

Discipline and Grace

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 2:1ff.
- B. The relationship of grace and discipline is important to the Christian life.
- C. We are not only saved by grace, but we also live by grace daily. (Romans 5:2)

II. Grace is God's favor through Christ to those who deserve His wrath.

- A. We deserve God's wrath.
- B. God has the power and authority execute justice against us.
- C. Both God's law and His person have been violated by our sin. (2 Samuel 12)
- D. God cannot subvert justice because He is holy.
- E. Jesus' death satisfied the justice of God for us by taking our place.
- F. Through this, we never experience God's wrath. (Ephesians 2:3)
- G. Jesus lived a perfect life, even though he was tempted as we are. This earned God's favor. (Matthew 13)
- H. Through Jesus' perfect life, we receive God's favor in the forgiveness of our sins and the acceptance of our person by Him. (Romans 4:8)

III. God's reasons for giving us favor are so that we would magnify His grace and so that we would do good works. (Ephesians 2:10, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

- A. Our response to God's grace is gratitude.
- B. The spiritual disciplines are the outworking of our gratitude because they empower us to do good works.
 - 1. Greek word for "discipline" is "training".
 - 2. The spiritual disciplines equip us with the skills to live the Christian life.
 - 3. Our discipline never earns God's favor- only Christ earned us God's favor. Our failure to practice the spiritual disciplines does not prevent God's favor.
 - 4. The spiritual disciplines equip us to express our gratitude to God through obedience.

Application questions:

1. In this sermon, Jerry states that failing to practice the spiritual disciplines does not take God's favor (grace) away from us. There are some who would disagree. How would you respond to them?

2. How did Jesus' perfect life allow us to receive God's favor?

3. Being consistent about practicing the spiritual disciplines can be difficult. How can reminding yourself of God's daily grace help you stay consistent in the disciplines?
