

THE GRACE OF GOD – PART I

“Living in Grace”

1 Timothy 1:12-16

There are some Bible words that everybody should know because they have extreme relevance to every believer. One such word is grace. That word is rich in meaning and touches the heart of all disciples of Christ as you study that word. Today’s message marks the beginning of a new series I’m doing and serves as the conclusion to the previous series Mental Health Vaccinations. For the next couple of months, we are going to take a deep dive into the vast ocean of God’s grace which will enrich your soul.

THE DEFINITION OF GRACE

Charis – God’s unearned favor, a gift freely given
Grace is a multidimensional word

#1. THE EXPERIENCE OF SAUL – THE PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH, Acts 8:1-3

- A. Saul thought Jesus was a false Messiah
- B. Saul persecuted Jewish Christians to the death
- C. Saul became a believer on the road to Damascus
- D. Saul had the shocking discovery that he was wrong

#2. THE EXPERIENCE OF PAUL – THE PROPOGATOR OF THE CHURCH, Acts 9:1-6

- A. Saul was on a search and destroy mission
- B. Saul saw the risen Christ
- C. Saul heard the voice Jesus
- D. Saul was blind & had time to think things over

#3. PAUL COPED WITH HIS PAST BY BEING GRATEFUL TO GOD, 1 Tim 1:12

- A. Paul was thankful to be appointed to apostleship
- B. Paul was given strength
- C. Paul was considered faithful

#4. PAUL COPED WITH HIS PAST BY BEING BRUTALLY HONEST WITH HIMSELF, 1 Tim 1:13

- A. Paul acknowledged he was a blasphemer
- B. Paul acknowledged he was a persecutor
- C. Paul acknowledged he was a violent man
- D. Paul acknowledged his ignorance & unbelief
- E. Paul acknowledged God’s mercy

#5. PAUL COPED WITH HIS PAST BY UNDERSTANDING GOD’S GRACE, 1 Tim 1:14

- A. Paul received Christ’s grace abundantly
- B. Paul received Christ’s faith & love
- C. Paul was amazed by the outpouring of his grace
- D. Paul’s mantra – I am what I am by the grace of God, 1 Cor 15:9-10
- E. Paul knew he was forgiven & a new creation, 2 Cor 5:17

#6. PAUL COPED WITH HIS PAST BY UNDERSTANDING HOW JESUS USED HIM AS AN EXAMPLE TO DEMONSTRATE HIS LOVE, 1 Tim 1:15-16

- A. Christ’s mission was to save sinners, v. 15
- B. Paul saw himself as the worst of sinners, v. 116
- C. Paul saw himself as the least of the apostles, 1 C 15:9
- D. Paul saw himself as an example Christ’s mercy, v. 16
- E. Paul saw himself as an example of Christ’s unlimited patience, v. 16

#7. PAUL COPED WITH HIS PAST BY WORSHIPPING GOD, 1 Tim 1:17

- A. To the King eternal, immortal, invisible
- B. To the only God
- C. To God be honor & glory for ever and ever

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What does the word grace mean?
- #2. Why is this word so important for Christians?
- #3. Why was Saul so hostile to Christians such that he persecuted them? Acts 8:1-5
- #4. Read Acts 9:1-15 and discuss your observations about Saul's conversion to being a follower of Christ.
- #5. Do you think Paul had a guilty conscience because of his persecution of the church?
- #6. How did gratitude help Paul cope with his past sins? (1 Tim 1:12, 17)
- #7. Why is it important to be brutally honest with yourself about your past sins as Paul was?
- #8. What was Paul's concept of grace? (2 Cor 5:17, Eph 2:8-10)
- #9. In what way(s) did Paul see himself as an example to other people? How did this help Paul cope with his past sins? (1 Tim 1:15-16)
- #10. What did Paul mean when he said, "By the grace of God I am what I am." (1 Cor 15:9-10)
- #11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

Hillcrest Church Welcomes You!

GIVING GOD OUR BEST – 2021!

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation***

2 Corinthians 5:17

July 18, 2021

Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL OFFERING

Between the rummage sale and special offering, we have raised about \$1,600 for the Children's ministry. Thank you for your generous support.

JOIN US ONLINE FOR

Tuesday Bible study at 6:30, Wednesday study & Prayer at 6:30.  Click the "online meeting room" link on the home page of the website Hillcrestroseville.com

UPDATING THE HILLCREST DIRECTORY

Please leave your contact information with us so we can include you in the church directory. Check your information at the table by the entrance of the sanctuary.

JULY 25th VISION MEETING

The vision meeting is postponed until next Sunday July 25th.