**THE GRACE OF GOD**

By Donnie Campbell

Paul writes in Acts 20, “But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus-the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

What is the grace of God?

To fully understand grace, we need to consider who we were before God gave His son. We were born in sin, guilty of breaking God’s holy laws. Without God’s grace, spiritually we were dead, unable to come to God. Our souls were headed for everlasting punishment. Grace is an act of giving by God.

What does grace give?

Acts 15:11 says we believe we are saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.

Romans 3:24- we are being justified by His grace.

Eph 1:7- we have forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of His grace.

2 Thess. 2:16- we receive eternal comfort and hope by grace.

As believers we are under grace, we receive grace, we stand in grace, we abound in, are strong in, grown in, speak with, and we inherit grace.

Some of the descriptions of grace throughout the New Testament include all abundant grace, all sufficient grace, glorious grace and great grace.

Grace always gives because it is in God’ nature to give. And when grace gives, it gives to those who are not worthy of it, do not deserve it, or could never earn it. Grace is free. It is not a loan. It cannot be repaid.

God’s grace is dependent only on the giver. It is a self-motivated, self-generated, undeserved, unearned, free act of giving by God. And that is the core of the gospel. Nothing needs to be added to God’s grace.

But God’s grace goes ever further than this. God’s grace is not made complete by what He gives. It is only complete when He gives Himself. Paul makes this clear in the opening verses of his letter to the Galatians. “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins.”

It would be one level of kindness and mercy to give a sinner something, but for God to forgive a sinner Himself, is everything.

The Lords’s Supper is a powerful expression of God giving us everything. As we come to the Lord’s Table, God welcomes us as His children -not because of our performance, but because of what Jesus has done.

Each element we take reminds us that grace is costly to Jesus, but free to us.

Communion with Jesus is not a reward of the righteous -it is grace for the broken; for those who come humbly in repentance and faith.

Jesus says, “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall not thirst. Communion spiritually nourishes as it reminds us of God’s love, His forgiveness and presence.

And finally, Communion leads to shared thanksgiving and a powerful unity in the church here at Fox Creek. Paul writes, “Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”