

Hebrews 7.1-3

His Greatness Towards Us

Last week we considered some of the greatness of Christ, our great High Priest. We did not exhaust this powerful and sweet topic, nor could we ever although we have all eternity to try! This week we will return to the topic and seek to round out some things that we left off. It will be glorious contemplation, and an opportunity for much worship as we consider the greatness of His person; and more specifically the sweetness of His presence in our lives. This Jesus who saves us is the God who loves us... it breaks all bounds of sense or expectation, but it is as true as the rising of the sun.

I. GREAT IN LOVE

- A. He is the manifestation of the Father's love

Ephesians 2.1-9

1John 4.7-11

- B. He has great love for the Father

John 14:31 (NKJV)

³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

Ephesians 5:2 (NKJV)

² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

C. He has great love Himself for His own

John 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 15:9 (NKJV)

⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

John 15:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

II. GREAT IN GRACE

John 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- A. The law and grace are opposite ideas about righteousness. The law teaches us what the path would look like if we were to seek righteousness in our own works. It teaches us about what we deserve, and as such it is our tutor to lead us to Christ... for we could never be good enough to deserve his favor. But at its core, grace is all about what we do not and could NEVER deserve... grace is about the goodness of God and not the goodness of man.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- B. Even in the faith that we believe WITH, grace is evident... for we do not believe based upon faith that is inherent in us, rather we believe with the faith that God gives us from His Spirit, faith is the heart cry of the newborn soul, it is the language of the child of God and is not present in the once-born worldling...

Romans 5:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- C. We stand in the grace that has been granted unto us, it is our only ground, our only hope, our only plea... and it is all about the Lord Jesus, who is our source and savior... He has done all that is

needful for our salvation and it is a marvelous work of infinite grace!

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

III. GREAT IN KINDNESS

A. Kindness is an expression of His own nature. He is kind to those who do not deserve it, for none deserve His kindness. The relationships we have with those around us help us to see this picture, especially when we are called to extend kindness to those who deserve animosity and outrage.

Luke 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

- B. When we show kindness, we are merely paving the way for us to see the kindness of God poured over us in the age to come...

Ephesians 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- C. Thus our kindness to others becomes a manner of worship. As we set aside our “rights” and give what we have been given. We honor the giver of life, the One who was kind to us when we still hated Him... and we avow to honor Him in all our doing as we imitate Him for love’s sake...

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NKJV)

³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- D. It is one evidence of our transformation, as we put on the very character and nature of our

Lord, we demonstrate that we have been made new and that His own Spirit is transforming us into His likeness.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

E. This kindness is the very heart of His actions toward us...

Titus 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

IV. GREAT IN GOODNESS

This is less about His innate righteousness (we addressed that last week) and more about the outflow of that righteousness toward others. This is righteousness in action, love applied, kindness manifest... it is that goodness which changes the world around Him forever!

A. A Pattern of good and gracious speech, that elevates all who hear...

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV)

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

B. Good in His wisdom

James 3:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

C. Good in fulfilling His calling

John 10:11–15 (NKJV)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

D. Good toward us

Romans 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

E. Good in His work IN us

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

3 John 11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

F.Source of all our good works and intentions

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Titus 2:11–14 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great

God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.