

Sermon Notes

Sunday, Dec 30, 2016, Bethany Church, Greenland Campus

Speaker: Dirk Rodgers

Sermon Series: Looking Ahead

Sermon Title: Growing in Grace and Knowledge

Today's Scripture:

*"But grow in the **grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."* 2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

Today's Question: Why does grace work?

1. The Cost of Grace

*"Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the **grace** that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories." 1 Peter 1:10-11 (ESV)*

"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV)

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." 1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV)

2. The Power of Grace

Grace Leaves Room for God to Work

*"Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a **gracious thing**, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a **gracious thing** in the sight of God. For to this you have been*

called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” 1 Peter 2:18-23 (ESV)

Grace Builds Strong Relationships

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of **God’s varied grace**. 1 Peter 4:8-10 (ESV)*

3. The Results of Grace

*“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the **grace** that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” 1 Peter 1:13-16 (ESV)*

*“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the **God of all grace**, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 5:8-11 (ESV)*

Conclusion

Grace works because God has chosen to change the world through it. How will we each grow in grace and knowledge this year, so that we can become engaged in God’s transforming work?