

LIVING IN GRACE

Romans 12:6-8

GRACE IS MULTI-COLORED, MULTI-FACETED. 1 PETER 4:10

- A. Forgiving grace
- B. Transforming grace – from persecutor to persecuted.
- C. Sustaining grace – thorn in his flesh not removed. 2 Cor 12:8
- D. A grace given.

“A GRACE GIVEN.”

“gifts ... according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly...” R 12:6.

1. A grace is given by Christ to me.
2. Benefit of another.
3. Must be used by the recipient.
4. Blesses me and those I serve.

A GRACE GIVEN.

“... According to the grace given ...,”

- Phrase occurs at least 5x –
 - Romans 12:3, 6, 1 Cor 3:10, Eph 3:7, 4:7.

“A GRACE GIVEN” – TO PREACH TO THE GENTILES.

to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs..., 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, (Eph. 3:6-8 NAS)

1. THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING A GRACE GIVEN

1. **Unmerited** – it is Grace! Merit is a hindrance.
 - Eph 3:8, “To me, **the very least** of all the saints, this grace was given to preach
 - 1 Cor 15:10, Rom 11:6, 12:3
 - A. **My gifts/resources are not the key** – the source of power is God.
 - B. **The key is** my faithfulness, perseverance, my action.

2. A GRACE GIVEN IS A STEWARDSHIP.

- God's "property" on loan to me.
 - For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the **stewardship of God's grace** which was given to me for you; (Eph. 3:1-2 NAS)

3. THAT WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE AS A DIVINE GIFT OF GRACE.

- and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas..., gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we might go to the Gentiles, ... --Gal. 2:7-9 (NASB)
- And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain-- --2 Cor. 6:1,

EXAMPLES OF GRACE GIVEN

- An unmerited treasure to minister the grace of Jesus with others:
 1. Heart/passion for some area of pain/struggle in others
 2. Sin that Jesus has overcome in your life; to help others to do likewise. Romans 8:28
 3. Talent/knowledge/spiritual gift



EXAMPLES OF A GRACE GIVEN TO BETHANY CHURCH:

- An opportunity to share the grace of Jesus with others:
 - Fulton Avenue Baptist – 1889/1962
 - Columbia Campus – 2013
 - India – 2014, 2015
 - Howard County children, youth & families.

4. WE ARE CALLED TO LABOR GRACE OUT, TO PUT GRACE TO WORK WITH US.

- 1 Cor 15:10-11, But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His **grace toward me did not prove vain**; but I **labored** even more than all of them, yet not I, but **the grace of God with me**. Whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

NEXT STEPS

1. Ask God to reveal a “grace given” to you. Are you laboring in that grace-gift? Have you become overwhelmed? Gotten distracted?
2. Recommit your life to laboring for this or another grace gift.
3. How can you take that first step as a faithful steward?