

“Grace Upon Grace Flows Down”

Sermon Notes: Ephesians 2:8-10

Review:

Last week in Leviticus we saw that sin is the “blamable human v_____” of God’s created “s_____” (the wholeness and joyful harmony with which God blessed the world at creation). We saw that the sacrifices describe in Leviticus “covered” sin until Christ, the perfect sacrifice, came who alone could “take away” the sin of the world (Hebrews 10:4, 11-14).

“This is the gospel in a nutshell – the most cogent summary of the dynamics of salvation to be found in Scripture.”

(R. Kent Hughes, Ephesians, 73)

Today’s Study: Ephesians 2:8-10

A. **God’s M** : Marvelous, Infinite, Matchless Grace (an essential review) (1-7)

“There are two things I have known in this life...”

1. “I am a great s_____”

- a. Jeremiah 17:9
- b. Isaiah 53:6
- c. Isaiah 64:6
- d. Romans 3:10

2. “Christ is a great Savior”

Many people are rich in m_____ or h_____ or l_____...God is rich in m_____!

B. **God’s G** : Salvation by Grace through Faith (no room for boasting)(8-9)

1. “By grace”

2. “Through faith” – to be “saving faith” the o_____ must be Christ (I Cor. 15:3-5)

3. “Not of yourselves...not of works”

- a. “...that no flesh should glory in His presence” (I Cor. 1:26-31)
- b. “Where then is boasting? It is excluded!” (Romans 3:27)
- c. “...not by works of righteousness that we have done” (Titus 3:5)

C. **God’s P** : Evidences of His Great Grace (10)

1. “Masterpiece” – cf. Romans 1:20 (God’s s_____ & i_____ design in creation)

2. “Good works” – a r_____ of being right with God, not the motive or the method

Applying God’s Word: Let’s Talk!

- Do you understand this text, and could you explain it to someone else?
- Does this text describe what you actually believe, or are you still holding on to the “5% Theory” (i.e. it’s 95% Christ and 5% your good efforts)? Does your heart resonate to the music of grace?

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Ephesians 2:8-10

“The exact and discriminate meaning of the word grace should be crystal clear to every child of God. With such insight only can he feed his own soul on the inexhaustible riches which it unfolds, and with such understanding only can he be enabled clearly to pass on to others its marvelous, transforming theme.” (Lewis Sperry Chafer, Grace: The Glorious Theme, 3)

Getting Acquainted (15 minutes)

Did an authority figure ever “let you off” when you could have been in BIG trouble for something? Why do you think he or she did so?

Talking It Through (20 minutes)

Review Ephesians 2:1-10

- What struck you the most from the story of John Newton’s life?
- Why do you think that grace is such an essential aspect of Christian faith?
- How would you describe to another person the difference between “saving faith” and “intellectual assent”? What are the characteristics of each one, and how does a person move from one to the other?
- How does Ephesians 2:10 affect your view of the church, God’s masterpiece? By what things does the church make the Artist “look good”?

Going Deeper (15 minutes)

- Chuck Swindoll wrote *“If you think you are really preaching grace, yet no one is taking advantage of it, maybe you haven’t preached it hard enough or strong enough.”* What do you think he meant, and what do you think he did NOT mean?
- How might Romans 6 inform this discussion?

Taking It Home (10 minutes)

Regardless of your emotional make up, does your heart “resonate” to the music of grace?

Time to PRAY (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then find a couple of volunteers to pray for those needs.