

Title: The Race of Faith: Contending for True Grace

Sermon Summary: This sermon challenges believers to actively pursue their faith beyond initial salvation, emphasizing the need for spiritual growth and resistance against sin. The pastor warns against misunderstanding grace as a license for immorality and encourages Christians to live out their faith through obedience, perseverance, and participation in the divine nature. He stresses the importance of reading Scripture, understanding God's will, and actively pursuing a life that reflects Christ's teachings.

Key Points:

- Grace is not just for salvation but for growing in Christ and overcoming sin
- Believers must "contend for the faith" and actively pursue spiritual growth
- Misunderstanding grace as a license for immorality is dangerous
- True faith motivates believers to change their lifestyle and pursue godliness
- Reading and understanding Scripture is crucial for spiritual growth
- Christians should strive to participate in the divine nature
- Perseverance and self-control are necessary in the Christian walk
- The church should support and encourage one another in overcoming sin

Scripture Reference:

- Jude 1:3-4, 17-23
- 2 Peter 1:3-9
- Luke 14 (mentioned briefly)

Stories:

- The story of a high school graduate expecting a car but receiving a Bible from his father, only to later discover the car keys inside the Bible
- Brief mentions of biblical narratives including Cain and Abel, Korah's rebellion, and Balaam's error
- The thief on the cross, used to illustrate the danger of misapplying this example to justify minimal faith commitment