

Getting off the performance treadmill

Grace: Why do we need it?

- We're spiritually bankrupt.
 - “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” (Rom. 3:10-12)
 - “even our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” (Is. 64:6)

We are saved by God's grace

- “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8,9)
- “grace” – unmerited favor; not able to be earned
- “and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 3:24)

We have a future hope because of God's grace

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16)
- We will live with God forever.

We have a future hope because of God's grace

- “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Phil. 3:20, 21)
- We will receive a glorified body; (1 Jn. 3:2)

Bankruptcy

- What kind of spiritual bankruptcy did we declare?
- Chapter 11 – Temporary
 - Companies that need some time to catch up on payments and work through financial issues.
- Chapter 7 – Permanent
 - Companies that can't pay off their debts. The Ship is sinking and they are abandoning it.

We live by God's grace everyday

- “Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?” (Gal. 3:3)
- Past, present, future sins are all forgiven (Col. 2:13)
 - *“God took our slate and He broke it in pieces and threw it away.”* – Stephen Brown

We live by God's grace everyday

- Grace & Works are mutually exclusive.
- “And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace could no longer be grace.” (Rom. 11:6)
- “He who began a good work in you [by His grace] will [by His grace] carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 1:6)

Dr. C. Samuel Storms

- *“Grace ceases to be grace if God is compelled to bestow it in the presence of human merit...Grace ceases to be grace if God is compelled to withdraw it in the presence of human demerit...[Grace] is treating a person without the slightest reference to desert whatsoever, but solely according to the infinite goodness and sovereign purpose of God.”*

When we misunderstand grace it leads to:

- Grace is not a license to sin.
 - We are saved from sin, but we were saved for righteousness (Rom. 6:14-18)
 - Being set free of our sin means we are now free to live as God intended.

When we misunderstand grace it leads to:

- Legalism

- When we think our obedience to God earns us any right or blessing from Him or makes us better than anyone else, that is the essence of legalism.

What will motivate us to live by grace?

- It is past grace (salvation) and future grace that motivates us to live by faith in God's present grace today.