

WEEK TWO

GRACE

For it is by grace you have been saved.
-Ephesians 2:8

"Amazing Grace" is not just a great song. It is one of the great themes of the Bible. We are saved by God's amazing grace. We are useful to God because of his amazing grace. We are to receive his grace with thanksgiving and with eagerness to let it change our lives.

Day 8 - Lavished on Us _____

1. The grace of God makes our salvation possible. The grace of God also makes our growth and development possible. His grace is the source of everything that is good in us. Turn and read Ephesians 1:1-10. Mark each reference to the word "grace:"
2. Grace is "giving to someone who deserves *nothing* as though he or she deserves *everything*;" and that's what happens to us in Jesus Christ. We deserve *nothing*, but in him we are given everything. In spite of our sin, we are treated as if we were like Christ himself. This means we are judged not on the basis of our performance, but on the basis of grace. Incredible!
3. The NIV translation in 1:8 speaks of the grace God has lavished on us. What does the word "lavished" mean to you? What picture does that give you of God? How does this differ from some views of God that you may be familiar with?
4. What is Paul's response, described in 1:3, to such incredible grace? How should your understanding of God's grace change your attitude and outlook on life?
5. Spend some time just trying to comprehend how blessed you are to have been taught about the grace of God. Give praise to God with all your heart.

Day 9 - Standing in Grace _____

1. Turn to Romans 5:1-11. Why is it so amazing that God has shown his grace to us?
2. In view of the teaching of this passage why is it so foolish for us to ever be proud, arrogant or boastful in any situation or relationship?
3. In v. 2 he says it is in "this grace which we now stand:" Grace is a state in which you now stand and in which you will continue to stand as you continue in your faith. How does it give you security to know that you are standing (living) in a state of grace?
4. Suppose you fail in some way tomorrow and feel defeated. What difference will it make that in Christ you "stand in grace"?

Day 10 - United with Christ _____

1. Read Acts 2:36-38 and then Romans 5:20-6:7.
2. Does baptism look like something that merits you salvation or is it the way God tells us to say "yes" to his grace which we could never merit?
3. Write down what Romans 6 is saying happened to you in your baptism by the grace of God?
4. How does what happened (what God did) need to affect your attitude toward sin?
5. What is wrong with saying "let's continue in sin so grace can abound"?

Day 11 - Saved for Good Works _____

1. Read Ephesians 2:10.
2. Write a short explanation of each verse in this text.
3. Look carefully at v. 10. What is the whole purpose of grace? If a person does little or nothing as a disciple because "I am saved by grace anyway;" what are they misunderstanding?

4. What good works do you see that God's grace has equipped you to do? What specifically are you wanting to do *today* out of appreciation for being saved?
5. If God has treated you with grace, how are you going to treat other people who sin and make mistakes? Read Ephesians 4:32.

Day12 – Grace that Teaches _____

1. Read Titus 2:11-14.
2. This passage could be translated "the grace of God gives us an education:' What is the whole purpose of God giving us his grace?"
3. List some things that the grace of God educates you to do.
4. Why must a "yes" to God's grace be followed by "no" to worldly passions and ungodliness?
5. Is there anything still in your life that God's grace is teaching you to say "no" to?
6. Using your answer in question 5, now write out the following: "God's grace is sufficient to enable me to say 'no' to _____

Day13 – When We Sin _____

1. By today you have probably realized that you are not doing all for Jesus Christ that you determined to do almost three weeks ago. You want to love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. But you have failed in some specific areas. What you will study today will be very important in dealing with this for the rest of your life.
2. Turn to 1 John 1:5-10. Read it carefully.
3. Think of the difference in light and darkness. Think of the difference between a bright open room with lots of windows and a totally dark basement area. In one, things are out in the open. You can see them as they really are. In the other, things are hidden and covered by the darkness. With this in mind, what does he mean when he calls us to "walk in the light"? Do you see how this fits with v. 9 and the call to confess our sins?

4. We all—from the oldest to the youngest in Christ—sin. If we claim that we don't, we lie (v. 10). How, then, are we to handle all of this? Do we cover and hide our sins? Or do we bring them out into the open through confession?
5. Write down the two results of walking out in the light as described in v. 7. Why is this passage comforting? What does it teach you about relationships in Christ?
6. Remember this: Satan's only ground is darkness. When we confess our sins and bring them out into the light, we take away from him his only base of operation, and we enjoy the power of God's grace and the blood of Christ continually cleanses us from all sin.
7. Have you been open about your sins? Has God forgiven you?

Day 14 – Not Without Effect _____

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-11.
2. In what sense can we say that we are not deserving of salvation as Paul relates in v. 9?
3. What do you think he means when he says "and his grace to me was not without effect"?
4. How can you respond so that God's grace will not be without effect in your life?
5. Why do you think Paul adds that last comment in v. 10 "Yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me"?
6. End this week of study with time to thank God and praise him for his marvelous grace. Look at your lostness without him and his great mercy that you in no way deserved. Make sure there is no self-righteousness or arrogance in your heart but that you truly believe "by the grace of God I am what I am." Remember and write down where you were headed and what would have happened if you had not become a disciple of Jesus. Share this with someone you want to be saved. Be a grateful Christian.