

GROWING GRACE

Romans 5:1-11

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

1 John 4:7-21



11 February 2022

Pressing Forward into 2022

- Our Goals - Are you pressing forward with us? Or are you determined to be a "ME" instead of a "WE"?
- Growing as a Disciple - our Five D's.
- Our memory & meditation work. (See handout)
- Are you determined to be a DOER of God's Word or are you comfortable in being deceived? (James 1:22)

What Do Desire - the Teachings of Men or GOD?

- T F I believe one can be a Christian without being an active/serving member of a local church? (1 Corinthians 12:1-27; Romans 12:4-5)
- T F I believe one can be a Christian without being a serious student of God's Word. I don't need to study the Bible. (Luke 4:4)
- T F I believe I can go to heaven without pursuing holiness. (Hebrews 12:14)
- T F I believe one can be a Christian without performing the duties as a New Testament priest? (1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:6; 5:10)
- T F I believe one can be a Christian without keeping the commandments of God? (1 John 2:3-6; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)
- T F I believe one can be a Christian without growing/maturing as a disciple of Christ? (2 Peter 2:2; 3:17-18)
- T F I believe one can be a Christian without continually repenting of one's sins? (Mark 1:14-15)

★ Salvation is by GRACE ALONE but salvation is:

REGENERATION SANCTIFICATION GLORIFICATION

- ★ Salvation is NOT a ONE TIME event in one's life - it is something that continues through one's whole life.
- ★ Salvation is God's work in conforming you into the image of His Son. (Rom 8:29; Philippians 1:6; Psalm 138:8; Ephesians 4:12-16)
- ★ If there is no **SANCTIFICATION** there never was **REGENERATION** and there will be **NO GLORIFICATION**.

Amazing & Powerful Grace - Grace that Works Continually

- (Philippians 2:12-13)
- (1 Thessalonians 5:22-23)
- (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Golden Chain of Grace (Romans 8:28-30)



Preservation & Perseverance Grace (Psalm 31:23; 37:28; 97:10; 145:20; Proverbs 2:8; 1 Peter 1:5; Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13; Hebrews 7:25)

GRACE Upon GRACE (Romans 5:1-11)

- Paul presents six certainties that secure our salvation in the grace of **God** and NOT in the works of man:
 - ① Peace with God (v. 1)
 - ② Standing in Grace (v. 2a)
 - ③ Hope of Glory (v. 2b-5a)
 - **Grace that prepares us for heaven.**
 - ④ Divine love (vv. 5b-8)
 - ⑤ Reconciled to God (vv. 9-10)
 - ⑥ Joy in the Lord (v. 11)

Grace: Peace with God (Romans 5:1)

- Either you are acceptable by God or you are an enemy of God.
- God's wrath, NOT HIS LOVE, abides on all unbelievers. (John 3:36)
- God has promised His wrath and vengeance on all unbelievers. (Nahum 1:1-2)
- "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little . . . (Psalm 2:12)

Grace: Standing in Grace (Romans 5:2)

- To stand before God is to be accepted by Him. He ONLY accepts those who have put their trust and faith in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 1:6)
- This standing, since it is based on GRACE ALONE, is permanent.

Grace: The Hope of Glory (Romans 5:2b-5a)

- The end of GOD's work is our glorification. It is accomplished through His grace.

- Our glorification is CERTAIN because . . .
 - ① It is based on GRACE ALONE. (Romans 8:28-30)
 - ② It is the WORK of God. (Philippians 1:6; Psalm 138:8; Eccl 3:14; 7:13)
 - ③ It is anchored in the past work of Christ on the Cross. (John 19:30; 17:4)
 - ④ It is anchored in the present work of Christ. (Rom 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
 - ⑤ It is anchored in the Word of God. (1 Thess 5:22-23; Matt 1:21; John 6:37-40)
 - ⑥ It was ordained before the ages. (1 Cor 2:7; Rom 9:23; Acts 13:48)
 - ⑦ God predestined that all His people will be conformed into the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - ⑧ It is promised that when Christ returns He **will** transform our bodies into the likeness of His glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2)

Grace: Glory and Suffering Cannot Be Separated!

- (Romans 8:14-17) Notice the “IF” in verse 17.
- Grace that WORKS through suffering in GROWING us.
 - “glory” is the same word used in verse 2b – “to rejoice in”; “to be jubilant”; “to boast in”; “to express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being noteworthy”.
 - “tribulations” – Paul has in mind persecutions for the sake of Christ.
 - It is the will of God that Christians **suffer** for His name sake.
 - ★ John 15:19-20; 16:33; 17:14; **Luke 9:23** with 1 Peter 2:20-21; Matthew 5:10-12; 7:13-14; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22; 1 Thess 3:3-4; 1 Peter 3:17; 4:12-19; Rev 2:8-11; 6:9-11
 - **HIS GRACE WORKS and IS SUFFICIENT.** (2 Corinthians 3:5; 12:7-10)
 - Do you “boast” in tribulations? (Acts 5:41; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:13-14)
 - “knowing” is εἶδω eido {i-do} or οἶδα oida {oy'-da} which means “to know”; “to understand”; “to be aware of”; “to perceive”.
 - ★ The verb is in the **PERFECT** tense which gives the meaning of “knowing for sure.” (2 Cor 4:17; Romans 8:18)
 - We **know** that tribulations “**works**” καταργάζομαι katergazomai {kat-er-gad'-zom-ah-ee} which means “works”; “performs”; “accomplishes”; “achieves”; “produces”; “brings about”; “fashions” **all of these with success and thoroughly.**
 - These verses show God sanctifying (conforming us into the image of His Son) us.
 - Tribulations (which are under the control of the Sovereign God) produce **perseverance**. (ὑπομονή hypomone {hoop-om-on-ay}) – “steadfastness”; “patience”; “endurance”)
 - Perseverance/Endurance/Patience: NT usage: “the characteristic of a man/woman who is not swerved from his/her **deliberate** purpose and his **loyalty** to faith **and** piety

by even the greatest trials and suffering.” (Consider Hebrews 12:1-2)

- ★ Perseverance is part of God’s plan for us. (See Heb 3:6, 14; 6:11-12; **10:36-39**; Col 1:22-23; John 15:10; 10:27-28)
- ★ Every one who God saves by His grace will endure to the end! (Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13)
 - Perseverance works character (δοκιμὴ dokime {dok-ee-may}) - “proven character”; “approved”; “proof”; “having the quality of having stood the test”; “the proof of genuineness”.
 - God **tests** us to show ourselves to ourselves and others. (Deut 8:2-3, 16; **13:3**; Exod 15:25; 16:4; 2 Chron 32:31; Gen 22:1; **Prov 17:3**; Mal 3:2-3; James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:7)
 - Are you really who you say you are?
 - God is a **REFINER** who **tests** precious metals with heat in order to make them **more precious!** (Psalm 66:10; Proverbs 17:3; 27:21; Zechariah 13:9; Isaiah 48:10-11; 1 Peter 1:6-7)
 - Proven character works hope.
 - This **hope** does not disappoint because it is in and based on God’s faithfulness.
 - GREAT is God’s faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:23; Psalm 117:2; 89:1-2; 146:6; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; 10:23)
 - ★ EITHER ONE GROWS AS A RESULT OF SUFFERING/TRIBULATION/TROUBLES/PERSECUTION **OR** THEY WALK AWAY! (See Matthew 13:20-22; Hebrews 2:1-3)

Next Week: Grace: Divine Love (Romans 5:b-8)

- God’s love is NOTHING like human love.
- There is never anything in us that causes God to love us.
- If God loves anyone, then God chose from within Himself to love that person from eternity.
- God loves His people.
- God does not love the wicked - those who do not take Him seriously.
- DOES GOD LOVE YOU? What is your evidence if you answer “YES”?

Pressing Forward into 2022

- ① Be and grow as disciples together. (2 Peter 3:17-18)
- ② Memorize and meditate on the Word of God. (Psalm 1:1-3)
- ③ Do God Word. (James 1:22)
- ④ Grow through tribulation! (1 Peter 1:6)
- ⑤ Never waste a trial. (Romans 5:3-4)