

November- Chapter 2: Guilt, Grace and Gratitude

The ceremony of The Lords Supper- a time where we are stripped from all distraction to focus on the most important thing to show our gratitude toward, our salvation.

Communion- "From guilt, through grace, to gratitude"

Eucharist- the word used for Holy Communion "giving of thanks", the highest act of thanksgiving

Do The Math

We are born in a state of guilt and that guilt is swallowed up by the gift of our undeserved grace
Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"

The root in the greek word Eucharistia- is (charis), translated is "grace" and (charisma) translated "gift"

Grace, Gift, Thanks, these words should be inseparable in our hearts

Who's to thank for this?

Ex. Atheist appreciating the ocean, but who is he Thanking? Thank you requires a "you" to be thank you toward

Christian Gratitude is different than general thanks or a positive attitude it requires:

Recognizing- the many blessings we receive from God

Acknowledging- God is the ultimate giver

Expressing- appreciation to him for these gifts

James 1:7 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights"

All-Around Gratitude

Generic gratitude is giving thanks when things make us happy

Christian gratitude has no limits

2 Corinthians 8 & 9 example

Paul reminding the people of Corinth to give generously. He makes the point that by not being generous, they are overlooking Gods grace which stifles gratitude.

God has given us an endless supply of grace which we can then show to others. Grace begets giving and giving begets gratitude. This gratitude gets spread in all directions. First vertically and then horizontally.

Here, There, Everywhere

Paul encourages the Colossians to be "abounding in thanksgiving" Colossians 2:7.

Ex. The people of her church supplying each others need through the "Blessing Barn".

"Grace not only received, deposited, but daily withdrawn and multiplied" Ponder how our lives would shift if we daily live this out!

Questions:

Assess how you've done in the past month with whining/venting less to those around you.

How well do you take what you know about God's grace and apply that to how you live your daily life?

How can you practice giving thanks to the "Giver" of all things?

In what ways can you be more generous with all God has given you?

Choose a verse to commit to memory that will help you fix your heart in an attitude of thanks giving this month.