

Grace Upon Grace (Securing Grace) – 2 Corinthians 9:8

As we begin our teaching time together, I want to take you back to some of the places in the Bible we have looked at over the past few weeks concerning God's grace. Let's begin with the last verse of the Bible, **Revelation 22:21**. Remember its encouraging words... *"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all."* The main point of this verse is the main point for today's message, the final message in our series **Grace Upon Grace**. With Christ, we forever have access to God's abundant grace. You see, we can never use up God's grace. He has more than we could ever imagine. You might even say His grace is unending. Or I'm sure you have heard it said this way... God's grace is sufficient. All these things are true, and this is the reason we will spend our time today focused on the **Securing Grace** given to us by the Father through His son Jesus.

When a person accepts the gospel of Jesus Christ, that person receives His saving grace. Remember Paul's words to the Ephesians. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9**. *"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 is this saving grace that allows us the opportunity to experience as James says, God's "greater grace." (James 4:6) Or, as John said, *"For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."* (John 1:16) When you consider your salvation, and I hope you will, you must know that it comes with much more grace than you deserve. Saving grace secures your place with Jesus in heaven for eternity and justifies you before a mighty and holy God. Remember these words from **Romans 3:21-26**.

Having been saved and justified, God then works to sustain us while we wait. And while we wait, we know we will experience good times and tough times. Blessed times and cursed times. Prosperous times and impoverished times. Healthy times and troubled times. We are not immune to the effects of this world. This is why God's sustaining grace becomes so important for the believer and why Paul shared with the Corinthians what the Lord told him about sustain grace. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10**.

Having been saved, God also begins the beautiful and gracious work in our hearts that transforms and set us apart for His glory. God's sanctifying grace is that which allows us to accomplish the goals given to us by Paul in **Romans 12:1-2**.

I know what you're thinking.... He just gave a shortened version of the past three messages on grace. True, but I hoped you would recognize that it is God and only Him who uses grace to give us new life and to strengthen us for the things we face each day in this world. It is God who uses grace as a means for building our faith and strengthening our relationship with Jesus. It is God who uses grace to empower us through His Spirit, the One who resides in our heart. And by knowing these things, I hoped you would recognize that it is God's grace that will give you access to heaven one day.

Now, I hope to show you one final detail concerning God's amazing grace. It is the same grace that saves you, justifies you, sanctifies you, and sustains you that also works to secure you

both here on earth as servants of Christ and in heaven as children of an all-mighty God. It is God's securing grace that allows you to be free forever. John says, "*if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*" (**John 8:36**) It is this freedom then that allows you to discover the person God created you to be and to turn away from the person the world is telling you that you should be. It is by "*grace through faith*" that allows us to experience Kingdom life now in anticipation of Kingdom life then. Every new day here is another chance for me to get better on this side of eternity. It's another chance for the powerful work of God to help me become more like Jesus. It is by the grace of God that I can daily demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit, which are: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.* (Galatians 5:22-23) God has promised to always be with us, and it is the various works of His grace in our life that lets us know He is near. This means now as well as then.

Do you remember these words from Jesus in Matthew's Gospel? **Read Matthew 7:7-11.** Never forget that grace is a gift. You can't earn it, but you sure do get a lot of it. It's free and abundant. I want to encourage you to stop worrying about getting what you deserve. Instead, focus on His grace, which gives you much more than you deserve.

As we close out our time today and the time we have spent in this series on grace, it's important to understand that God doesn't skimp on the things He gives us. I for one am glad He doesn't skimp on grace because I need as much of it as I can get, amen! Know this... Grace is a dynamic force, with benevolent power, that applies the greatness of God and the resources of God to our lives, to save us, to keep us, to enable us, to deliver us, to sanctify us, to glorify us. All of God's favor is extended to His children and given to us through the means of this undeserved favor known as grace.

In all of Scripture, there is one verse which sums it up better than any other. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:8.** "*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*" Consider the magnificent nature of this verse. The adjectives used in this verse indicate that God's grace is available and superior for every aspect of life. Grace to understand the Word, grace to wisely apply it, grace to overcome temptation, grace to overcome sin, grace to endure suffering, grace to endure disappointment, grace to endure pain, grace to obey the Lord, grace to serve Him effectively, grace to worship Him in spirit and truth, grace to fill an eternity. That is Grace Upon Grace!