

The Exceeding Grace of God (2 Cor 9)

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Introduction: What does the grace of God do?

- A. Most of the time we think of receiving God's grace for salvation. **(Eph 2:8-9)**
 - 1. Indeed God has acted on our behalf and given us that which we could never do for ourselves.
 - 2. If that is all we think of the grace of God then we may have not received it! The grace of God is to move us to action! **(Titus 2:11-14)**
 - 3. Those who truly receive God's grace will in turn be so moved to unselfishly serve others! Have you received the grace of God?
- B. In the last chapter we learned how the grace of God had moved the Macedonian Christians to give beyond what anyone thought they could! **(2 Cor 8:1-5)**
 - 1. Do you view God's grace this way? Do you view the work of the Lord as a privilege or a burden?
 - 2. This thought is plainly exemplified in Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians. The grace of God is not the "cheap grace" of popular false doctrine!

I. The Preparation of Grace (9:1-5)

- A. God's grace had already taught them what they should do! **(9:1)**
 - 1. Because they knew any addition instruction was "superfluous." This is defined as: "over and above, more than is necessary, superadded."
 - 2. The first step in the work of grace is the word of grace! **(Acts 20:32)**
 - 3. Those who view the word of God and His grace as being in opposition have missed the grace of God.
 - 4. We can have a problem of knowing but not doing! **(1 Thess 5:1-3; Jas 1:22)**
- B. What will turn intentions into action?
 - 1. The **example and zeal** of others will give us courage. **(9:2)**
 - 2. The **exhortation of others** will help us. **(9:3, 5)**
 - 3. The **expectations of others** will give us courage. **(9:3-4)**
- C. When we prepare beforehand we will have also prepared our hearts.
 - 1. Jesus prepared Himself for the cross before He faced it! **(Heb 5:7-8)**
 - 2. We need to face the work of the Lord this way!
 - 3. When we make decisions on the spur of the moment we will in time corrupt our hearts. Do you make these decisions on a moment by moment basis?
 - a. To go to work each day?
 - b. To take care of your children?
 - c. To be faithful to your mate?
 - 4. Because of the word of His grace, we can determine in our hearts ahead of time if we will give our all in every area of life to serve God! How much have you determined to give?
 - 5. Those who are haphazard are also those who do because of "grudging obligation." In time they will be comfortable in doing nothing. (Ex. Do I have to attend every service? ...)

II. The Attitude of Grace (9:6-7)

- A. If you know the grace of God, you will be a living dead man! (**Gal 2:20**)
 - 1. Why does a man make any sacrifice for God? (**1 Cor 6:19-20**)
 - 2. If my greatest glory is to give God glory, then I will abound in good works.
- B. The difference between one who is pretending and one who is converted is their attitude towards the commands of God. (**9:6-7**)
 - 1. Many try to find the minimum and just do that.
 - 2. A few seek to do all they can.
 - 3. The difference is a Christian who is cheerful and full of joy verses one who is miserable in their service. Those who are miserable often must be propped up by carnal means

III. The Multiplication of Grace (9:8-10)

- A. When we yield to the crucified life of God's grace, we will find we have everything we need. (**9:8**)
 - 1. In the fleshly life you will never have enough! Anxiety will haunt you.
 - 2. God will make us abound in His work if we will yield! (**1 Cor 15:58**)
- B. God has so designed this life that when we give we in fact will receive far more!
 - 1. Jesus taught His apostles this. (**Mk 10:29-30**)
 - 2. This is also true in the results of our efforts. On the surface it seems that little will be accomplished. What does God say? (**Isa 55:10-11; Hosea 10:12**)
 - 3. Will you trust God's ability to multiply? If we receive more than we give, then who is limiting our blessings in the Lord? We often are our own worst enemy!

IV. The Praise of Grace (9:11-15)

- A. When God's grace works in us, we are enriched! (**9:11**)
 - 1. This word means: "to be richly furnished."
 - 2. If you want God's riches you will become a "liberal!" Here it means:
 - "1) singleness, simplicity, sincerity, mental honesty 1a) the virtue of one who is free from pretence and hypocrisy 2) not self seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity."
 - 3. Are you an open giving person or closed within a select few?
- B. Many will praise God when we yield to God grace. (**9:11-12**)
 - 1. We want God to have the praise and not ourselves! (**1 Cor 10:31**)
 - 2. This unselfish service will do more to open hearts to God and build up our brethren than anything else we can do. (**Phil 2:19-22**)
 - 3. Did the collection here also go to non-Christians?
 - a. Who did Paul say it was going to? (**9:1**)
 - b. What did the recipients do? (**9:12-14**)
 - c. The pronoun "them" in verse 13 deals with the Christians at Jerusalem while the "all men" concern the other Christians they have or will help at different times.
- C. Do you share in the "indefinable gift" of God? (**9:15**)

Conclusion: Is your service to God a joyful one?

- A. We need to go back and look at our initial forgiveness. Have we forgotten? (**2 Pt 1:9**)