

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 18, 2026
“Experiencing the Grace of Christ: Beginning & Ending By Faith”
Psalm 32:1-7 Galatians 3:1-14 John 6:28-40

Grace isn't just how we enter the Christian life; it's the _____ on which the whole Christian life is built.

Having defended the truth of justification by _____, he now challenges the Galatians to consider how they first came to know Christ and _____ the Holy Spirit.

They'd begun their Christian lives by _____ in Jesus, yet they were now being persuaded by false teachers that something more was required to become fully acceptable to God.

“Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?” (Galatians 3:3)

In other words, having begun by depending upon God's grace, they were now attempting to complete the Christian life through their own _____.

Like the Galatians, we too can gradually begin to _____ more on our own efforts, accomplishments, or religious activities than on the grace of God.

3 IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Truth #1: _____.

“You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?” (Galatians 3:1)

Paul isn't questioning their _____. Rather, he's expressing his astonishment that, having received the truth of the Gospel, they could so easily be persuaded to turn away from it.

“Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard?” (Galatians 3:2)

They received the Spirit because they heard the Gospel and responded to it in _____. Salvation isn't a reward for religious achievement or moral excellence. It's a gift of God's _____, received through faith.

“What must we do to perform the works of God?” (John 6:28)

We want to know what we have to do to make ourselves _____ to God.
“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” (John 6:29)

Jesus redirects their attention away from their own achievements and towards _____. What they need most isn't another religious obligation, but _____ in the One whom God has sent to save them.

Salvation is God's _____ to us through Christ. We don't contribute to its saving power through our own goodness or religious accomplishments. We simply _____, through faith, what Christ has accomplished on our behalf.

We can begin to think that God _____ us more when we've been faithful in prayer, regular in worship, generous in giving, or diligent in reading Scripture. And conversely, when we neglect these things, struggle, or fall into sin we can begin to wonder whether God still _____ us.

Worship, generosity, obedience, and the study of God's Word are all essential parts of a healthy Christian life. However, they're the _____ of God's grace at work within us, not the price we pay to receive it.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 2:8–9)

That's where the Christian life begins: not with our ability to make ourselves worthy of God, but with God's gracious invitation to _____ in Jesus Christ,

The question, then, isn't whether we've done enough to _____ God's love, but whether we're willing to place our _____ in the Saviour who has already demonstrated that love through His death on the Cross.

Truth #2: _____.

“Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?” (Galatians 3:3)

In other words, they were attempting to accomplish through human _____ what God had begun through His _____.

Flesh = *sarx* = isn't simply referring to our physical bodies or even to sinful desires. Rather, he's speaking about human effort and ability apart from _____ on God's grace.

The Galatians were being deceived into trusting in their own religious accomplishments rather than continuing to rely on the work of the Holy Spirit.

We may be doing all the right things _____, while inwardly becoming less _____ on the One who gives those things their meaning and power.

“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Spiritual growth isn’t something we manufacture through _____ alone; it’s the fruit of remaining _____ to Christ and allowing His Spirit to work within us.

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)

Just as our physical bodies require regular nourishment to remain healthy and strong, our spiritual lives require an ongoing _____ on Jesus. We don’t come to Him once, receive His grace, and then go off to live the Christian life in our own strength. We must continue coming to Him, trusting Him, and drawing on the _____ that only He can give.

This doesn’t mean that Christian discipleship doesn’t require any _____ on our part. Scripture repeatedly calls us to obedience, _____, self-discipline, and spiritual growth.

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Phil 2:12-13)

Our obedience isn’t an attempt to _____ God’s acceptance; it’s our _____ to the grace we’ve already received.

As we grow in our Christian faith, are we becoming more _____ on Jesus, or are we gradually becoming more dependent on ourselves? Are our prayers, worship, and service expressions of a _____ relationship with Christ, or have they simply become religious _____ that we carry out in our own strength?

Truth #3: _____.

Paul now turns to the Old Testament to demonstrate that salvation by faith has always been central to God’s plan of _____.

“Just as Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” (6)

Paul reminds them that Abraham was counted righteous because he believed God’s _____, not because he’d fulfilled the requirements of the _____.

“All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” (Galatians 3:8)

“Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the

book of the law.” (Galatians 3:10)

And so, if our hope of salvation rests on our ability to _____ the Law, we’re in serious trouble because no matter how hard we try, we can’t do it—we can’t make ourselves _____ before a holy God

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (13)

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

This is the great _____ at the heart of our salvation. Jesus takes upon Himself the consequences of our sin, and through faith in Him, we receive the righteousness that we could never earn.

And because our salvation rests upon what Christ has accomplished, we can have confidence not only for today, but also for _____.

“This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.” (John 6:40)

Our hope for eternity doesn’t rest on our ability to live a _____ Christian life, but on the One in whom we’ve placed our faith, and who has promised to bring us safely into His _____.

That doesn’t mean that how we live our Christian lives is _____. Genuine faith will produce a growing desire to love God, obey His Word, and live according to His purposes. However, our obedience is the _____ to God’s saving grace, not the _____ of our salvation.

“The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)



The Christian life is a journey of faith from beginning to end. We begin by faith, receiving God’s _____ of salvation through Jesus Christ. We continue by faith, depending on the _____ to strengthen, guide, and transform us. And we finish by faith, trusting not in our own goodness or accomplishments, but in the finished work of Christ and His promise of _____ life.

Are you still depending on the grace of Christ as fully as you did when you first came to Him, or have you gradually begun to place more confidence in yourself?