

Week 6 – Grace

Remember last week we talked about how God cannot simply let our sins go without some type of punishment because He is a just God? This week we are going to talk about topic some of you may never have talked about, and that is grace. Have any of you heard of grace? [Wait for responses]. We are going to define grace as mercy or undeserved favor. It is to freely receive what we do not deserve. Because it is free, it is therefore a gift. Just think of a birthday present. It is a gift because you did not pay for it.

The bible says that the gift of God is eternal life (Romans 6:23b). Did you catch that? The gift of God is eternal life. Eternal life is living forever with God in heaven. Since it is a gift, it is nothing that we can buy, or earn, or work for. We can only receive it as a free gift. So although we deserve punishment because of our sin, God, because of His grace, offers us eternal life to those who believe and trust that Jesus came down to earth, lived a sinless life in order to take away the sins of man, which of course includes their own personal sins.

The main thing to realize is that eternal life is not earned or deserved. As humans, we usually believe we need to work hard to earn the things we get. Your parents work hard in order to have the house you live in and the food you eat. Since you are all students, you know that you must work hard in order to get good grades in school. In our world there are very few things that are free, and that is probably why we think we need to earn eternal life. However, grace is different than that in that we cannot work hard enough in order to “deserve” eternal life.

The bible says, “**For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**” (Ephesians 2:8-9). What these verses are saying, is that you cannot say to God one day, “But God I did this, and I did that, so please let me into your heaven.” We cannot brag to God and tell Him everything we did to please Him and think that He will allow us into heaven one day. God is never impressed by how good we are!! That is to say, our works (what we do) have no effect on how God views us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does anyone have any questions about today’s lesson?
2. Can anyone ever get to the point in their life where they can say that they now deserve to go to him by the way they have lived? [Answer: No. No matter how “good” we say we are, it will never be good enough]
3. So why can we not earn, or be good enough to receive eternal life? [Answer: because eternal life is a gift from God through His grace]