

“Live a Life Worthy of Your Calling”

Living Fearlessly in the Confidence of Grace – Part 1 (2:4-10)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:4-10

Boastful, Broken, or Bored?

Every person responds in one of three postures when presented with the mercy and grace God offers...and I want you to deeply consider the state of your inner posture.

Boastful

“This is not of yourselves...not a result of works...”

- **Boastful: Confident in the Life One Has Made For Themselves**
 - How does one measure that?
 - Success / Wealth / Comfort / Absence of Suffering?

Matthew 19:23 “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Have you ever asked yourself *why* this is true?

Have you ever considered the irony of one trying to believe what Jesus said while striving their whole life to achieve the success of wealth and comfort?

Romans 5:3-4

Through Jesus we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand... We celebrate in our sufferings, knowing that suffering brings about perseverance; and perseverance, **proven** character; and proven character, hope...

You Are At A GREAT DISADVANTAGE!

- *Pastor are you saying it's wrong to lead a blessed life of success, wealth, and little or no suffering? Am I supposed to feel guilty about that?*

Various scenes in the Gospels give a good picture of the kind of people who impressed Jesus. A widow who placed her last two cents in the offering. A dishonest tax collector so riddled with anxiety that he climbed a tree to get a better view of Jesus. A nameless, nondescript child. A woman with a string of five unhappy marriages. A blind beggar, An adulteress. A man with leprosy. **Strength, good looks, connections, and the competitive instinct may bring a person success in a society like ours, but those very qualities may block entrance to the kingdom of heaven. Dependence, sorrow, repentance, a longing to change—these are the gates to God's kingdom.**

– Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

The Counterfeits & Lies of this World Insulate You from Seeing Your Desperate Need for Mercy & Grace.

2 Cor. 4:3-4

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ.

And what blinds you?

1 John 2:15-16

When you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave.

- Comfort/Pleasure
- The Enchantment of the "Good Life"
- Pride of Success and Wealth

Luke 7:47 "The one who is forgiven little, loves little."

What Must I Do?

1. Pray that the Spirit would break the false confidence of the life you have built so that you will stop pursuing all the things of this world that are fading away.
2. Remove Yourself from the Throne of Your Life, and Repledge Your Life to Your King.
3. Humble yourself by asking the Lord, like David, to show you your true colors – the evil that lies within – so that you can confess and repent, and He can then heal you.
4. Quit investing so heavily in You and your life – and instead invest heavily in the Kingdom by helping carry the physical, emotional, and spiritual burdens of those the Lord brings across your path.
5. Be grateful for the suffering God allows in your life that breaks through the lies and helps you to see the Good News of the True Life He is calling you to.

Next Sunday...

Broken
Bored