SOUNDING OUT THE WORD

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Iron Sharpens Iron

Proverbs 27:17 --- Ecclesiastes 4:10

Introduction:
A. We are well acquainted with the fact that iron sharpens iron.
B. We have seen steel used to sharpen a blade, to give an edge.
C. We are also aware that a blade, when sharpened, may be used for a good purpose, or a bad one.
D. The act of sharpening increases its power, whether for good or bad; so, it is with the friends a man may choose.
E. They encourage us to do good or to do bad things.

I. The Character of True Friendship.

A. Friends often depend upon one another.
B. Friends have a powerful influence in our lives. We should choose them wisely.
C. Friendship should be like a whet stone.
D. It should be simple, without personal agenda and truthful.
E. John said: No greater love hath a man then this that a man lay down his life for you. John 15:13

II. The Counterpart of Friendship.

A. Remember Demas. For Demas hath forsaken me. II Timothy 4:10
B. When hiding in a cave David proclaimed that no man cared for his soul.
C. To the Roman guard Jesus asked: Are you come out against me? And they all forsook him and fled. Mark 14: 48-50
D. Lazarus begged for crumbs from the rich man’s table. Luke 16
E. The kisses of an enemy are deceitful. Proverbs 27:6
III. The Biblical Example of Friendship.

A. Jesus said I will not leave you nor forsake you. John 14:18
B. Jesus called the disciples his friends sharing all that the father told him. John 15:14
C. After seeing Jesus, doubting Thomas said: Let us go that we may die with him. John 11:16
D. A friend loveth at all times. Proverbs 17:17
E. You cannot be a friend of the world and the friend of God at the same time.

IV. The Blessing of Friendship.

A. Being without friends is like living in a world of wilderness without hope.
B. True friends do not forsake each other.
C. A friend sticketh closer than a brother.
D. Jesus came and died in our place.
E. Jesus is the one true friend to everyone.

Conclusion:

A. True friendship cannot exist between bad men.
B. Adversity will drive false friends away.
C. Jesus is a friend to your soul.

D. He strengthens your hope of eternity.

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald
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God’s Grace
Hebrews 12:27-29; 13:9

Introduction: God’s grace is defined and explained in various ways. Let me give you some definitions. Grace is that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, and loveliness. Grace is good-will, loving kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved. Grace is used of the merciful kindness which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of Christian virtues.

I. GOD’S GRACE TO CONTINUE

A. The meaning. Acts 13:43
1. Persuaded. This means to convince by reason or argument.
2. Continue means abide in or to go on in or remain in.
3. Grace is the favor or good-will of God

B. The message
1. Paul and Barnabas persuaded them to continue in God’s grace
2. The message Paul was proclaiming was steadfastness to the Lord and His grace. I Cor. 15:57
3. It takes grace to continue and you will only continue by God’s grace.

C. The method.
1. God’s grace is available. We can continue on in God’s grace.
2. We need to ask for and claim God’s grace. We need to submit ourselves to God and receive His Grace.

II. GOD’S GRACE TO STAND

A. The meaning. Rom. 5:2

1. Access. This is the avenue and availability of the grace.

B. The message
1. We have access by faith to God’s grace.
2. It is the grace of God that enables us to stand.
3. We need to maintain our position with conviction, takes a stand for God, His word, and His churches.

C. The method.
1. To claim the benefits of God’s grace you must know of it and gain access to it.
2. A door is an access to another room, and you must go through its access to enter.
3. Grace is available by faith.

III. GOD’S GRACE TO SING.

A. The meaning. Col 3:16

1. Dwell means to abide or remain
2. Admonishing means entreating or encouraging one another.
3. Sing means to relate or celebrate something in verse; to give information or evidence.

B. The message
1. We are to give evidence with grace in our hearts to the Lord.
2. Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are to teach and admonish others.
3. Grace will give you a song and a heart to sing.

C. The method.
1. Allow God’s word to abide in your heart.
2. Read it and allow the spirit to minister it to the heart.
3. When we realize what we have in Christ we give evidence of it with song.

IV. GOD’S GRACE TO SPEAK

A. The meaning. Col.4:6
1. Speech. This refers to the words we speak, the way we speak, and the intention we imply.

2. Grace. God’s favor. God’s merciful goodness
3. Seasoned with salt. The speech is to reflect pureness and influence.

B. The message
1. We are to be gracious in communicating with others.
2. Paul admonished the Ephesians to speak with grace to minister to the hearers.
3. Our communication must reveal God’s favor and kindness.

C. The method
1. We are to guard the mouth and speak in such a way as to help others.
2. Seek the Lord’s guidance in knowing what to say and how.
3. Preserve others with the words and thoughts and subjects you communicate.

V. GOD’S GRACE TO SAVE.

A. The meaning. Titus 2:11
1. Grace is God’s favor of loving kindness
2. Bring. This speaks of the avenue, means, or grounds of salvation. To convey or cause

3. Salvation is God’s redemption. It is the forgiveness of sins.

B. The message
1. Something has appeared or been manifested to all men.
2. God’s grace conveys it or carries it to all men.
3. We are saved by the grace of God. Eph. 2:8. Grace offers all men salvation.

C. The method.
1. Man is unworthy, undeserving, and unfit for God’s redemption.
2. God’s grace offers redemption to all men
3. God calls on man to repent of sin and receive Jesus as personal Saviour.

VI. GOD’S GRACE TO SERVE

A. The meaning. Hebrews 12:28
1. Serve. We are to labor or render service to God.

B. Acceptably. Serve God in such a way that He approves and receives the service.

3. Reverence and godly fear. Respectfully serve the Lord.

B. The message
1. We are to hold fast grace or the favor of God.
2. Grace enables us to serve God. Grace motivates us to serve God.
3. It takes grace to serve the Lord.

C. The method
1. Grace shows us our weakness and the Lord’s strength.
2. We are to seek and petition God for grace

VII. GOD’S GRACE TO BE ESTABLISHED.

A. The meaning Hebrews 13:9
1. Carried about. We are not to be unstable. Swept off in another direction.
2. The heart refers to the seat of our being. We will,
desire, determine, and make decisions here.

3. Established. This means fixed, stable, and settled.

B. The message
   1. We are to remember our Lord Jesus Christ who changes not.
   2. Our hearts are to be firmly fixed and our foundation firm on Jesus. I Cor. 3: 11,12
   3. Grace will always settle and establish and strengthen us. I Peter. 5:10
   4. We are to build upon the rock of ages. Matt. 7:24

C. The method.
   1. We become established as we study God’s word and trust Jesus who changes not.
   2. We change. Our circumstances change. Our world changes.
   3. Jesus and the grace of God changes not.

Charles Swilling
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God’s Grace II
II Thess. 2:13-17

Introduction: We sing the song, “Amazing Grace.” It has always blessed my heart because of the glorious truth the song proclaims. God’s grace reaches down to fallen man and offers him hope. God’s grace seeks each of us out to bestow God’s wonderful blessings on us. Paul wrote these beautiful words. “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain...” I Cor. 15:10

God’s favor is upon all and offered to all men.

I. GOD’S GRACE IS JUSTIFYING

A. The meaning. Rom. 3:24
   1. Justify. This means to show or prove to be just, right, or reasonable.
   2. Freely. This means no cost or charge. You don’t have to pay for it.
   3. Grace. The unmerited favor of God

B. The message.
1. We are freely justified by grace or God’s unmerited favor.
2. Grace enables and endows us with justification.
3. No flesh is justified by the deeds of the law. Rom. 3:20 We are not saved or justified by works. Tit. 3:5
4. We can be justified before God because of His wonderful marvelous grace.
5. Grace clears and cleans those who repent of sin and receive Jesus as Saviour.

II. GOD’S GRACE IS ABUNDANT

A. The meaning. Rom. 5:17
   1. Receive means to accept or take it.
   2. Abundance means an ample quantity
   3. Grace is God’s favor or merciful kindness

B. The message
   1. God’s grace is abundant. He offers ample grace. His grace is plentiful.
   2. Paul illustrates the abundant grace in verse

III. GOD’S GRACE IS EXCEEDING

A. The meaning II Cor. 9:14
   1. Grace of God in you. God’s grace dwelled in them. This was evidenced by their liberality.
   2. Exceeding grace. The grace of God caused them to exceed. Grace was excelling.
   3. Long after you. The saints desired to have the same grace which moved upon the brethren.

B. The message
   1. The subject of chapters 8 and 9 is the giving an offering for the destitute saints in Jerusalem.
2. The churches of Macedonia had given a liberal offering above their means. This was due to the grace of God in them. II Cor. 8: 1,2

3. The exceeding grace of God was in His people doing an excellent liberal work.

4. This grace made others give thanks and desire to have God’s grace.

IV. GOD’S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

A. The meaning. II Cor. 12:9

1. Grace is God’s unmerited favor
2. Sufficient means enough to meet the needs of a situation or proposed end.
3. The Lord’s strength is mention in connection with His grace.

B. The message.
1. Paul had a thorn in the flesh. He prayed for the Lord to remove it 3 times.
2. The Lord told Paul, His grace was sufficient or enough.

3. Praying to God doesn’t always end our problem or solve them.
4. God’s grace enables us to endure them and live through them.
5. God’s grace provides enduring strength.

V. GOD’S GRACE IS HOPING.

A. The meaning. II Thess. 2:16

1. Given us. God gives somethings to us. He is a giving God.
2. Everlasting consolation. The act or an instance of consoling forever; comfort.
3. Good hope. Good means of a favorable character or tendency. Hope is trusted or reliance; desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment.

B. The message.
1. God the Father loves us. He has given somethings to us because of His love.
2. He has given to us an everlasting consolation and a good hope.
3. This consolation and hope are given to us through grace.

4. Grace always comforts or consoles and gives hope to the people of God.

5. Read the words of Job. Job 13:15

VI. GOD’S GRACE IS STRONG.

A. The meaning. II Tim 2:1

1. Christ Jesus. He is the source and supply of all men.
2. Strong. This is physical or mental or spiritual power; having great resources.
3. Grace. We are to be strong in grace.

B. The message.

1. Paul refers to the Lord’s people and specifically the preacher as a soldier. Vs. 3,4
2. Paul speaks of the truth and the faithfulness of men to teach.
3. In order to be a soldier and do the work the Lord requires of you, you must be strong in His grace.

4. It takes grace to endure, persist, keep going in the Lord’s work. So many are emphasizing the physical, mental, number etc., but are immature in God’s grace.

5. This strength that comes by grace will keep you going, supplied, and liberal.

VII. GOD’S GRACE IS HELPING

A. The meaning. Heb. 4:16

1. Throne of grace. We have access to the place of petition for grace. God is a gracious God.
2. Find grace. Grace is not hid, but we must realize where it is. At the throne.
3. To help. Grace helps or aids. It means to give assistance or support to.

B. The message

1. All of us need help from God.
2. Jesus is our High Priest. He was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin.
3. Jesus understands your problems and troubles. He is touched by them.

4. The Lord sustains us with His mercy in times of weakness and gives grace that helps in time of need.

5. Grace wants to assist and support and sustain you when you are in need.

Bro. Charles Swilling
Conroe

My Hiding Place
Psalm 31:19-20

Introduction:
A. Today, more than ever, people need a place to refresh themselves, just recharge the batteries, so to speak.
B. Our pursuit of the American dream has created a stressful lifestyle.
C. Without some form of relief, people become ill and unable to cope with life’s problems.
D. Do you need a place to recharge? Where is it?
E. The Psalmists says that his hiding place rested in his relationship with Jesus.
F. His relationship with Jesus was:

I. A Place of Safety. Where:

A. We are safe from the world’s harm. Psalm 91:10
B. The angels of God have charge over you.
C. Jesus Christ protects you.
D. Jesus will melt away your fears.
E. People who fear God live without fear. Proverbs 1:33

II. A Place of Security. Where:

A. The Lord is my shield. Psalm 91:5
B. The Lord gives me blissful sleep. Proverbs 3:24
C. The Lord is my helper. Hebrews 13:6
D. The Lord is my strength.
E. The Lord is my victory, Isaiah 41:1

III. A Place of Serenity. Where:

A. Jesus has removed the barrier between believers and himself. Isa. 6:7
B. Jesus has completed God’s law. Col 2:14
C. Jesus has made the sacrifice for my sin.
D. Jesus has blessed me with a peaceful resolve.
E. Jesus is my peace.
IV. A Place of Secrecy. Where:

A. God hears and answers my prayer.
B. God welcomes me in Jesus.
C. God forgives my confessed sins.
D. God is waiting to fellowship with me.
E. God teaches me.

Conclusion:
A. Do you have a hiding place?
B. Where do you find relief?
C. Jesus is the only hiding place.

Pastor Carl Fitzgerald
Grace MBC – Spring

GOD’S THOUGHTS TO YOU
JEREMIAH 29:11

This is an encouraging verse in the midst of a sad chapter. Let me read it from the New International Version.

“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

It should comfort us to remember that God knows what is going on in our lives and that He has plans for our future.

THE SETTING

The people of Judah ad been taken captive by the armies from Babylon and had been carried away from their homes.

This had been allowed by God because they had failed to obey His law. What they were experiencing was the result of God’s discipline for their sin.

They had spent the last several years listening to their prophets tell them that they would not be taken captive. Even though they had trusted these false prophets, they were now sitting in Babylon and their cities were devastated.

There was little hope that anything would change. It would have been understandable for them to be in total despair.

They were living in the midst of a pagan society and were surrounded by idol worship.

The prophets that were with them had sought to lift their spirits by telling them that their captivity would soon be over.
THE ENCOURAGEMENT

God told them that He was thinking about them and their future.

What they were experiencing at this moment was not the end.

God had plans for their peace and a brighter future.

God knew that eventually they would repent and would turn their situation around.

He told them to settle in and make the most of their current circumstances. He told them to build houses, plant gardens and expand their families.

Even though their captivity would last for seventy years, there was something to look forward to.

God would finally return them to their homeland, and they would enjoy His blessings.

THE LESSON FOR US

We did not get in this situation without God knowing what was happening

We need to be very cautious about the advice that we are given.

God is not finished with us. He has great plans for our future.

We may need to wait a while, but we should never give up!

Pastor Ernest Moyers
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My Lovely Unseen Friend

I’m never sad n or lonely
And I will tell you why
No matter where I’m roaming
I have a friend who’s ever nigh

He’s closer than a shadow
For on a dreary, sunless day
This friend is there beside me
Though the sun is hid away

I never hear him talking
His face I can not see,
But I always sense his presence
And know he’s there with me!

Dottlee Duggan Reid