

Grace and Truth – 11/26/23

TEXT- John 1:14-18 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. 15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. 18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

INTRO – I have had the privilege to know some wonderful people. Great preachers and great Christians. However great, no human being has portrayed the perfect balance of grace and truth consistently like Jesus Christ.

To gain a greater understanding of God's grace, we need only look at Jesus, who was the personification of grace and truth. Both were perfectly displayed in Him, and neither was ever compromised in the slightest. With truth, Christ made people aware of their hopeless, sinful condition; with grace He offered forgiveness to all who would come to Him in faith.

This is clearly seen in Jesus' interactions. People willing to admit their sins were drawn to Christ and His offer of forgiveness. But the Pharisees, who saw themselves as righteous, didn't think they needed His grace. And so they rejected it, mistakenly believing that their legalistic practices made them acceptable to God Romans 9:30-33.

For the greatest display of grace and truth, however, we must look to the cross. There, our Savior suffered the just penalty for sin so God the Father could extend grace to those of us who believe in His Son. Now divine goodness, love, and mercy pour over us in an endless supply of "grace upon grace"

John 1:16 *And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

Having such an abundance of God's favor should fill us with gratitude and overflow into Christlike responses toward others as well.

The classic definition for grace: God's grace is His unmerited favor. Grace means that God showered favor and blessing on those who did not in any way deserve or earn it. They deserved His judgment and wrath. But He showed them favor.

I. God's grace brings salvation to all who believe

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

II. God's grace teaches us godliness (Titus 2:12-14a).

MERCY is what keeps sinful men from getting what they deserve—

DEATH.

GRACE is sinful man getting what he does not deserve—
SALVATION

III. God's grace prods us who are saved to be zealous for good deeds

Titus 2:14b

Full of Grace . . .

This is really good news. God could have chosen to become flesh as a judge and executioner. And all of us would be found guilty before him and be sentenced to everlasting punishment. But he did not become flesh that way. The Word, the Son, who is God, became flesh to reveal a divine glory that is "full of grace and truth." The Word of God became flesh to be gracious to us. The Word became flesh so that this graciousness to us would come in accord with God's truthfulness.

This will be a righteous, God-exalting, costly grace. It will lead straight to Jesus' death on the cross. In fact, this is why he became flesh. The cross is where the fullness of grace shone most brightly. It was performed there and purchased there.

John 1:16 *And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

Jude 1:4 *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

. . . And Truth

And the reason it happened through death is because the Son of God is full of *grace and truth*.

All grace and no truth leads to compromise and all truth with no grace leads to harshness and legalism.

Grace and truth liberates and transforms.

Jesus is the only one who has displayed grace and truth at the same time.

"The Word became flesh" means for us that the glory of God has been revealed in history as never before, namely, in the fullness of grace and the fullness of truth that shines most brightly in the death of Jesus for sinners.

John 18:37-38 *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. 38 Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

The world is more likely to believe a lie than to believe the truth.

CONCL –

1 Peter 5:5 *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

We should share the grace we received.

1 Peter 4:10 *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

He gives grace to the humble

James 4:6 *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

We must be bold in seeking grace

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*