

**First Church of God
January 19, 2014
Sermon Notes
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**God's Grace
II Corinthians 6: 1 – 2**

“As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ² For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”

Introduction: God’s grace is mine for free, because it is based upon Jesus’ performance ... and not mine.

Grace Foundations:

1. God’s Grace is available because it is based upon Jesus’ performance – **not mine.**
2. God does not love me and save me for what I can **do** for Him.

Micah 6: 1 – 8

Listen to what the LORD says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

²“Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.
For the LORD has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

³“My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.
⁴I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.

⁵My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

⁶With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?

To **act justly** and to love mercy
and to **walk humbly with your God.**

Psalm 51: 14 – 16

¹⁴ Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord,
open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do
not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

3. God’s Grace **accepts** me as I am, then enables me to live above my own ability.

4. My **service** is actually greater under grace, because gratitude, not guilt is the motivation.
5. All I must have to receive and grow in grace is **humility**; I need and must ask for grace.

Grace is Unmerited Favor from God.

Alexander Maclaren said “The word grace is a kind of short hand for the whole sum of unmerited blessings which come to men through Jesus Christ. Grace means the spontaneous, eternal stooping, pardoning love of God.”

I Corinthians 6:2

“Not to receive God’s grace in vain.”

- How often does God’s message reach you in vain?

Key: It is possible to **reject** or to miss the benefits of God’s grace.

Part II

The Effect of God’s Grace Upon Us.

Grace is God supplying our needs.

Quote: Grace is the act of God supplying our needs from day to day as we have them. D. L. Moody

1. The truth of the **atonement** is the Grace of God.

Ephesians 2: 8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

"I must die or get somebody to die for me. If the Bible doesn't teach that, it doesn't teach anything and that is when the atonement of Jesus Christ comes in." – Dwight L. Moody

2. The time of **acceptance** (II Cor. 6:2)

Point: The "right time" to receive God's grace is **now**.

3. The trust for **assistance**. II Cor. 12:9 "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Quotes:

"Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing yet has been done."
- - C. S. Lewis

"Salvation is a gift and you can't boast about a gift. You can only be thankful!!!" -- D. James Kennedy

Grace is God cleansing our hearts from Sin.

II Corinthians 7: 1 "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

1. A call to think and live **sanctified** (verse 1)
2. A call to live a **separate** life.

II Corinthians 6: 16 – 18 "¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I

will be their God, and they will be my people."

¹⁷ "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

"God will not give us the Holy Spirit to enable us to gain celebrity or to procure a name or to love an easy, self-controlled life. And (the Spirit) can make His abode (only) with those who are willing to be at one with Him in this." -- F. B. Meyer

Conclusion:

Grace is the favor, the privilege of having God Himself acting within us. Webster said, "Grace is the act of God whereby He is able to make us pre and morally strong." It is unmerited, undeserved.