

◆ **READ:** Acts 26:16-18, Ephesians 5:1-2, 8 and 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) According to Paul, how should we respond to the grace that God shows to us?
- 2) How would you summarize THE BIG IDEA of all of the passages you've read in this study? (Try to sum it up in five or less sentences.)



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

MARKING THE PATH: Week 3 - Erase Your Mark

Everyone rejects God; they are all morally corrupt. None of them does what is right, not even one. ~ Psalm 14:3

G.R.A.C.E.

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him,
~ Psalm 8:3-4a*

"Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?" ~ 2 Samuel 7:18b

"But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You." - 1 Chronicles 29:14

I am grateful to the one who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He considered me faithful in putting me into ministry, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor, and an arrogant man. But I was treated with mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief, and our Lord's grace was abundant, bringing faith and love in Christ Jesus. This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them! But here is why I was treated with mercy: so that in me as the worst, Christ Jesus could demonstrate His utmost patience, as an example for those who are going to believe in Him for eternal life. Now to the eternal king, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen. ~ 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Huperpleonazó - Greek

it means "exceedingly abundant." Hyper-abundant. Super-abundant.

*I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
~ Romans 7:21-25a*

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For the one who obeys the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ~ James 2:10

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord seated on a high, elevated throne. The hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs stood over him; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used the remaining two to fly. They called out to one another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! His majestic splendor fills the entire earth!" The sound of their voices shook the door frames, and the temple was filled with smoke. ~ Isaiah 6:1-4

I said, "Woe to me! I am destroyed, for my lips are contaminated by sin, and I live among people whose lips are contaminated by sin. My eyes have seen the king, the Lord of Heaven's Armies." But then one of the seraphs flew toward me. In his hand was a hot coal he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, "Look, this coal has touched your lips. Your evil is removed; your sin is forgiven." I heard the voice of the Lord say, "Whom will I send? Who will go on our behalf?" I answered, "Here I am, send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:5-8

But get up and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this reason, to designate you in advance as a servant and witness to the things you have seen and to the things in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' ~ Acts 26:16-18

Therefore, be imitators of God as dearly loved children and live in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God ~ Ephesians 5:1-2

*for you were at one time darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live like children of light. ~ Ephesians 5:8*

Therefore, since we have this ministry, just as God has shown us mercy, we do not become discouraged ~ 2 Corinthians 4:1

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing, among whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe so they would not see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For God, who said "Let light shine out of darkness," is the one who shined in our hearts to give us the light of the glorious knowledge of God in the face of Christ. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

❖ DIVE IN!

◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What was one thing Pastor G said this week that spoke directly to you?
- 2) Are you inspired by that to make a decision, make a change, or take some action in your life?

◆ READ: Psalm 14:3, James 2:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) David is speaking in absolute terms. "Everyone" - "No one" - "Not even one." James speaks in absolute ways as well. He clearly states that perfect performance is required to be considered righteous yet we know that perfect performance is impossible for us. So, how do you feel about these verses? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- 2) If these verses are true about everyone, including us, then how can we ever be accepted by God? How can we ever receive God's favor? How can we ever be considered righteous enough to live in eternity with God?

◆ READ: Psalm 8:3-4a, 2 Samuel 7:18b, 1 Chronicles 29:14, and Isaiah 6:5-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) David and Isaiah are both acknowledging their sin and responding in humility and gratitude for God's grace shown to them. How do you express humility and gratitude to God in your life?
- 2) With these verses in mind, how is Christianity's understanding of God's grace different from the other primary world religions like Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism?

◆ READ: 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Romans 7:21-25a, and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) How are Paul's words in these three passages similar to David's and Isaiah's that we read earlier?