

TOPIC: RECEIVE THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

SPEAKER: SP Daniel Foo

Date: 11 Jan 2009

SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION

What is grace? It is receiving what we do not deserve; it is receiving unmerited favor out of God's goodness. In Romans 6:23, the gift of God is the grace of God.

3 aspects of God's grace to us:

1. God's grace saves us who believe.

The Lord Jesus Christ paid the price for the covenant of grace to us. We are now in the dispensation of grace. Heb 9:15. Previously we were under the covenant of law. When we fail to obey, we reap the consequences, operating under a closed heaven, experiencing sickness and diseases. Jesus shed His Blood to cut the covenant.

How are we saved?

Eph 2:8,9 tell us we are saved by grace. Grace comes from heaven. We receive it by faith. To have faith is to put on truth in God, to rely on His promises. It is not of ourselves. We can never work for or earn the grace of God.

Roman 10:13 says that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. We may not know how to pray correctly but when we do so sincerely, we are heard and we are saved, i.e. the thief on the cross. He made a simple request, asking Jesus to remember him and Jesus in reply, told him he would be with Him in paradise. Whoever calls on the Lord, in whatever language or bodily expression, shall be saved.

Grace and truth always come together. (John 1:14,17) Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. (John 14:6) If we have a wrong belief of God, we would not be able to pray to God correctly. In Luke 11, if the son asks for bread, would the father give a stone? Our theology affects our prayer. What is theology? "Theo" means "God" while "logy" means "principle" If our theology is wrong, we will misrepresent Him and miss out on receiving His grace. Ignorance is not bliss. Ungodly and wrong beliefs will thwart God's grace from coming into our lives.

The love of the Father God is consistent with his attributes of truth and justice. If we forgive not, God cannot do anything. Consequences of defilement come to the one who does not forgive. (Heb 12:15) We will reap what we sow. (Gal 6:7) Financial tsunami has nothing to do with God. Eph 4:26,27 tell us not to give a foothold to the devil. We do so when we violate a law or a relationship. When we choose to align to the spirit of the air that works in the sons of disobedience, we will be in trouble.

2. God's grace sustains us in this life.

We start by grace and continue our living by grace.

A) He provides the Word of His grace to build us up. (Acts 20:32a) What is the Word of His grace? It refers to the principles of life and the promises of God that will build us up.

B) The Word of God is truth. (John 17:17) This stands in contrast to the devil who is the father of lies. (John 8:44) In Revelation 12:9-10, we see that the devil is one who deceives and accuses.

Our belief system is to be aligned to the will of God. As disciples, we need to know His Word. If we posture ourselves to hear, we will catch it. Truth is more caught than taught. When it is caught, it quickens our inner man. The Word of God needs to be quickened and to become rhema for us personally. Will it be so for everyone? No. But it's for us to catch it to become rhema that produces faith. We must move from hearing in the head to faith in the heart. *Faith is the key that provides the grace for us.* Our belief must stand on truth. That's where faith is produced.

Old Covenant

As in Deut 28:1, obedience is needed if blessings are to flow. However, man's obedience is imperfect and incomplete and as a result, we come under curses. James 2:10 says that when we fail to observe one part of the law, we fail in all and are guilty as a lawbreaker.

New Covenant

Under this new covenant, what is required of us is just to believe and receive the blessing. What's the premise for that? It's the finished work of Calvary. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness and to fulfill the law. By His perfect obedience, the just requirements of the law are fully and completely met.

In John 6:29, the work of God is this: To believe in the one he has sent. What does it mean to believe? It means to receive, to act on the Word/promises of God. The window of grace is open. He is always reaching out to us during this window period. His eyes run through and fro the earth to encourage us. As we are grace receivers, we need to be grace releasers and to share the good news. Even as He is the God of the second, third or fourth chance and do not condemn us, we ought to do so likewise.

Romans 5:2 tells us that we have access by faith into this grace of God. We have access to heaven by faith. Unlike the Old Testament, in the New Testament, we are already blessed. What should our response be? There is no need for us to beg God more as if by doing so, God would respond even more. That might leave us as no different from pagan behavior. Rather, what's required is to believe and receive. What's required is to align our belief to the Word of God.

What are the areas we need His grace? Examples are: peace of God, self control, forgiving others, overlooking an offence, giving second chance to another, bodily health, family harmony, etc. God has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness. This is the divine exchange which needs to be personally appropriated by faith, trust and belief. Not all who come for altar call will be healed. There are other things that would need us to attend to, e.g. unforgiveness, lack of bodily care, health, etc.

3. God's grace sanctifies us, i.e. God's grace helps us to be holy.

A) It helps us to worship God. (1Peter 2:9, John 4:23,24) Be a true worshipper, a participant and not a spectator. Render to God our whole-hearted worship, doing so with our mind, heart, soul and strength. Don't just give God our mind but also our heart otherwise we are only doing so with one engine firing and 4 others left idle. God sanctifies us so that we may worship Him.

B) God's grace separates us from the things that displease Him. Examples of such things are: unequal yokes, gossips, lying cheating, laziness, wasting time, unprofitable activities, offences. We need to do a self check on the areas of our lives that need cleaning up.

C) God's grace helps us to separate to God the things that please Him, Examples of such things are: posture to worship, supporting the CGL, honoring authority, working hard and smart at the job, loving your family, TAWG, salt and light.

Romans 6:13 exhorts us to present our members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Broadly, there are seven areas to be dedicated :

- 1) Mind
- 2) Eyes
- 3) Ears
- 4) Mouth
- 5) Heart
- 6) Hands
- 7) Feet

One area will affect another. Which area do we need to pay attention to? Are we heading the wrong direction? This would depend on our decision and attitudes, etc. They all add up. Hence, good to check the areas that need to be readjusted so as to align them to God's ways.

Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The degree of purity will affect the degree of wisdom and revelation. Allow the Spirit of holiness (Rom 1:4) to separate us from the world and to separate us to God. We will then have power to minister. When the Spirit of holiness comes, there will be power. Zech 4:6.

In Summary,

1. God's grace saves us who believe.
2. God's grace sustains us in this life.
3. God's grace sanctifies us.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Share what you know regarding the New Covenant and what it has done for you?

2. Is there a notion of God which you may need to revisit and have a better idea of Him?

3. "Faith is the key that provides the grace for us." (*italics in paragraph 2B*) Discuss how grace may be appropriated into our lives.

4. As we receive grace, we ought to release grace. Are there people who need you to release grace? How do you think you may want to do it?

5. What are some areas that we might need to separate from in order to draw closer to God?