

Faith, Hope, love and grace

Week 4

And Grace

One thing that happens a lot is that we compartmentalise the scriptures. We take a verse out here and cling to this bit of a verse but often leave out the context. Some of Hebrews is like that. WE like the what I will call the sweet bits but we don't always look at why the author is writing that to the listeners.

Lets have a looky see.

Heb 4:16 So let us keep on coming boldly to the throne of grace, so that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Faith, hope and love lead us somewhere.

Faith hope and love are inklings of grace and when we get grace, both as the gift from God but also when we understand it, it leads us to grace demonstrations.

What do I mean by grace demonstrations? We do grace to others.

Notice what that verse says: **lead us to the throne of grace**. Significant here is the throne, who sits on the throne – Jesus Christ.

What is grace about? What grace has done through Jesus for us.

As we accept (boldly) God's grace we find ways to be graciously thankful. One expression is that we extend grace. We get God's grace and pass it on.

How can we extend grace?

Let's look at some passages.

Believers be stewards of grace

(1Pe 4:10). 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various

forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

I like that terminology – **administering God's grace**. We have that honour to be given a responsibility for sharing out God's grace. Paul uses the term too referring to his responsibility. See where the faith, hope and love comes in here. We have learnt about faith and hope and love and as we react to those concepts in thankfulness, we extend them to others. We have access to those concepts because of God's amazing grace. So, if we extend grace we extend those things as well. You can't extend God's grace without extending those concepts. They all tie in together.

What about this verse:

EPH 3:2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,

Paul never gives us the option of thinking that ministry or extending God's grace is optional. He was compelled to give grace, He taught us to give grace. It is a universal responsibility for Christians. Each of us has our portion grace to be used.

Paul again expounds that.

EPH 4:7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

But how do we use it? How do we work out what to do with it.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians gives us an understanding here also.

EPH 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

To be administering God's grace we need to think like God. Now I know that that is not possible, but we are to be imitators of God. So, we take God's characteristics as a role model for us (After all we are made in God's image.) God impresses His grace on His people, we imitate that and impress God's grace on people.

Doesn't that make ya go wow! God uses me to do that stuff. Me.

It is a pass it on concept.

2 Timothy 1:3-7

2TI 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I

may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Noticed – passed on. Grandmother, Mother and now lives in Timothy. Then Timothy is told to fan the flame, get the fire going so he can pass it on. That's hot grace.

So how does that impact us right now? From what I can gather, the New Testament concept of Extending God's grace is a giving away concept. We can see it in all the New Testament writings. A big question to finish up: How can I extend God's grace?

Can I give away grace this week to my family? My friends? My Neighbours? WHO???