

Gospel and Grace

Gospel and Grace] GET THE
God's Story/ Your Story] GOSPEL

Reading the Word] GROW
Breathing in Jesus] IN

Worship and Upbuilding] GATHER
Serving and Calling] AROUND

Family] GO
Going] WITH

Two Journeys – Andrew Davis

God has set before the Church of Jesus Christ two infinite journeys.

These two journeys have one destination, one ultimate goal, and in the end will prove to have been one and the same journey after all. Before the foundation of the world, God ordained these two journeys for his glory and for the joy of his people. He ordained that the Church would make them, and that the Church would finish them. Both journeys require immense human effort and untold suffering in order to be accomplished. If you are a Christian today, these journeys are your central work, your central means of bringing glory to God. And what are these journeys? 1) The external journey of the worldwide advance of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ to all nations. 2) The internal journey of an individual Christian from being dead in sin to gloriously perfect in Christ. These journeys are mutually interdependent [and help the progress of one another].

Q – What caught your attention from this *Two Journeys* paragraph?

These two journeys are why Stone Church exists. We exist because Jesus is advancing his gospel deeper into our souls and further to all nations. We exist to see more and more people in Auburn meet Jesus and added to *his* family. It all begins with the gospel.

What is the gospel?

The gospel is good news to be announced! The gospel is not good advice or moral instruction. It is the proclamation of a particular piece of news!

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved ... For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Q – Taking into consideration this verse, in your own words, what is the gospel?

Rescued

The gospel is good news announcing that Jesus has **rescued** us from our sin and is alive today! The gospel rescues us from our alienation from God. – Tim Keller

Q – When is a time in your story that you have felt alienated from God?

Q – Where in your life do you currently feel alienated from God?

Our **alienation** from God hinders the way we were created to exist. Due to our alienation from God:

1. We are psychologically alienated within ourselves,
2. We are socially alienated from one another, and
3. We are physically alienated from nature.

The gospel is news about what Jesus Christ has done to put our relationship with God **right**.

Q – How does being right with God change your relationship with everything else?

Read and memorize; Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Pray – Spend a few minutes thanking Jesus for making you right with God and ask him to advance both gospel journeys greater in and through your life.

Gospel and Grace

What is grace?

Grace is how the gospel is given to us sinners. We are all undeserving of the gospel, yet Jesus saved us non-the-less. There is no amount of work you can do or perfection you can obtain to deserve the gospel.

Romans 5:8

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Grace: The free gift of the gospel that **cannot be earned** or deserved.

Q – How/when did God first reveal to you the concept of grace?

Undeserving – Daniel Montgomery

The gospel of grace is the wonderful news that God accepts us, shares his life with us, and adopts us as heirs of his kingdom not because we have earned it or deserve it but because God chooses to give all of this freely at Christ's expense.

Q – How does it make you feel knowing you are fully accepted by God?

Masks – Satan and sin lie to us daily by telling us we must put on masks – images of who we think we need to be in order to receive acceptance or find happiness. Grace frees us from no longer having to put on masks or fake images. We were created in God's image, to imitate and worship him freely. Grace places us back in our rightful state of imaging God and enjoying his acceptance of us.

Q – Did any of that ring true for you (the lie that we must put on masks)?

Ephesians 2:1-9

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind, But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Grace abolishes boasting. If you boast in yourself, you are nullifying the essence of grace. Grace is a free gift that you did not, could not, nor could ever deserve.

Q – How does grace free you from boasting in and about yourself?

Grace is freedom. No longer do we need to pretend to be something we're not. The old self, who died with Christ, can drift away like a dead leaf in the fall. Christ died and rose again to separate you from your past shame, present guilt, and future anxiety. You are now free in him to enjoy his reign and enjoy his creation!

Galatians 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law [human actions], then Christ died for no purpose.

Q – How is God calling you to live your life with more obedience to him (faith)?

The **Gospel** is the **good news** that the **Father** sent **Jesus** to die in your place to save you from your sin and fill you with his **Spirit!** **Grace** is the freedom that you could **never** earn or deserve such love and acceptance without it being given to you freely from Christ! The truth is, Jesus loves you and wants to be near you.