

Title: Faith's Review and Expectation

Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10

Draft Summary:

I. Faith looks backward at grace (v.1-3)

II. Faith looks at now at grace (v.4-6)

III. Faith looks to the future at grace (v.7-10)

Key Truths:

- With Christ, God not only raised us up but also seated us with Him.
 - Your spirit now is exalted and enthroned with Christ in heaven.
- How do you step from grace to grace?
 - Step into faith
 - Believing that God is as gracious and merciful as He says He is.
 - Believing God says He says He is and He will do what He says He will do.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - What were you like before you became a Christian?
 - When did you receive the gift of new life?
 - How would you describe God's grace to you?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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EXPOSITION

Introduction

God's amazing grace:

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Overview

I. Faith looks backward at grace (v.1-3)

II. Faith looks at now at grace (v.4-6)

III. Faith looks to the future at grace (v.7-10)

Context of Passage:

Ephesians 1:18

having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

I. FAITH LOOKS BACKWARD AT GRACE (v.1-3)

Ephesians 2:1-3

“And you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience, among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

- dead to God = alive to sin

in which you once walked, following the course of this world,

Romans 11:30

For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,

following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience

- Satan, clear reference

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 14:30

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

John 15:18

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

1 John 5:19

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,

- how we previously followed Satan
 - We did whatever we felt or thought
 - Meaning of being worldly/satanic

and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind

- we deserved nothing but judgment in hell.

II. FAITH LOOKS AT THE NOW FOR GRACE (v.4-6)

Ephesians 2:4-6

"But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"

But God, being rich in mercy,

- Clear truth of God's essence - He is rich in mercy!

Exodus 34:6

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

Nehemiah 9:31

Nevertheless, in Your great mercies You did not make an end of them or forsake them, for You are a gracious and merciful God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

because of the great love with which he loved us,

- God loved you before He saved you.

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Romans 5:8-9

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

- If God rejoiced and was singing before you were saved, how much more God delights and rejoices over you as His child!

even when we were dead in our trespasses

Colossians 2:12-13

having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

- How God saved us - He made us alive

1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

and raised us up with him

- God raised us up with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17a

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- God not only raised us up but also seated us with Him.
- Your spirit now is exalted and enthroned with Christ in heaven.
 - You belong on the throne with Christ.
- Shows how much the blood of Christ made us right with God.
 - We are with Him?
 - We are with Him.
 - We are with Him!

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (where do we look as we run the race?)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- In Christ, we are already in God's presence and enthroned with Him.

III. FAITH LOOKS FORWARD TO GRACE (v. 7-10)

Ephesians 2:7-10

"so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

so that in the ages to come

- What God has already done is merely the beginning.
- There are many "ages to come"
 - eternity is an unfolding of ages to come.

Revelation 22:4-5

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

- riches of His grace = surpassing
 - beyond all measure or comprehension

John 1:16

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

- English version of saying "God's graciest grace"
 - Grace on top of grace
 - Grace after grace
- Why do we think God's grace will end and run dry?
 - It simply cannot and will not.

Romans 5:20

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

Matthew 25:29a

For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, How you step from grace to grace?

- Step into faith

- Believing that God is as gracious and merciful as He says He is.
- Believing God says He says He is and He will do what He says He will do.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works,

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Philippians 1:29

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

so that no one may boast.

- Why?
- Boast = "I believed" or "I repented"
- Belief = "You died", "You kept me"

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Corinthians 1:29

so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

2 Timothy 1:9

who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,

- We are saved by faith.
- Evidence of genuine faith is good works for His glory.

Psalms 100:3

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

- Good works is not by our own effort.
 - But rather God prepared the good works for us to do.

Colossians 1:10

so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.