

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 12:1-9**.
- B. Tonight, we continue the sermon series about Grace.
 - 1. Jan. 26 -- **What Grace Provides**.
 - 2. Feb. 9 -- Great Doctrines of Grace
 - 3. Feb. 16 -- Falling From Grace.
 - 4. Feb. 23 -- Living Under Grace.
- C. It is a wonderful blessing to live under grace. Most world religions today, the cults, and some forms of Christianity are religions of works. True spirituality in Christ comes by accepting His grace.

I. GRACE PROVIDES THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

- A. Remission of sins.
 - 1. Lev. 5:6 In OT an expiatory animal was to shed blood.
 - 2. Heb. 10:3-4 But this only provided a **reminder** not **remission** of sins.
 - 3. 1John 1:7 For forgiveness there is required a vicarious shedding of X's blood.
 - 4. Rom. 5:9 The word "justified" means a legal acquittal from guilt.
- B. Reconciliation.
 - 1. Rom. 5:10 While enemies we were reconciled (brought back) to God.
 - 2. Eph. 2:16 God has reconciled both Jew and Gentile into one body by the cross.
 - 3. Col. 1:20 Jesus has reconciled all things to Himself at the cross.
 - 4. 2Cor. 5:18 God reconciled the world to Himself in Christ.
- C. Redemption.
 - 1. Gal. 4:5 Being redeemed means having opportunity to become adopted sons.
 - 2. Eph. 1:7 Redemption means the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14).
 - 3. Heb. 9:12 Christ's shed blood means eternal redemption.
 - 4. Rom. 3:24 All of this is a gift of grace!

II. GRACE PROVIDES THE ABUNDANT LIFE.

- A. Jesus promised us the abundant life (Jo. 10:10).
- B. Some characteristics of this abundant life are:
 - 1. Faith. 1Jn. 5:4
 - 2. Forgiveness. Eph. 4:32
 - 3. Fellowship. 1Jn. 1:7
 - 4. Joy and peace. Phil. 4:10-13
 - 5. Hope. Eph. 1:18
 - 6. Love. Jn. 13:34-35
 - 7. Prayer. Eph. 6:18
 - 8. Eternal life. 1Jn. 2:25

III. GRACE PROVIDES STRENGTH FOR LIVING.

- A. Because of God's grace, we have the power to plunge into a life a service (1Cor. 15:9-10).
- B. Because of God's grace, we have to power to freely give (2Cor. 8:1-5).
- C. Because of God grace, we have the power to persevere and prevail (2Cor. 12:7-9).

IV. GRACE PROVIDES ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. Whenever someone asks you what you believe one must do to be saved--answer that we are saved by grace! Sometimes the question is asked in order to show that we believe in salvation by works.

But, WE DON'T!

- B. Share Eph. 2:8-9 and then show two things:
 - 1. Grace is God's part because we are dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-3).
 - 2. Faith is our part. And an acceptable faith is one that is obedient to God's Word.
- C. A great example of grace and faith working together is in the life of Noah:
 - 1. Why did Noah find grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:8)?
 - 2. Noah did what God asked him to do (Heb. 11:7).
- D. Another excellent passage that shows the relationship of grace and faith is Titus 3:3-8.
This passage shows:
 - 1. Our helpless in sin (3:3).
 - 2. God's response of grace in X (3:4,5a).
 - 3. An indirect reference to baptism and the indwelling Spirit (3:5b).
 - 4. Justification by grace (3:6-7).
 - 5. The need of believers to engage in good deeds (3:8).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Oh, what grace provides!
- B. Grace provides the blood of X, the abundant life, strength for living, and eternal life.
- C. Respond to this grace of God, but obeying X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.