

“Generous Grace”
Series: G IS FOR GENEROSITY
January 2/3, 2010

Introduction:

GRACE IS THE MESSAGE OF GOD

Acts 20:32

*“And now I entrust you to **God** and the **message** of his **grace** that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.”*

1. Generous grace is undeserved

Acts 15:11

*We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the **undeserved** grace of the Lord Jesus.”*

Romans 11:6

*And since it is through God’s **kindness**, then it is **not** by their good works. For in that case, God’s **grace** would not be what it really is—**free and undeserved**.*

- That’s why they call it **amazing**
- Grace is always a divine **initiative**
- Grace is always a deliberate **choice**

2. Generous grace is unexpected

Ephesians 2:8

*God saved you by his **grace** when you believed. And you can’t take **credit** for this; it is a **gift** from God.*

Galatians 1:15-16; 5:4

*But even before I was **born**, God chose me and called me by his marvelous **grace**. Then it pleased him to **reveal his Son** to me so that I would proclaim the **Good News** about Jesus to the Gentiles.*

- **Retribution is expected**
- **Payment for services is expected**
- **If you're not confused or amazed you probably don't have it**

3. Generous grace is indiscriminate

Ephesians 3:1-2

*When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles... assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of **extending his grace** to you Gentiles.*

Acts 14:2-3; 15:8-9

Some of the Jews, however, spurned God's message and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas. But the apostles stayed there a long time, preaching boldly about the grace of the Lord. And the Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders... God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith.

- **It's the "reach" in "reaching people"**
- **It's the message of the gospel**
- **It's the method of the gospel**

2 Corinthians 4:13-15

*But we continue to **preach** because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. All of this is for your **benefit**. And as **God's grace reaches more and***

more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

Time of Commitment:

Who needs my undeserved grace?

Who needs surprised by my mercy?

To whom does my reach need to extend?