Growing Strong In God's Grace

Greg Kline · Romans 5:1–2

INTRODUCTION

- Grace is simple to define, but difficult to understand and apply.
- If we are going to grow in God's grace, we have to not only understand it, but recognize how it is to be applied.

1 Recognize We Have a Desperate Need

Romans 6:23; Romans 3:21–26

- First of all, is to recognize we have a desperate need for this.
- For the wages of sin is death. But the end of that verse is important too. The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- We deserve death. Because we have refused to do what God commanded we do.
- Verse 23 is the terrible news, but the great news is in verse 24, we can be justified by his grace as a gift.

2 We Will Never Deserve Grace

Romans 3:27–28

- We will never deserve grace, because grace, by definition, is what? Unmerited, undeserved favor.
- Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.
- Without God's grace, we have no hope of salvation whatsoever. We need God's grace every single day.

3 We Don't Properly Understand It

Romans 5:1–5

- One of them is we don't properly understand it.
- There's really two reasons we misunderstand things. One is we never take the time to understand them.
- There are so many ideas about it, we don't know which one is right.
- Paul says in verse one, we have been justified by faith. Faith connects us with that sacrifice of Jesus. Faith is critical.

4 We Don't Feel We Deserve God's Grace

Romans 5:6–10

- We don't feel we deserve God's grace.
- But God shows his love towards us, and that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- By definition, you cannot deserve what God freely gives under no compulsion.
- The devil wants us to feel we don't deserve grace. The answer is we don't deserve grace. But that shouldn't keep us from accepting God's great gift.

5 We Prefer to Trust in Ourselves

Romans 5:15–21

- We prefer to trust in ourselves.
- Not because they deserved it, but because God offered it and they were faithful to him.
- We need God every single day because alone we cannot do it.
- Our faith, our hope, our trust must be in Jesus. Nothing else. Nobody else can do it. I can't save myself.

6 Start Trusting in God's Grace

Ephesians 2:8–10; Ephesians 3:20; Romans 6:1–2

- We need to pray to God about it. We need to read what God says about it, and we need to study it, and yes, meditate on it.
- For by grace you have been saved, through faith. And this is not your own doing. It is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- It's offered for all, but not accepted. You have been saved through faith. Faith is the key.
- How can we who died to sin still live in it? The answer to that, Paul says, is no way.

THE CHALLENGE

Don't leave this morning, not knowing that you stand in the grace of God.

MY NOTES