 (NCV)

OFFERING GRACE

Good News About Grace – Message 4

“Give as freely as you have received!”

Matt. 10:8 (LB)

FORGIVENESS QUIZ

- | | |
|--|-----|
| A person should not be forgiven until he asks for it. | T F |
| Forgiving includes minimizing the offense and the pain caused. | T F |
| Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reuniting a relationship. | T F |
| You haven't really forgiven until you've forgotten the offense. | T F |
| When I see someone hurt, it is my duty to forgive the offender. | T F |

I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

1. It isn't _____.
2. It isn't _____ the seriousness of the offense.
3. It isn't _____ a relationship without changes.
4. It isn't _____ what happened.
5. It isn't _____ when I wasn't the one who was hurt.

II. WHAT IS GENUINE FORGIVENESS?

1. REMEMBERING _____

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

Eph. 4:32 (NIV)

2. RELINQUISHING _____

“... Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for He has said that He will repay those who deserve it.”

Romans 12:19 (LB)

3. RESPONDING _____

“... do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.”

Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

“Love keeps no record of wrongs.”

1 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

4. REPEATING _____

“Peter asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No.’ Jesus replied, ‘seventy times seven!’”

Matt. 18:21-22 (NLT)

WHY OFFER GRACE TO OTHERS?

1. GOD IS GRACIOUS TO ME. Eph. 4:32

2. THE ALTERNATIVE IS BITTERNESS.

“Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others.”

Heb. 12:15 (Ph)

3. GOD EXPECTS ME TO DO IT.

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matt. 6:15 (NIV)

RESTORING GRACE

Good News About Grace – Message 5

*“Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to You again!
Give us back the joys we once had!”*

Lamentations 5:21 (NLT)

I. WHAT CAUSES BELIEVERS TO FALL AWAY?

Peter’s Denial of Christ - Mark 14:27-72

1. _____

“Everyone else may stumble in their faith, but I will not!” vs. 29

2. _____

“Couldn’t you stay awake with Me for one hour?” vs. 37

3. _____

“Peter followed Him at a distance...” vs. 54a

4. _____

“Then he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.” vs. 54b

GOD’S RESPONSE:

“There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:1 (NLT)

II. WHY DOESN’T GOD REJECT BELIEVERS WHEN WE SIN?

1. BECAUSE HIS LOVE _____

“God’s compassion never ends. It is only His mercies that have kept us from complete destruction.”

Lam. 3:22 (LB)

2. BECAUSE SALVATION ISN’T BASED ON _____

“He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of His mercy.”

Titus 3:5 (NLT)

3. BECAUSE JESUS HAS ALREADY _____

“When Jesus served as a sacrifice for our sins, He solved the sin problem for God -- not only ours, but the whole world’s.”

1 John 2:2 (Mes)

4. BECAUSE JESUS UNDERSTANDS _____

“(He) understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same temptations we do, yet He did not sin.”

Heb. 4:15 (NLT)

5. BECAUSE GOD DOESN'T _____

“God will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does He deal with us as we deserve ... He is like a father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him.”

Ps. 103:9-13 (NLT)

“Come back to Me, you faithful children, and I will forgive you for being unfaithful.”

Jer. 3:22 (NCV)

III. WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I SIN? _____

“If you return to Me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve Me.”

Jer. 15:19 (NLT)

“No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you clean as freshly fallen snow.”

Isa. 1:18 (LB)

“With great compassion I will take you back.”

Isa. 54:7 (LB)

“Restore to me again the joy of your salvation.”

Ps. 51:12 (NLT)

AMAZING GRACE

Good News About Grace – Message 6

THE BENEFITS OF GRACE

We are...

Saved by grace Eph. 2:8-9

Forgiven by grace Isa. 43:25

Sustained by grace Phil. 2:13

Healed by grace Ps. 147:3

Liberated by grace Mt. 11:28-30

Given talents by grace Rom. 12:6

Used by grace Eph. 3:7

Kept saved by grace Jude 1:24

Transformed by grace Rom. 12:2

Matured by grace 2 Peter 3:18

HOW DO I RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE?

BY _____

"The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

John 1:17

"Now we rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God - all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins -- making us friends of God."

Rom. 5:11 (LB)

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us."

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

"You are familiar with the generosity of Jesus Christ. Rich as He was, He gave it all away for us -- in one stroke, He became poor and we became rich."

2 Cor. 8:9 (Mes)

"So we beg you: DO NOT let the grace that you received from God be for nothing!"

2 Cor. 6:1 (NCV)

HOW CAN I SHOW GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S GRACE?

1. BY _____

*“Don’t you see that you can’t keep on living however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for?
So let people see God in and through your body!”*

1 Cor. 6:20 (Mes)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Pet. 4:10 (NIV)

2. BY _____

“Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Cor. 9:7-8 (NIV)

3. BY _____

“The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me -- to tell people the Good News about God’s grace.”

Acts 20:24 (NCV)

Who will I tell?