

Sermon: The Calling of God by Grace

Today's sermon will focus on the concept of Grace as explained in **Ephesians 2:8-9** says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast." This verse reminds us that our salvation is a gift from God, not something we can earn through our own works. This verse emphasizes that salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned through our own efforts.

Definitions Of Grace

Grace can be defined in various ways, including Max Lucado's description of it as the voice that prompts us to change and empowers us to do so. Similarly, C.S. Lewis reminds us that God's love for us never changes, even if our feelings do. St. Therese of Lisieux defines grace as the infusion of love in the heart. Lastly, Corrie Ten Boom highlights the importance of discipline in sharing God's grace with others, which is given to us every morning. Philip Yancey aptly sums it up by stating that God's love for us is constant and it is not tied to our actions.

Grace is at the center of the Christian faith. It is what separates us from other religions, and it is what sets us apart. Our founder, John Wesley, believed that grace was the most important thing in our lives – the source of our salvation and the reason we exist.

Wesley understood grace in three ways: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace.

Prevenient grace is the grace that comes to us before we even know about it. The grace that enables us to recognize our need for God and respond to him in faith. Without it, we would never be able to come to faith in the first place.

On the other hand, **justifying grace** is the grace that forgives us of our sins and makes us right with God. It is the grace that transforms us from sinners to saints.

Sanctifying Grace emphasizes the importance of humility and the recognition that all people are dependent on God's grace for their salvation and spiritual growth. It is also an important component of the Methodist doctrine of sanctification, the understanding that sanctifying grace is both instant and an ongoing process of growth and transformation in Christian discipleship.

But what about our calling?

Do we have to earn that too? Absolutely not. **2 Timothy 1:9** says, "He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace." Our calling is also a result of God's grace.

In the Bible, we see many examples of God calling people by his grace. We see it in the story of Abraham, who was called out of his comfort zone to follow God to a new land.

We see it in the story of Moses, who was called to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt.

We see it in the story of David, who was called to be king despite his humble beginnings. And we see it in the story of Saul, who was called to be Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

And I hope you see it in my life's story (**SHARE**)

But the ultimate example of God's calling by grace is found in the story of Jesus. God sent his only son into the world to save us from our sins and to reconcile us to Himself. Jesus called his disciples by his grace and transformed their lives from ordinary fishermen and tax collectors to apostles who would spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. And through his death and resurrection, Jesus made it possible for all of us to be called by his grace and to become children of God.

So, what does all this mean for us as Christians? It means that we have been called by God's grace to a new life – a life of faith, hope, and love. It means that we are no longer slaves to sin but free to live for Christ.

The calling of God through His grace is a profound and life-changing experience. It is a reminder of the boundless love and mercy that God has for us, despite our shortcomings and failures. Through His grace, we can experience forgiveness, healing, and transformation. It is a humbling and awe-inspiring experience that reminds us of our place in the world and our duty to serve others.

May we always be open to the calling of God's grace in our lives and respond with gratitude and obedience.

It means that we have a mission to fulfill – to share God's love with others and make disciples of all nations for the transformation of the world.

As we go out from here today, let us remember that we have been called by grace. Let us live our lives considering that calling – with gratitude, humility, and obedience.

And let us share the good news of Jesus with all those we encounter – knowing that it is only through his grace that they, too, can be called to new life in him.

Conclusion:

Friends, we have been called by grace. Let us embrace that calling with all our hearts and live our lives considering it. Let us be people of faith, hope, and love – trusting in God's goodness, looking forward to his promises, and showing God's love to all we encounter.

And lastly, let us be people of action – going out into the world to share the gospel with all those who have not yet heard it. May

God bless us and keep us always in his grace. Please join me in a moment of prayer.

Prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for your grace – for calling us out of darkness and into your marvelous light. We thank you for the gift of salvation and the privilege of being called your children. Help us to live our lives in light of that calling – with faith, hope, and love. Give us the courage and strength to share the good news of Jesus with all we encounter and be faithful witnesses to your love and grace. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.