



Sermon Notes — Pastor Thomas Keys, SRMBC

Ephesians: The Christian's Owners Manual III—Grace Is Enough (For Me)

Scriptures Ephesians:2: 1—10

INTRODUCTION

Have you every received a gift that you truly did not deserve? We've ll heard of Tyler Perry, the actor and TV/Movie producer (of "Medea" fame). He is a multi-millionaire and in 2018 (right around Christmas time) paid the Walmart layaway accounts of 1,500 Atlanta-area shoppers, totaling **\$434,000.00**. The recipients of the gift from Tyler Perry did nothing to deserve it – but debts were paid simply by the Grace of a person with the heart and resources to provide such a wonderful blessing

And beloved, we need to know that all we have and the salvation that brings peace, joy and eternal has been provided to us not by our good works, not by our church membership, not by preaching or good looks, but by the Grace – wonderful, amazing Grace of God. In fact, "Grace" has often been defined this way as: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. In other words, we are saved, kept healed, delivered, changed by the Grace of God. and that Grace is more than enough for me...

SERMON POINTS

We are continuing our sermon series on the Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Paul's letter to the Ephesians contains so many of the basics of the Christian life - I call it "The Christian's Owners' Manual. The Ephesians church was a good and faithful church that was making an impact – despite the idolatry, immorality, of this pagan city of Asia Minor (Now Modern – Day Turkey).

As we get to chapter 2, Paul anticipates that once believers, recognize and realize all they have and can receive in Christ, Paul reminds these believers and reminds us today that we are saved, kept and empowered by **Grace – God's unmerited favor**. So, what I want to do in this message, is to look at how we can Recognize God's Grace, Reflect on God Grace so that we can rightly Respond to God's Grace so that not only will people see God's Grace is us and be compelled to seek/receive God's grace as well...

I. Recognize God's Grace Toward You (vv. 1 – 3)

Paul after telling the Ephesian Church about all they have in Christ and all that is available to them for the asking – give them a reality check – before they start thinking that their salvation, success and position in God is all about them.

So, Paul lets them know where they were – dead in trespasses and sin – not caring about God or His will. Come on, some of us in our **B.C.** (Before Christ/ Conversion) days we were described just like this Scripture says – children of devil full of disobedience – lead by our sinful desires.—but God by His Grace has quickened us/ made us alive in Christ.

Usually between 16 - 20 weeks of pregnancy a process called "**Quickening**" occurs. Those regular butterfly-like flutters – in which the developing baby begins to kick and move – giving further attestation that there is new life growing and getting stronger. The growing baby is growing in life and dependency of the air, blood and nutrition of the mother...

And beloved, by God's grace we have been "**Quickened**" – made alive, brought out Spiritual death by the Spirit of the Living God. His Amazing Grace provide to us and for us that makes us alive – but not just alive but alive and kicking!!!

II. Reflect On God's Grace In You (vv. 4 – 7)

Many toys purchased for children during the Christmas season indicate on the box that batteries are not included and must be purchased separately. The toy is now accessible but doesn't include power. What good is a toy that needs a battery? Grace is different. Grace comes with everything included. God says that everything is provided by His Grace and is also all-inclusive.

Paul challenges us to reflect on God's Mercy and Grace which has worked for us and in now working in us. **Mercy** is God not giving us what our sins deserve. But Grace is God giving us blessings that we do not deserve – starting with salvation we are saved by Grace sending His Only Son to die on the Cross in your place. And by His Grace He called you and even gave you the faith to believe. Now that we are in His family – He has seated us in heavenly places – and continues to give us Grace and Mercy.

The change that Grace makes in our lives (getting out of drugs, alcohol, bad relationships, bad choices...) is a trophy of God's glory that He wants to display to the world today, and in heaven in the future!!!

You all are trophies, because you don't even look like what you've been through – even the angels in heaven look down at the change in our lives and they give glory to God for what He done in us through His Amazing Grace.

This grace working in us – even keeps us, no matter what trials we face. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 23 – yea, though I walk through the valley of Death (Flood, Fire, COVID – 19, Whatever is going on Goodness (Grace) and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. Beloved, you need to know that God's is in you, all over you, all around you and is more than sufficient for keeping you alive!!!!

III. Response To God's Grace From You (vv. 8 - 10)

Since most of us have spending more time with our families many parents who have discovered they have some ungrateful children. It is very frustrating. Parents spend so much time working to provide Free food, free housing, free clothes, free spending money, free tennis shoes, and free gas. However, some kids don't recognize or appreciate the free gifts, they only see the restrictions and want to complain.

In the same way, starting with salvation God gives us good things day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, and His children miss His goodness and His grace. So how should we respond?

- 1) Not with boasting in how worthy or great we are, but in humble gratitude and praise for how great our God is.
- 2) We are to respond with wholehearted, consistent, and even sacrificial service – doing the works walking in the gifts and calling that God has already ordained for us to fulfill.

O beloved, imagine a church, a people where everyone is fully walking in the calling and power fueled by the Grace of God – we would a mighty Gospel Army – lifting up the Name of Jesus and He will draw all men...

As I close, I heard about a promotional event sponsored by Taco Bell During game three of World Series between the Boston Red Sox and the Saint Louis Cardinals, Taco Bell offered a free Taco gift to every American if a home run ball would hit a 12-foot-by-12-foot bull's eye reading "**Free Taco Here**" 420 feet from home plate at Busch Stadium.

Though there were a couple of home runs in game three, not one baseball came near the sign. Taco Bell never had to provide a free taco for Americans because no one hit the target with a home run ball. They really had no intentions of giving away Tacos—because nobody could ever hit the mark.

And the Bible says in Romans 3:23-24: For all have sinned and **fall short of the glory of God**. (24) But we are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

God knew that no one can ever hit the target of perfect holiness and righteousness. God made a way have sins forgiven without any restrictions on the gift of eternal life.

Since we all have sinned, we all have missed and continue to miss the mark, Jesus by grace came and hit the bullseye that we all missed:

- ♦ Jesus' perfect life by Grace - Hit the mark
- ♦ Jesus' Sacrificial death paid the full price by Grace - Hit the mark
- ♦ Jesus Glorious Resurrection on the 3rd day by Grace Hit the Mark
- ♦ And by Grace Jesus makes the His gift of salvation and eternal life available to every person who would believe...

And this Grace is enough – more than enough for you and for me. That's why God's Grace is called Amazing...!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- ♦ Have you had struggles trying to be "good enough" to be accepted by God?
- ♦ How does understanding Grace help to free you from this struggle?
- ♦ When was the last time that you reflected on the change that God's Grace has made in your life since you trusted Christ as Saviour?
- ♦ How can you thank Him for all that He's done in you and for you?
- ♦ What are the are as of ministry or service that God has gifted and called you to? Ask to the Lord for the Grace to fulfill His plans for you.