

The Goodness of God Series ~ 2019

Message #5: "GRACE IS GOD'S GOODNESS TO US"

March 3, 2019 – Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

2019 DECLARATION: I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD WHILE I LIVE BUT I MUST WAIT ON THE LORD.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV For by GRACE you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. **Amplified** For it is by GRACE [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; 9 not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation].

KEY'S FOR TODAY'S MESSAGE

- With GRACE, we receive favor and acceptance BY GOD that WE DON'T DESERVE. Grace brings us into a relationship with God and right standing in the eyes of God. Grace gives us the ability to live the life of Christ. **God did this because of His Goodness!**
- Keys to Grace in today's Scripture verses:
 - GRACE is THE key process for our salvation. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. There is no other way.
 - GRACE operates through our faith. That's our only part.
 - No matter how well we live, we can't do it!
 - GRACE is a GIFT from God. God, in His Goodness, gave us another gift even though we messed up the first gift.
 - When we finally understand GRACE, we see that it is so complete that it eliminates ALL boasting on our part.

∞ SERIES PRINCIPLES ∞

Principle #1 GOODNESS IS A BASIC QUALITY OF GOD. Other properties of God such as forgiveness, unconditional love, compassion, mercy, kindness, favor, GRACE, etc., flow from His goodness. **Exodus 33:19** Then He said, "I will make all My GOODNESS pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

Principle #2 GOD OPERATES AT A DIFFERENT LEVEL, SO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF "GOODNESS" IS NOT HIS UNDERSTANDING. **Isaiah 55:8-9** For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Principle #3 UNDERSTANDING THE GOODNESS OF GOD MOVES US INTO DEEPER LEVELS OF TRUST. In the book **The Shack**, God says to the main character: "*The real underlying flaw in your life is that you don't think that I'm good. If you knew I was good and everything – the means, the ends, and all the process of individual lives – is all covered by My goodness, then while you might not always understand what I am doing, you would trust Me.*" Once we really grasp the goodness of God, our level of trust will change. After seeing this, we will cry out, "I TRUST YOU, GOD!"

Principle #4 WHEN WE FINALLY GET HOW GOOD GOD IS, IT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES. The enemy is constantly fighting us over this so that we end up back in the typical whiny state of most Christians. **Once we understand His goodness, we will never be the same again.**