



Life Group Sermon Study Notes
“Amazing Grace: Sanctifying Grace”
Pastor James Lowe – January 26, 2020

Warm-Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is something someone has done to help encourage you?
- What kinds of things do you feel powerless to change? This could be things about yourself, the world, etc.

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Titus 2:11-15 *11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,*

- Salvation is a gift of God’s grace toward us. This gift of salvation is available to all people. All people means everyone, everywhere, at any time. God saved Saul who became the Apostle Paul after persecuting and condemning God’s people. Romans 5:20 says “*Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more.*” Since God’s grace was extended to Paul despite the things Paul had done, God’s grace is available to you today.

12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

- Grace is not a license to sin. (cf. Romans 6:15-16) The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us sanctifying us, and training us to renounce ungodliness. This does not mean you are condemned if you battle with different sins. Sanctification is a process that happens over time. Be encouraged! As you continue this walk with God, His grace will empower you to renounce ungodliness, worldly passions, to live self-controlled, and upright godly lives.

13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

- God’s grace causes us to hope and expect Christ Jesus’s return. This is our true hope. For this very reason, we are called to participate in the great commission to advance the Kingdom of God by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life no one comes to the Father except through Him. (John 14:6) Jesus voluntarily gave himself so that we could be redeemed. To be redeemed means to be bought back from slavery by paying a ransom. In this case, we were bought back from the slavery of sin and death. We have become His possession redeemed to be zealous for good works.

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

- 2 Corinthians 5:20 tells us we are "...ambassadors for Christ..." As ambassadors, we must be bold to declare the truth of Jesus Christ with all authority. Ephesians 2:6 tell us that God has raised us together with Christ and we are seated together with Him in the heavenly realms. We have authority in Christ Jesus to carry the will of heaven across the earth and to boldly proclaim this message of the Kingdom wherever we go.

Conclusion

Christ gave His life up on our behalf so that we could freely receive the gift of salvation. We have received this salvation by grace, and not by our works. We must periodically revisit the message of the cross to remind us that our works are not what allows us to approach the throne of grace, but rather it is Jesus's works that has redeemed us from slavery. This gives us confidence that we are children of God even in our failures, and disappointments. We can still approach the throne of grace based on the righteousness of Jesus. We are reminded that we have access to the empowering grace of God to walk free from sin, and that we have authority because we are seated together with Christ in the heavenly realms. Even if we fall seven times, seven times we can get back up and stand in our faith.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What does the grace of God mean for you?
- What do we have the authority to do based on what Christ has done for us?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for redeeming us from being slaves to sin.
- Ask God to grow in the revelation of our authority in Christ Jesus.
- Ask God for opportunities to declare the message of Jesus Christ to the lost in our city.