

March 29, 2015
“Empowering Grace”
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

“Stories Of Grace”

1. Planned Grace (Acts 13:48)
2. Forever Grace (Philippians 1:6)
3. Resurrecting Grace (Acts 16:14)
4. Outrageous Grace (Acts 9:1-19a)
5. Empowering Grace

Gospel Summary (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)--the story upon which we “have taken our stand” (verse 1)

1. “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (v3)
2. he was buried (v 4)
3. he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (v 5)
4. he appeared to Cephas...the Twelve...more than five hundred brothers and sisters...James...all the apostles...to me also, as to one abnormally born. (v 5-8)

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me” (1 Corinthians 15:10).

1. “I am what I am” (conversion)
2. “I worked harder than all of them” (calling)

Grace's First Move: "I am what I am"

I used to be: persecutor, hater, ignorant, kingdom of darkness

Now I am: Christian, saved, redeemed, missionary, teacher, preacher, writer, bi-vocational ministry, apostle, disciple, leader, etc.

Grace's 2nd Move: "I worked harder than all of them." In the span of 20 years (46-66AD) Paul:

1. Visited 50 cities and towns
2. Started 20+ churches
3. Travelled 10,000+ miles
4. Travelling 300+ days
5. Cost: 1600+ denarii

"I have worked much harder, in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely...Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move...I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked"
(2 Corinthians 11:23-27).

God's grace does not make us passive. God's grace does not make us apathetic. Rather, Grace creates toil, energy and the unleashing of dreams

Here are the 2 things that Christians says:

1. Do you see me? Do you see the kind of person that I am?—it's all grace
2. Do you see me? Do you see the work that I do?—it's all grace