

Preparation for 40 Days of Grace - week 0

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:8-10.

1. What is grace?

Grace is the goodness of God, unmerited favour or unconditional love.

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." Ephesians 2:8-9

Quotes:

"Grace is love that seeks you out when you have nothing to give in return."

"Grace is being loved when you are unlovable."

Gods grace to us includes:

Common grace -- all the good things about everyday life

Saving grace -- God welcomes us into His presence

G.R.A.C.E -- God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Three words:

Justice: getting what you deserve

Mercy: not getting what you deserve

Grace: getting what you don't deserve

2. Why do we need God's grace?

"No one is righteous—not even one. ¹¹No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.

¹²All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." Romans 3:10b-12

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23

3. Does it matter if we ignore God's grace?

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." Eph 1:4-6

"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." - - Westminster Shorter Catechism.

4. How do we grow in God's grace?

Starting point is to think often on the goodness of God

Prayer of Richard of Chichester

"May I know You more clearly, Love You more dearly, Follow You more nearly"

³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding." Ephesians 1:4-8