

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:1-10**.
- B. You have heard the song ever since you can remember. It is a classic that never goes out of style. One reason is that the message of grace is one for the ages.
- C. This morning's look at grace is an outline that comes from the hymn that we sing. Please have your song book ready and your Bible open for the lesson.

I. GRACE REDEEMS US FROM SIN.

- A. See song, verse 1.
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound! That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found; Was blind, but now I see.
- B. Eph. 1:7,8a.
In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight
- C. Because of God's grace, salvation is possible. Read Eph. 2:1-10, commenting slightly on the verses.
 - 1. Dead and unable to save ourselves were we, but grace has to come to the rescue.
And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
 - 2. "But God" is two of the most important words in the NT.
4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),...
 - 3. By grace we are now seated with X in "the heavenly places."
6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
 - 4. We are saved by God grace, and our faith in that grace.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.
 - 5. We have now been re-created in X to be fitted for service.
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

II. GRACE RELIEVES OUR FEARS.

- A. See song, verse 2.
"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!
- B. In our present day world it is easy to become afraid. At times it would seem that we are living on the "edge of chaos."
- C. David knew of God's grace in times of trouble (Psa. 56:3).
When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee.
- D. Perfect love casts out fear (1Jn. 4:18).
There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
- E. "Grace taught my heart to fear" the verse says. Grace has that teaching element to it that is so important. Read and comment on Titus 2:11-15.
 - 1. Grace teaches us to live properly in God's sight.
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,...

2. Grace allows us to eagerly anticipate the Lord's return.
13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;
3. We understand that by receiving saving grace we are to be zealous for good deeds.
14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. **15** These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

III. GRACE REASSURES THROUGH DANGER.

- A. See song, verse 3.
Thru many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come. 'Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
- B. We not only live in a world that causes us to be fearful, but it can be dangerous too.
- C. There are very few passages as comforting as Psa. 23.
The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. **3** He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. **5** Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

IV. GRACE REWARDS ETERNALLY.

- A. See song, verse 4.
When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first begun.
- B. Worldly things are only temporary (2Cor. 4:16-18).
Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. **17** For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, **18** while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- C. Christ is preparing a permanent place for all who will follow Him (Jn. 14:1-3).
"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- D. We have such a place reserved in heaven (1Pet. 1:4).
to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,...
- E. By his grace we can find eternal comfort and a good hope (2Thess. 2:16).
Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. All of these wonderful things made possible by God's amazing grace.
- B. All, a gift, out of God's wonderful mercy in not giving us what we deserve.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.