

Grace and Faith

February 16, 2020

The Race - Sermon Study

1. Does knowing you will **have trouble** help or hinder you? Read **Acts 14:22... Eph 6:13... 1Pet 4:12**. Are you more in a **race** right now or a **fight**? Read **Heb 12:1-3** and **1Tim 6:12**.
2. Read **Mark 4:13-20** and **Heb 10:38-39**. What parts best **describe you**?
3. What do you think the answer to **not getting discouraged** and quitting is? Read **1Cor 3:5-15**. How important is it to **not compare** yourself to others, but just to use the gifts God has given you? Why do you think Paul says clearly its not about what you do... but **how** you do it?
4. Read **John 3:18... Rom 5:18... 1Cor 15:22**. What is the **contrast** between those *in Adam* or those *in Christ*? What is Paul trying to accomplish by showing you **who you are**?
5. Does Paul want us to **examine ourselves** in order to produce guilt, shame, and condemnation? Read **Acts 13:39 AMP... Rom 8:1... 1Pet 2:6**. He wants us to examine what we are believing... so what does **God say** about who we are? Read **1Cor 3:16-17... 1Cor 4:3-4... 1Cor 6:11**. Why is that important?
6. Read **Mark 4:13-20**. What **stuff** takes your **mind off Jesus** and makes you **unfruitful**? Are you willing to **get rid** of any of that stuff? What happens when you do? Read **Col 1:9-14... Rom 7:4-5... 2Pet 1:1-3**.
7. Read **Isa 26:3 gsv**. What happens when you keep your **mind fixed** on Jesus? What is necessary for the message of **grace and faith to work**? Read **Heb 4:2**. Are you doing that?

Please read entire passages of scripture to get full context. See sermon notes for more info.

Sermon Notes

The Race - 1Cor 3:10

I. Introduction

- a. seen any good races lately... not in race if there aren't problems...
Acts 14:22... "continue in faith... must suffer many hardships..."
Eph 6:13... "take up full armor... resist the enemy in this evil day..."
1Pet 4:12... "don't be surprised at the fiery trials... as if strange..."
- b. grace is a race... faith is a fight...
Heb 12:1-3... "run the race with endurance..."
1Tim 6:12... "fight the good fight of faith..."
- c. many Christians don't hear that... then, when things get hard, they fall away... get discouraged and quit... no life there...
Mark 4:13-20... "receive Word with joy... don't have deep roots, don't last long... fall away as soon as they have problems or persecuted..."
Heb 10:38-39... "we are not those who turn away from God to their own destruction... but those who have faith and obtain life..."
- d. bearing fruit not about what we do... but how we do it... pray...
Col 1:9-14... "haven't stopped praying... asking you be filled with knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding... bearing fruit in every good work thru the knowledge of Him..."

II. The Race

- a. why do some thrive and others burnout... access to same 24hrs... same HS... same power... same authority... same armor... same weapons...
1Cor 3:5-15... "what is Apollos, what is Paul... each did the work God gave us... not important who planted or who watered... only God makes the seed grow... both will be rewarded... because of grace, I have laid the foundation and others build on it... each one must be careful how he builds on it... no other foundation but Jesus Christ..."
- b. notice... don't compare... all have gifts... only God causes them to prosper... foundation is always Jesus... not what we do, but how... law brings demand... grace brings supply... how do you see life...
Rom 7... "dead to law, bear fruit to God... law bears fruit to death..."
Rom 11:6... "if by grace, it's not works... or grace ceases to be grace..."
1Cor 15... "am what I am by grace... worked more... only by grace..."
Eph 2:10-8... "walk in good works... not from yourselves... by grace..."
- c. race we run is not a rat race... not a human race... but a grace race...
God either sees us in Adam... or in Christ... no middle ground...
John 3:18... "not believe in Jesus... already condemned (judged)..."
Rom 5:18... "Adam's one sin brought condemnation for everyone..."
1Cor 15:22... "in Adam, all die..."
John 3:18... "believe in Jesus... not condemned (judged)..."
Rom 5:18... "Christ brings life-giving justification for everyone..."
1Cor 15:22... "in Christ... all will be made alive..."

- d. when you're *in Christ*... people think you're weird... weird to believe we should protect life... weird to believe God is good... weird to believe sex outside of marriage is wrong... thousand other things...
Isa 5:20... “what sorrow for those who say evil is good, good is evil...”
1Cor 1:27... “God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise... what is weak to shame the strong... so no one may boast...”
- e. getting results, not quitting, avoiding discouragement... may take some self-examination... not to produce *gsc*... freed of that by belief...
Acts 13:39 **AMP**... “all who believe in Him are freed from all guilt...”
Rom 8:1... “no condemnation now exists for those in Christ...”
1Pet 2:6... “one who believes in Him will never be put to shame...”
- f. examination is about what you focus on... who do you believe...
1Cor 3:16-17... “God’s temple is holy... and this is what you are...”
1Cor 4:3-4... “not judge myself... not justified by... God judges me...”
1Cor 6:11... “some of you were... but now cleansed, holy, righteous...”
Heb 12... “life of faith... strip off sin that hinders progress... run the race... looking to Jesus from start to finish... not get weary and quit...”
- g. mind is carnal (*death*) or spiritual (*life*)... what stuff takes your mind off Jesus... that’s what keeping you from being fruitful...
Mark 4... “worries, wealth, pleasures (*stuff*)... become unfruitful...”
Col 1... “bearing fruit in every good work thru knowledge of Him...”
Rom 7... “in Christ... so we may bear fruit for God...”
2Pet 1... “everything required for life... found in knowledge of God...”
- h. must evaluate what weighs you down (*take eyes off Jesus*)... may need to give some things up... results come when mind fixed on Him...
Isa 26:3 **GSV**... “you will keep the mind that is fixed on you in perfect *soundness, welfare, peace, safety, health, prosperity, contentment*...”
- i. don’t compare... listen and learn from those ahead... same power... just different place in race... grace and faith produce results... *pray*...
Acts 1... “receive power when HS comes on you...”
Eph 1... “immeasurable greatness of power for those who believe...”
Rom 1... “power of salvation for everyone who believes...”
Heb 4... “grace was preached... did no good... not mixed with faith...”

Strong in Grace

2Tim 2:1... *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus...*

Christ has grace without measure in Himself... but He hath not retained it for Himself. As the reservoir empties itself into the pipes... so hath **Christ emptied out His grace for His people.**

Of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

He seems only to have in order to dispense to us. He stands like the fountain, **always flowing**, but only running in order **to supply** the empty pitchers and the thirsty lips which draw nigh unto it. Like a tree... He bears sweet fruit, not to hang on boughs... but to be gathered by those who need.

Grace... whether its work be to pardon, to cleanse, to preserve, to strengthen, to enlighten, to quicken, or to restore... is ever to be had from Him **freely** and **without price**. Not is there one form of the work of grace which He has not bestowed upon His people.

As the blood of the body, though flowing from the heart, belongs equally to every member, so the **influences of grace are the inheritance of every saint** united to the Lamb. Herein, there is a sweet communion between Christ and His Church... inasmuch as they both receive the same grace. Christ is the head upon which the oil is first poured... but the same oil runs to the very skirts of the garments... so that the meanest saint has an unction of the same costly moisture as that which fell upon the head. This is true communion when the sap of grace flows from the stem to the branch, and when it is perceived that the stem itself is sustained by the very nourishment which feeds the branch.

As we... **day by day**... **receive grace** from Jesus, and more constantly recognize it as coming from Him... we shall behold Him in communion with us and enjoy the felicity of communion with Him. Let us make daily use of our riches... and ever repair to Him as to our own Lord in covenant... **taking** from Him the **supply of all we need** with as much boldness as men take money from their own purse.

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – March 15th

Strong in Faith

Rom 4:20... *did not waver in unbelief... but was strong in faith...*

Christian... take good care of thy faith... for recollect **faith is the only way** whereby thou canst **obtain blessings**. If we want blessings from God, nothing can fetch them down but faith. Prayer cannot draw down answers from God's throne except it be the earnest prayer of the man who believes.

Faith is the angelic messenger between the soul and the Lord Jesus in glory. Let that angel be withdrawn... we can neither send up prayer, nor receive the answers. **Faith is the telegraphic wire which links heaven and earth**... on which God's messages of love fly so fast... that before we call He answers, and while we are yet speaking, He hears us. But if that telegraphic wire of faith be snapped... how can we receive the promise?

Am I in trouble? **I can obtain help for trouble by faith**. Am I beaten about by the enemy? My soul on her dear Refuge leans by faith. But **take faith away**... and in vain I call to God. There is **no road betwixt my soul and heaven**.

In the deepest wintertime faith is a road on which the horses of prayer may travel... aye, and all the better for the biting frost... but blockade the road, and how can we communicate with the Great King? **Faith links me with divinity**. **Faith clothes me with the power** of God. Faith engages on my side the omnipotence of Jehovah. **Faith ensures every attribute of God in my defence**.

Faith helps me defy the hosts of hell. **Faith makes me march triumphantly** over the necks of my enemies. But without faith how can I receive anything of the Lord? *Let not him that wavereth, who is like the wave of the Sea, expect that he will receive anything of God.* O, then, Christian, watch well thy faith... for **with it thou canst win all things**... however poor thou art... but without it thou canst obtain nothing. *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – March 19th