

CAFÉ CHURCH SERMON SERIES

STUDY GUIDE



Theme: 'What is Grace?'

Bible Readings: Titus 2:11-14

Reflection:

Grace is often described as “God’s unmerited favour”. Whilst accurate, this definition doesn’t communicate the vastness of God’s grace. Grace is not a concept, it is an integral part of God’s character, revealed to us in Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11). Jesus is described as “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14) and it is out of Jesus’ fullness that we receive “grace upon grace” (John 1:16, 17).

God’s favour is shown to us in Jesus, “bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11) and giving us eternal life (1 John 2:25). In the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were banished from the garden so they could not eat from the tree of everlasting life and live forever (Gen. 3:22). Through Christ, God has given us the very thing we lost at the fall - eternal life, not in this broken world but in the new heaven and earth, where there will be no more crying or pain (Rev. 21:1-4). As we comprehend the magnitude of God’s favour, we can start to understand the vastness of God’s grace.

Eternal life is an expression of God’s grace, because none of us deserve to receive this gift from God. In Romans we read “all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God” (3:23). That’s everyone, no exceptions, but we can be confident for the next verse states “and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (3:24). In our own strength, we are unworthy, but in Christ we are worthy to receive eternal life.

There’s even more to God’s grace. In Acts 4:33 and 2 Cor. 12:9 God’s grace is described as God’s power. Power to live our daily lives in obedience to God. The Holy Spirit, dwells in us (1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19) and so God’s grace is in us; “training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age” (Titus 2:12). Grace would not be grace if it was conditional. God’s grace is given unconditionally and his desire for us is that by his grace we live godly lives because we want to, not because we have to.

Questions:

1. How would you describe the immensity of God’s grace to someone who doesn’t know Jesus?
2. God’s grace is given unconditionally. In what ways, can we exclude ourselves from receiving God’s grace?
3. How can we live each day in the power of God’s grace?
4. How are our life decisions affected when we live life with our focus on the fact that we will spend eternity with God?

Personal Application:

At the start of each day spend a few minutes reminding yourself that:

- In Christ Jesus, you have the certain hope of eternity with God
- God the Holy Spirit dwells in you
- God’s grace is available to you every moment of every day
- In the power of God’s grace your life today will bring glory to God and reveal God’s grace to those around you