

St. Matthew AME Church  
Orange, New Jersey  
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Women's Bible Study  
Fall Series: " God's Grace Is Sufficient "

"But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. "  
II Corinthians 12:9

Session III: "You Know Something About God's Grace."

" From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. John 1:16

### **I. Review of Scripture:" But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." II Corinthians 12:9**

- Jesus assures Paul that there is nothing he lacks in his weakness because he possesses the fully sufficient power of Jesus' grace through his trial.
- Paul doesn't tell us what the thorn in his flesh was.
- Paul attributes the thorn to Satan, not God. Satan is the one causing the pain. God is allowing it. However, the pain is not in vain. God is turning Paul's weakness into something good.
- The thorn in the flesh is said to be a messenger of Satan, which He sent for evil; but God designed it, and overruled it for good. II Corinthians 12:7
- God does not take away our troubles and temptations, yet if He gives grace enough for us we really have no reason to complain. Grace signifies the good-will of God towards us, and His grace is sufficient enough to strengthen us.
- We are so focused on the wrong thing(weakness). Instead we should shift from our thorn to God's grace.
- When we shift our focus from our weakness to God, the result of our weakness becomes strength. Paul is not saying his strength, but rather God's strength.

### **II. Review of Session I: "It Never Runs Out"**

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed. II Corinthians 9:8

- Grace is God's inexhaustible supply of goodness by which He does for us what we could never do for ourselves.

" For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17

• Law and grace are both aspects of God's nature that He uses in dealing with us. Moses emphasized God's law and justice, while Jesus Christ came to highlight God's grace (mercy, love and forgiveness). Moses could only be the giver of the law (Matthew 5:17) The nature and will of God were revealed in the law: now the nature and will of God are revealed in Jesus Christ. Rather than coming through cold stone tablets, God's revelation (truth) comes through a person's life. As we get to know Christ better, our understanding of God will increase. Our understanding of grace will increase.

• Grace means God doesn't have to do anything. Grace means all you are and all you have come because God chooses to give it, not because you can demand it or deserve it.

• God's grace is designed not only to save you, but to keep you. We need God in everything we do. God's got something for everything you need. There is no such thing as insufficient grace.

- Sufficient grace means we have enough of what we need at all times.

"Thank God, He does not measure grace out in teaspoons. "

Amy Carmichael

### God's Grace Is Freely Given

• James (James 1:5) writes that God gives generously and does so "without finding fault" with us. Although we do have faults, and the trouble we find ourselves in may in some instances be due to those shortcomings, God does not condemn us or find fault with us when we ask Him for help and wisdom concerning how to handle the situation we encounter.

• In the Greek, the prefix on the word abound means "super." So, the verse is really saying, "As sin comes in, grace comes in a greater way." Or "Where sins abound, grace super abounds."

• Sin may overflow a bit, but grace is like a flood. Sin reached the top of Mount Sinai, but grace goes all the way to heaven. No matter how great the sin, there is always more grace. If your sin weighs two pounds, grace weighs one hundred pounds. Sin cannot reign over the cross!

• God doesn't help us because we deserve His assistance. He helps us for His name's sake. He has promised to answer when we call on Him, and He will never fail to do so. His name is connected with goodness (grace) and for the sake of His name, He can never do anything inconsistent with His nature.

### III. Review of Session II: "Because of God's Grace I am Free to Be Me"

"But by the grace of God, I am what I am; and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain." I Corinthians 15:10a

• Paul gave the grace of God all the credit for the change in his life. He was a changed man, forgiven, cleansed and full of love when he used to be full of hate.

• Grace by definition is given freely. But how we receive grace will help determine how effective the gift of grace is.

• Grace isn't given because of any works, past, present or promised, yet it is given to encourage work. God doesn't want us to receive His grace and become passive.

• If we neglect to do God's work, God's grace doesn't accomplish all that it might, and is therefore given in vain.

#### "Free To Be Me"

• One of the best gifts we can give ourselves is to accept yourself and believe that God created you, with His own hand in your mother's womb.

• Learning to accept and love yourself is the pathway to authenticity, because if we reject ourselves and refuse God's love for us, we will not be free to be ourselves.

• No one will love everything they do, but we should all love who God has made us to be.

• Knowing and living in the love of God makes us powerful because it sets us free from self-doubt and enables us to trust God to do great things in us and through us.

• It also liberates us from caring too much about what other people think about us and allows us to seek to please God alone, instead of trying to please other people.

• Enjoying life and enjoying other people begin with knowing who God says you are and loving yourself in a balanced way.

• Don't compare yourself to others. You're inviting a frustrating life style. You can only be you! Be at peace with who you are.

• There is such freedom in learning to be happy with who you are.

• If God who is perfect, loves and accepts you, there is no reason for us not to do likewise.

### IV. "You Know Something About God's Grace."

"From the fullness of His grace, we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16

• Living the Christian life in your own power nullifies the grace of God. If you try to pull yourself up spiritually by your own good works by positive thinking or by sheer determination, you cancel out God's grace.

- Like Paul, we all have a thorn or maybe even thorns somewhere in our lives. Maybe your thorn is a person who keeps pricking you or a problem or an illness you can't get over.

- God's grace doesn't always remove these thorns, but God's grace empowers us to overcome them. It raises you above the problem and gives you power at the exact moment where most people would quit.

- Grace instructs us in how to live. Grace is much more than a concept. It is an environment in which we live.

#### "THINK ABOUT IT!"

- What did you do last week, last month or last year that only God could have pulled off? If you can't point to something in your life that only God could have done, you are not growing in grace. You still live in your own power.

- We have all received grace: saint, sinner, atheist, doubter have all received God's gift of grace, just by being alive. Everyone has benefited from God's inexhaustible supply of goodness.

#### " LOOK WHAT GRACE DID FOR US"

" For it is by grace you have been saved through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

#### • GRACE BROUGHT US TO THE SAVIOR.

- We become Christians through God's unmerited favor(grace) not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligence or act of service on our part. However out of gratitude for this free gift(grace), we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, and not merely to please ourselves. Because of our salvation and even our faith are gifts, we should respond with gratitude, praise and joy.

"And if by grace, then it is no longer by works, if it were, grace would no longer be grace."  
Romans 11:6

#### •GRACE BRINGS US BACK TO GOD.

- Do you think it's easier for God to love you when you're good? Do you secretly suspect that God chose you because you deserved it? Do you think some people's behavior is so bad that God couldn't possibly save them? If you ever think this way, you don't entirely understand that salvation is by grace, a free gift. This gift can only be accepted with thankfulness and praise.

" For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

#### •GRACE IS MORE THAN WHAT WE NEED WHEN WE SUFFER.

- God's grace is available in abundance to us. If God saved us by His grace, why would He withhold any other grace?

- In Hebrews 4, the writer tells us to "come boldly to the throne of grace."  
How would we feel if he had written about our coming boldly to the throne of judgment? That term doesn't bring about an attitude of wanting to come at all, much less boldness. Or suppose He invited us to the throne of condemnation? Who would want to come?

- Entering the throne room of God(prayer) and coming before the very throne of grace require no security measures. Nobody checks you out. You don't have to stand in line. You don't even have to make an appointment. You just come. You rightly belong there because of grace.

- No one enjoys pain, hurt, loneliness, rejection, disappointments, grief and lack. But grace invites us to a throne room(prayer) where we find ONE to help in time of need.

●GOD'S GRACE IS NEW EVERYDAY, SOMETIMES WE ARE IN NEED OF GRACE, MOMENT BY MOMENT!

- "GOD'S GRACE NEVER RUNS OUT"
- "BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE, I AM FREE TO BE ME"
- " I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT GOD'S GRACE "

"GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT "