

Grace Given

General Comments:

The theme for the day is “Grace Revealed”. This is the first grace talk given by a pastor. The purpose of the talk is to introduce the gift of God’s grace in Jesus Christ as the Christian ideal. This talk becomes the hub around which the other talks spring forth.

Outline

Introduction:

Who are you?

We cannot know ourselves until we know our ideal. Our ideal is that which gives direction to our lives.

1. What is grace?

Grace is a close, personal, permanent relationship with God given freely and unconditionally.

God’s basic attitude toward us is an attitude of grace.

Matthew 13:45-46. Pearl of Great Price.

Imitation pearls vs. The real thing.

Q. What is the one thing that you would gladly give anything else to obtain?

A. God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

2. What does this gift of grace do for us?

First it means that we are at one with God again.

God’s grace has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

God’s grace is free, but it is not cheap.

Look at the cross.

Second it means we have a new identity.

We too are the beloved children of God, by God's grace.

The most important thing I can know about myself is that I am a child of God.

Third it means we have a new family.

We now call Jesus our brother.

In Jesus Christ we see what God is like and what human life is meant to be like.

In Jesus, we have been adopted into a new family - the Body of Christ.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Conclusion:

The gift of God's grace is Jesus Christ is our ideal. Our most prized pearl is to be children of God, and heirs of God's Kingdom through Christ.

Q. How do we respond to this gift?

A. We respond with lives of gratitude and joy!

Thanks be to God!