

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



Reformation
1517-2017

Sola Gratia

October 22, 2017

Sermon
Notes

Quotes to Ponder

We believe, that the work of regeneration, conversion, sanctification and faith, is not an act of man's free will and power, but of the mighty, efficacious and irresistible grace of God.

Charles Spurgeon

I am graven on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me. I know Him, because He first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, One who loves me; and there is no moment when His eye is off me, or His attention distracted for me, and no moment, therefore, when His care falters.

Grace is but Glory begun, and Glory is but Grace perfected.

In efficacious grace we are not merely passive, nor yet does God do some and we do the rest. But God does all, and we do all. God produces all, we act all. For that is what produces, viz. our own acts. God is the only proper author and fountain; we only are the proper actors. We are in different respects, wholly passive and wholly active.

As grace is first from God, so it is continually from him, as much as light is all day long from the sun, as well as at first dawn or at sun-rising.

Jonathan Edwards

The law works fear and wrath; grace works hope and mercy.

Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want.

Martin Luther

Grace is the free, undeserved goodness and favor of God to mankind.

Matthew Henry

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling, Foul I to the fountain fly, Wash me, Savior, or I die.

Augustus Toplady

The only works of righteousness that serve to justify a sinner are the works of Christ.

R.C. Sproul

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1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. Define God's grace (i.e. what does the biblical term *grace* mean?)

3. Define *monergism* and *synergism*. Why is the difference important?

4. According to the following verses, what is our natural state? What can we do to please God?

Isaiah 64:6 —

Romans 3:9-12 —

Jeremiah 13:23 —

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 —

Jeremiah 17:9 —

Ephesians 2:1-3 —

5. Why is essential to hold to the biblical truth that we are dead in our sins and can do nothing to save ourselves?

6. What do the following verses teach about salvation and God's grace?

Jonah 2:9 —

Ephesians 2:4-10 —

Romans 3:24 —

1 Timothy 1:15 —

Romans 5:15-19 —

2 Timothy 1:9 —

Romans 11:6 —

Titus 2:11 —

1 Corinthians 15:10 —

Titus 3:5 —

7. Why is it so important to understand that salvation is a free gift by God's grace?

8. John Calvin writes, *If, on the part of God, it is grace alone, and if we bring nothing but faith, which strips us of all commendations, it follows that salvation does not come from us.* Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

9. How does the belief that God chooses us because He foresaw our faith undermine the doctrine of grace alone?

10. What does Paul mean when he says, *where sin increased, grace abounded all the more (Romans 5:20)*?

11. How does the view that we can believe in Christ of our own volition detract from God's glory in salvation? Is this a minor or serious error?

12. Why does the Bible consistently emphasize that our salvation is completely God's doing?

13. God is sovereign and yet we are responsible. How do we maintain the proper biblical balance in this?

14. What do you think makes it so hard for people to rely on God's grace rather than on their own efforts?

15. How does God's grace work with our faith (*Romans 4:16*)?

Reflection Questions: Our my thoughts of God too human? What can I do to change this? How do I take advantage of God's grace? Because of God's grace, how should I live?