

# Hear . Believe . Live

## Saving Grace

October 1, 2017

**GC Purpose:** To create community, build relationships, and support one another through the Word of God and prayer.

**GC Goal:** To gain authentic relationships with God & with one another.

**Opening:** 1. Thanksgiving to God for our Church Fundraiser—for all that He achieved.  
2. How can we respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters and people in disaster areas?

### Saving Grace

John 6:36-47

What is the difference between Christianity and all other religions?

**Man's Religion says...**  
I obey, therefore I'm accepted.

**The Gospel says...**  
I'm accepted, therefore I obey.

**Man's Religion says...**  
Motivation is based on fear and insecurity.

**The Gospel says...**  
Motivation is based on grateful joy.

**Man's Religion says...**  
I obey God in order to get things from God.

**The Gospel says...**  
I obey God to get to God, to delight and resemble Him.

**Man's Religion says...**  
When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself, since I believe, like Job's friends that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.

**The Gospel says...**  
When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus and that while God may allow this for my training, he will exercise his fatherly love within my trial.

**Man's Religion says...**  
My prayer life consists largely of petition and only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is control of my environment.

**The Gospel says...**  
My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with God.

Christianity is about what Jesus has done not what man has done.

*But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* Galatians 6:14 ESV

1. God's Grace is **Primary**

*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.* John 4:23 ESV (emphasis added)

It is God who seeks us not the other way around.  
You cannot want God unless His irresistible grace has gripped you.

*None is righteous, no, not one.* Romans 3:10-11

*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.* Romans 8:7

*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.* 1 Corinthians 2:14

*One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.* Acts 16:14

- We cannot earn our salvation because on our own we can't want it.
- God's grace must change our heart so that we can desire and receive salvation.
- The Father's arms do not wait for your repentance.
- The Father's loving arms enable your repentance.
- We do not know how our life will span out--it's our job to **follow him**. *"Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he*

*remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"* John 21:22

2. God's Grace is **Persevering**

God will keep you in His Grace. A Christian will persevere to the end because God's grace will continue to the end.

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.* John 10:27-28

*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.* John 6:44 (Emphasis added.)

You cannot make yourself unworthy of salvation since you were never worthy of it in the first place!

The Shepherd's role is **not** to lose **any** of the sheep.

We can fall away from Jesus--But He won't let us!!!! He warns us persistently and lovingly not to fall away and holds us tight!

3. God's Grace is **Free** and brings **Freedom**

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1 God's grace removes burdens from your life.

*"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.* Deut 7:6-8 (emphasis added.)

*4..even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will..* Eph. 1

Like the Prodigal Son we are enveloped by the Father's loving arms.

**God's children are surrounded by God's grace forever. It's all about Jesus!**

### Application:

1. Discuss the beauty of the Gospel in contrast to the futile religions of mankind using the illustrations in the sermon.
2. How did you first come to God's grace?
3. Discuss the difference between the fact that God is the seeker of worshippers and the common assumption that the pre-believer is the seeker.
4. Can you jump out of God's hands—how is it possible to fall away?
5. Discuss the old axiom about the perseverance of the saints: 'If you have it—that is, if you have genuine faith and are in a state of saving grace—you will never lose it. If you lose it, you never had it.'

### Next Steps:

- Take time to consider in prayer the supreme generosity of God in giving his Son to bath us in grace.!
- Ask each other to pray about the specific area highlighted in the sermon that needs most attention.
- Consider the leadership needs of the NCC. Talk with your GC about opportunities you may consider to serve in. Pray about those opportunities.

### Supporting One Another:

- Specific Needs. Tell your Gospel Community about your concerns this week.
- Tell your GC about needs that others in the group may help with.
- Thanksgiving (recognizing how others in the group have helped you).