

Thanksgiving Sunday ~ Sunday, October 11, 2026
“Experiencing the Grace of Christ: Standing Firm in the Gospel”
Psalm 62:5-12 Galatians 2:1-21 Luke 18:9-14

The Christian life doesn't just begin with Christ and then depend upon our own _____ from that point forward. We begin by _____, we continue by grace, and ultimately we have nothing in which to _____ except Jesus Christ and His Cross.

Paul reminded them that the Gospel didn't _____ with him, nor was it something human beings had invented—the Gospel came from _____—we're just its _____.

Jesus gave Himself for our sins to _____ us, and therefore the Gospel isn't something we improve upon, _____, or supplement. Christ has done what we could never do for ourselves; and our response is to _____, believe, and follow Him.

What Paul discovered wasn't a different Gospel, nor did they _____ anything to the message he'd been preaching. Instead, they recognized that the same Gospel had been _____ to Paul for his ministry among the Gentiles.

In verse 16 he writes that a person is _____—made right with God—not by works of the law, but through _____ in Jesus Christ.

We can believe that we're saved by grace, and yet slowly begin to live as though our standing before God depends on how well we're _____. We can begin _____ ourselves with others, measuring our spiritual accomplishments, or quietly trusting in our own _____.

Paul calls us back to the _____ of the Christian life: we are made right with God not because of what we've accomplished for Him, but because of what Jesus has accomplished for us. And the grace by which we're justified is also the grace in which we're called to _____ and live.

3 POINTS ABOUT GRACE

Point #1. Grace _____.

“Yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 2:16)

To be justified means to be declared _____ before God; to be brought into a _____ relationship with Him. It doesn't mean that God pretends our sin doesn't matter or decides that we've finally become good enough to _____ His

acceptance. Rather, although we can't make ourselves righteous, God _____ us as righteous because of what Jesus has _____ for us on the Cross.

The _____ of our relationship with God, then, isn't our performance, but Christ's; it's not our goodness, but His; it's not what we've accomplished for Him, but what He's accomplished for us.

Jesus tells us about two men who went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee—a man who, outwardly at least, had lived a very _____ and respectable life.

The problem was that he'd begun to _____ in these things; and his prayer was filled with what he'd done—it was all about _____.

Unlike the Pharisee, this man has no spiritual résumé to present, nor does he _____ himself favourably with anyone else.

“‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other.” (Luke 18:13-14)

The tax collector wasn't justified because he'd lived a better life than the Pharisee. Clearly, he hadn't. He was justified because he came before God with _____ hands, knowing that he had nothing on which to base his claim before God except _____.

One of the dangers of the Christian life is that after we've followed Jesus for a while, we can gradually become more like the _____ than we realize. When we first came to Christ, we knew how desperately we needed _____.

Instead of seeing these things as the _____ of grace, we begin treating them as though they were the _____ of grace. We begin—consciously or unconsciously — _____ ourselves with others.

The Gospel doesn't just challenge that kind of thinking; it _____ it. There's no room for _____ at the foot of the Cross.

That doesn't mean obedience is _____. However, our obedience is the _____ of being accepted by God; it's never the _____ God accepts us.

That's the _____ of justification by faith.

What am I really trusting in when I stand before God?

Point #2. Grace _____.
Jewish dietary laws and traditional boundaries had long _____ them from

Gentiles. Yet through the Gospel, God had made it clear that Gentile believers weren't _____ members of His family; they'd been received through faith in Christ just as Jewish believers had been.

Peter knew the truth—his theology hadn't suddenly _____. He knew that these Gentile Christians had been accepted by God through Christ. However, because he was _____ of what others might think, he began behaving as though they were somehow less acceptable.

“...not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel.” (Galatians 2:14)

His behaviour _____ the Gospel. Peter believed in grace, but at that moment, he wasn't _____ by it.

We can believe that salvation is by grace through faith and yet construct little systems of _____ among ourselves.

That doesn't mean that _____ no longer matters or that grace requires us to pretend sin is _____. Grace never means calling wrong _____. However, it does mean remembering the _____ on which every Christian stands. None of us belongs to God's family because we finally became respectable enough. We stand because of Christ.

There will be moments when we slip back into old _____; when comparison creeps in, fear influences us, or our actions fail to reflect what we profess to believe. When that happens, the answer isn't to _____ grace; it's to return to grace. We _____ where repentance is needed, _____ who we are in Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit seek to bring our lives back into line with the truth we believe.

The Gospel isn't just a message that gets us through the door of the Christian life; it's the truth in which we're called to _____ every day. Grace changes the way we see God, ourselves, and the people around us. Peter's mistake was that he allowed his _____ to speak more loudly than grace.

Am I living consistently with the Gospel I profess to believe?

Point #3. Grace _____

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is 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 for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

For Paul, grace wasn't simply a theological doctrine to be _____; it was a reality that had completely _____ his life.

Paul had built his identity around his religious _____. If anyone could've stood beside the Pharisee in Jesus' parable and listed his spiritual achievements, it was him.

“I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” (Philippians 3:8)

Paul discovered that his greatest need wasn't to become a slightly _____ version of himself. His greatest need was _____.

When Jesus died on the Cross, He didn't simply provide Paul with some additional help for the life he was already living. The old _____ of Paul's life—his self-righteousness, achievements, and confidence in himself—had been brought to an end.

That doesn't mean Paul ceased to have a personality or that his choices and actions no longer mattered. Rather, the controlling _____ of his life had shifted. His life was no longer built around _____ himself; it was built around _____ to Christ.

The Christian life isn't simply Jesus forgiving our past and then sending us away to do better on our own. It's a life in _____ with Christ. We _____ to Him.

Faith isn't just the way we begin the Christian life; it's the way we _____. Every day, we _____ on Christ, receive His grace, trust His promises, and look to Him rather than ourselves as the source of our _____.

There's a temptation, particularly after we've been believers for many years, to think that we ought to become more _____.

However, Christian maturity doesn't mean needing Jesus _____. If anything, it means becoming increasingly aware of just how much we need Him....A mature Christian isn't someone who has finally learned to _____ on their own apart from Christ, but someone who's learned that there's nowhere safer to stand than on His _____.

“I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.” (Galatians 2:21)

Christ died because we couldn't _____ ourselves. Therefore, the Cross leaves us with nothing to _____ and nothing in which to boast. We simply receive what Jesus has done and spend the rest of our lives learning to _____ in the grace we've received.