

Living by Grace

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 5:6ff.

B. Desire for God comes from an understanding of His grace and the hope for His grace in His promises for the future.

C. There several aspects to God's grace.

1. We have been justified through God's grace- this is His past grace. (Romans 3:24)
2. We stand presently in God's grace through His past grace. This is His present grace.
3. We also have hope for the future in God's grace. (Romans 8)

II. Grace is God's favor shown through Christ to those who deserve His wrath. (Ephesians 2:1-5)

A. Before Christ, we were:

1. In a state of being spiritually dead.
2. In slavery to the world, the flesh, and the devil.
3. Objects of God's wrath.

B. God has been both legally and personally violated by our sin and has the authority and power to execute justice.

C. God cannot subvert His justice.

D. God sent His Son to satisfy His justice on our behalf. (Romans 3)

E. Because Jesus lived a perfect life in our place, He also obtained God's favor for us. (Matthew 13)

III. We still sin in ways that incur the wrath of God every day and we still need to live by grace daily.

(Ephesians 4:29)

A. When our conscience accuses us of sin, we can respond in two ways.

1. We can play defense attorney and try to justify our sin.

2. We can plead guilty and flee to the cross of Christ. (Hebrews 9:14)

B. We always need the grace of God. We are dependent on His grace through Jesus for His forgiveness, His blessing, and His enablement.

C. Our worst days are never so bad that we are beyond the reach of God's grace. But, our best days are never so good that we are beyond the need of God's grace.

1. We cannot live on the basis of our performance.

2. Christ is the source of our enabling grace for the Christian life. (John 15:5)

Application questions:

1. How did Jesus obtain God's favor for you? What does it mean to be in God's favor?

2. Why was Jesus' death necessary?

3. How is gratitude that results in a commitment to Christian living better than Christian living motivated by obligation?
