

The Gift of Grace

Intro:

- * Break from 2 Samuel/Wed Night; Break from Romans/Sunday
- * Part of a Series Entitled “The Gifts of God;” (Wed) – “Gift of His Word;” (Eve) – “Gift of His Son;” (Christmas) – Gift of Messiah
- * Who Put up same Christmas Tree? Same Wreath? Same Cookies?

Today “The Gift of Grace”: **Ephesians 4:7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

1. To Each One of Us ...

- * To those who were farthest away from God –

Ephesians 2:11-13 ¹¹Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh... [—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—] ¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- * James/John’s Fishermen, Levi’s, Mary Magdalenes (Lk 8:2), Peter’s, Nicodemus’, Adulterous, Paul’s

- * To those Seemingly Closest - Good/Righteous

- * The Person Whose Banking on Being Good

- * Based on Wrong Definition of Good – “OK” vs.

Mark 10:18(17-22) (Rich Young Ruler) ¹⁸So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

Matthew 5:20 ²⁰For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 10:3 ³For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Philippians 3:9 ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

2. Grace was given...

Grace – favor; good will, loving-kindness, the merciful kindness of God, God’s Default Setting, Rom 8:31, “If God is for us, who can...”

- * Always in His favor; Always Good to us, Always Loving to us, Always kind, Always Merciful (full of mercy)...

Given – Unmerited (worthy), Undeserved, Even In spite of!

Romans 5:8 ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. According to the measure of Christ’s gift –

- * What is the measure of Christ’s gift?

Philippians 2:5-8 ⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

- * King/Slave - But himself he emptied; form of slave having taken;

- * Worthy of Glory/Humbled (Himself) Spit/Beaten/Mocked/Crucified

- * Source of Life/Death - Even the Death of the Cross

1 Timothy 2:6 – who gave himself a ransom for ALL

What is the measure? That which is Simply Immeasurable.

4. Christ’s Gift -

John 15:9 ⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

John 13:1 ¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

- * With that Love comes – Forgiveness/Pardon, Redemption, Propitiation, Justification, Sanctification & the Holy Spirit

The Gift of Grace given according to measure of Christ’s Gift?

- * Love, Loving us!

5. What is our Gift in Response?

Mark 12:30-31 ³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. ³¹And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (1st - Receive the gift; 2nd – Give the gift)