

Getting a Grip on Grace (Part 1) (A Study from Ephesians 1:3-11)

April 13, 2014

- Real disciples of Jesus can lose their grip on grace.
 - ✓ Psalm 42:2-3
 - ✓ (v. 5) Hope is the pilot light which can ignite enough grace to believe for a new start in life.
- (Ephesians 1:3) We bless God because He has blessed us.
 - ✓ The church is established to kindle a culture of blessing in a very graceless world.
 - ✓ Excerpt: The Blessing by Gary Smalley and John Trent:

We all have a powerful need to know that someone in this world loves us and accepts us unconditionally. We especially crave our parents' blessing, and without it, we may become angry and driven, or detached and empty.

- ✓ We are called to walk in a “robust grace” (Lucado).
 - ➔ It both confronts and comforts.
 - ➔ We live out Romans 11:22: “Consider (think about; ponder) the goodness and severity of God.”
- ✓ Jesus’ final act on earth was to bless His disciples (Luke 24:50-51).
- (Ephesians 1:4) “He chose us . . . before the foundation of the world.”
 - ✓ In the battles of life, it’s easy to forget that we were **chosen** by Him.
 - ✓ A spirit of rejection undermines our sense of being chosen.
 - ✓ Jesus suffered rejection so we could be covered with grace.
 - ➔ Isaiah 53:3
 - ➔ Psalm 69:1-8
- Ephesians 1:5-6
 - ✓ Excerpt: Atonement by Derek Prince
 - ✓ “Accepted” = highly favored (as Luke 1:28)
 - ➔ Mary was particularly chosen, highly favored and blessed by the Lord – as are we!

- Ephesians 1:7 – “. . . the riches of His grace . . .”
 - ✓ **Our Treasure: Wisdom and understanding**
 - (v. 8) “. . . He lavished (His grace) upon us with all wisdom and understanding.” (NIV)
 - When we are quiet in His presence, wisdom and understanding can flow from within.
 - ✓ **Our Treasure: An inheritance in Christ**
 - (v. 11) “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance. . .”
 - We have the possibility of being a new branch in the family tree.