

“OPEN YOUR EYES TO GRACE”
The Extraordinary Gift of Grace #1
December 6, 2020

Three Critical Questions About Grace:

1. What is the gospel?

The gospel is the good news that we enter God’s kingdom through His cross by his grace. *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* Colossians 1:13-14

2. What is God’s grace?

Grace is God’s wonderful acceptance of us not because we have earned it or deserve it but because he gives it to us freely at Christ’s expense. *In love⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.* Ephesians 1:5-6

- **Grace is not deserved.** *For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!* Romans 5:17
- **Grace is not earned.** *And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.* Romans 11:6
- **Grace is not a reward that God hands out to those who happen to choose him.** *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* John 1:17

3. What are the enemies of God’s grace?

The enemies of God’s grace are the lies that claim we’re good enough or that we can work hard enough to earn God’s love. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9

THE JOURNEY DEVOTIONAL
December 6th, 2020 Week
Discussion Questions from the Sermon

1. What was something you read in the weekly Scripture readings or heard in the sermon that made an impact on you? Explain.
2. In your own words, how would you define or describe “grace?” What would you say are the key attributes of grace?
3. In the sermon we talked about enemies of God’s grace. What were they? What would you add to this list?
4. In the sermon we talked about the gospel. In your own words, how would you explain “the gospel” to another person? What would you emphasize?
5. In the sermon we talked about what grace is and what grace is not...read each of the passages explored in this second point of the sermon. What do these passages teach you about grace? Why cannot grace be based on works?
6. On a scale of 1-10, how difficult (1 being most difficult) is it for you to embrace or live with grace in your own life when it comes to your relationship with God? Explain.
7. How can you apply this sermon and the Bible readings to your life this week?

Weekly Bible Memory Verse: *And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.* Romans 11:6

Bible Readings: Reading these passages of Scripture will help you become like Jesus in how you think and what you do, in addition to preparing you for next week’s sermon. Remember to read these passages slowly, allowing the Lord to speak to your heart and mind:

Monday – John 10:7-18

Tuesday – Isaiah 53:1-12

Wednesday – Genesis 3:14-24

Thursday – Colossians 1:15-23

Friday – Judges 3:7-30

Saturday – Galatians 3:1-14

Sunday – Ephesians 1:1-14