

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
Topic: Grace. Optimism.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 3
Series: 1 of 4

Focal Point Radio Ministries

April 27 & 28, 2002

Message # 02-15

Pastor Mike

All You Need ^{part 1}

How Grace Can Transform Your Attitude About Your Problems



In Light of Grace...

1. Be _____

In Light of Grace...

2. Be _____

In Light of Grace...

3. Get _____

1 Cor. 1:4-9

⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. How do you think those you work with, live with, or hang out with would describe your attitude? If I asked them how often you are negative, critical or disheartened, what do you think they would say?
2. Describe a situation in which you reacted to a problem without any thought of God, his generosity, his resources, or his grace.

How would that situation have turned out differently (your approach to the problem, the effect of your response on those who saw you respond, etc.) had you followed Paul's example and the principles from this week's sermon?

3. Think of a problem you are currently facing. List five things about that existing situation for which you can be thankful. Itemize them in a prayer that reflects your thankfulness to God for each of those five things.
4. How will "biblical optimism" change your thoughts and your discussions about the problems you face?

In what way can God be honored and glorified in your current challenges, even if the circumstances surrounding that situation don't work out in the most pain-free way?

5. What specific things can and should you do about the problems you identified above? (Make sure that your awareness of God's grace flavors your attitude as you proceed!)

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

1Sam.5-6 & Jn.19

Monday

1Sam.7-8 & Jn.20

Tuesday

1Sam.9-10 & Jn.21

Wednesday

1Sam.11-12 & Ac.1

Thursday

1Sam.13-14 & Ac.2

Friday

1Sam.15-16 & Ac.3

Saturday

1Sam.17-18 & Ac.4

Here are some resources to help you develop a biblical attitude amid all of life's problems.

Bridges, Jerry. "Thankfulness" in ***The Practice of Godliness***. NavPress, 1983.
Chapell, Bryan. ***Holiness by Grace: Delighting in the Joy That Is Our Strength***. Crossway Books, 2001.
DeMoss, Nancy. ***The Attitude of Gratitude: Developing a Thankful Heart***. Life Action Ministries, 2000.
MacDonald, James. ***Lord, Change My Attitude (Before It's Too Late)***. Moody Press, 2001.
Spurgeon, Charles. ***Power in Praising God***. Whitaker House, 1998.
Swindoll, Charles. ***Hope Again***. Word Publishing, 1996.
_____. ***Laugh Again***. Word Publishing, 1991.
Walker, Laura. ***Ferris Wheels, Daffodils, & Hot Fudge Sundaes: A Journal of Gratitude***. Baker, 2002.