

HIS GRACE IS ENOUGH

Pastor George M. Dupree – January 25, 2009

WHAT IS GRACE?

Grace is the _____ and _____ favor of God. **2Timothy 1:9 (NIV)** who has **saved** us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and **grace**.

Grace is the _____ power of God. **2Corinthians 12:7 (MESSAGE)** Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! **8** At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, **9** and then he told me,

My grace is enough; it's all you need.

My strength comes into its own in your weakness.

Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. **10** Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

Paul's Hardships Were Endured Because Of God's Grace

- **2 Corinthians 11:24—27** "Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked."

To understand Grace we'll contrast it

- _____ – *GETTING what you deserve*
- _____ – *NOT getting what you deserve*
- _____ – *GETTING what you don't deserve*

Three reasons that a person will not receive the Grace of God

1. They Don't Know God's Grace _____
 - The Church Needs To Bring A Message Of Hope
 - a. Hebrews 6:18 God cannot tell lies! And so his promises and vows are two things that can never be changed. We have run to God for safety. Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us. **19** This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls. In fact, hope reaches right to the very presence of God.
2. They Don't Believe They _____ God's Grace
 - This Is Caused By Pride (They don't think they are a sinner)
 - a. Romans 3:22 (CEV) God treats everyone alike. He accepts people only because they have faith in Jesus Christ. **23** *All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.* **24** But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins.
3. They Don't Believe They Are _____ To Receive Grace
 - This Is Caused By Guilt & Condemnation
 - Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

By Ourselves We Are Not Worthy, But His Grace Says We Were Worth It

- **1Corinthians 15:9** For I am the least of the apostles and not even worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Have You Made Peace With God? If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you are encouraged to make this decision now as you pray the following prayer: "Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins. I ask You to come into my heart; wash me with Your blood. I make You my Lord and Savior. God, You're now more than my God; You're my Heavenly Father and I'm going to serve You all the days of my life. Jesus is my Lord. Amen."