

Theme: Disciples embrace the gospel, admitting their sin and receiving God's grace offered to them in Christ.

I. Intro - New series - Disciples

- A. We are doing a 5 week series on how we grow as disciples at BRCC
- B. These principles are universal of course, but each local church must implement things in their own context
- C. This is how each of us is called to engage as disciples at BRCC
- D. Four-part flow
 - 1. Love our God
 - 2. Connect with Others
 - 3. Serve His Church
 - 4. Reach the World
- E. We will be covering each of these in this series
- F. Today the foundation - the Gospel of God's grace!

II. The Gospel of God's Grace

- A. Be strong in God's grace
You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:1
 - 1. He calls Timothy to be strong in God's grace
 - 2. This grace is found in Christ Jesus. He is our only access to the grace of God.
 - 3. The foundation for the Christian life and ministry is the grace of God.

- 4. The Christian life begins by grace, is sustained by grace, and will be consummated by grace. It is all of grace!

- B. Grace is found in and through the Gospel
So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the **gospel**, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and **grace**. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the **gospel**. 2 Timothy 1:8–10
 - 1. Note the linking of the **gospel** and **grace** (all occurrences in Greek highlighted)
 - 2. The grace in which we grow strong is the grace that is found in and through the Gospel.
 - 3. The Gospel is the Gospel of God's grace
However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to **the gospel of God's grace**. Acts 20:24
 - a. The Gospel is quite literally the Good News
 - b. The Good News is of God's grace towards we sinful human beings
 - c. Paul summarized his whole life and ministry as testifying to the Gospel of God's grace
 - d. This is the foundation and the goal for everything we do as Christians and as a local church

4. The Gospel is the Gospel of God's grace because we are sinners in need of grace

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. 1 Tim 1:15

- a. This is the essence of becoming a disciple - recognizing we are sinners in need of the grace which Christ came to offer.
- b. There can be no discipleship until we have recognized and admitted our sin and received the grace that is offered to us in Christ.

III. The Gospel: Fuel for Discipleship

A. Paul is speaking to a believer

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:1

1. Paul is speaking to his son in the faith
2. Timothy is a mature leader in the church
3. Yet he must continue to draw strength from the grace of God
4. We never move past our need for the message of God's grace, which gives us strength for our lives and ministries.

B. The Gospel of God's grace is the fuel for discipleship

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:1–2

1. This call for growing strong in grace is couched in terms of discipleship

2. Timothy had learned these things when disciplined by Paul

3. Timothy was to pass these on to those he was discipling

4. They, in turn, would pass them on to the next generation of disciples

5. But all of this is runs on the fuel of grace that is found in the Gospel. The motor of discipleship in the local church runs on the fuel of grace.

C. The Gospel of God's grace is fuel to empower disciples to live obediently even in the face of suffering

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. 2 Tim 2:3–6

1. The Christian life is likened to hardship in 3 ways

- a. Soldiers enduring hardships (of war) - vv3-4
- b. Athletes competing hard for the prize - v5
- c. Farmers working hard to get a crop - v6

2. Grace is the fuel that empowers us to face whatever hardships and opposition that might come our way.

3. This is why we never move beyond grace - it fuels our Christian life from beginning to end.

4. This is why we never move beyond the Gospel - it forms and shapes us and fills us with the grace of God as we embrace it fresh and new each day.

IV. Applying the Word

A. Have I embraced the Gospel of God's grace?

1. This is where everything begins!
2. Timothy had been raised in a home that taught the Scriptures, but he had to personally embrace the Gospel - and so must we!
3. Have you embraced the Gospel of God's grace?
 - a. Do you understand Jesus came to save sinners?
 - b. Do you understand you are a sinner in need of grace?
 - c. Have you embraced the Gospel in faith, trusting that God will forgive your sins because of Christ alone?
 - d. Question 35: What does it mean that we are saved by Christ alone through faith alone? It means that we are accepted before God because of Christ's righteousness and atoning work alone, apart from any works or merits of our own, and that His righteousness is received by faith alone, apart from any efforts on our part.
 - e. Question 36: Can our own works contribute anything to our acceptance before God? No, they can not, because even our best efforts and works are defiled by sin, and because everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Savior.
4. Embrace the Gospel today!

B. Am I growing strong in the grace of God?

1. The Christian life not only begins by grace, it also grows by grace!

2. If you are a Christian have you been baptized in water? This is the first means of grace!
3. Am I growing strong in God's grace?
 - a. If you are a Christian have you been baptized in water? This is the first means of grace! If not, see me!!
 - b. Do I regularly spend time in Word and prayer?
 - c. The four areas in this series
 1. Love our God - gather with the church for worship
 2. Connect with others - gather in connect groups
 3. Serve His Church - serve others in the church
 4. Reach the world - actively reach out to the lost
4. Let's grow in these habits of grace together!

C. The Table of Grace

1. The Lord's Table is a primary means of grace
2. Here we confess the Gospel together
3. Here we feast upon the grace of God together

Disciples Embrace the Gospel of Grace

2 Timothy 2:1-2
February 3, 2019
Communion
Revelation 22:21

Teaching keywords: Discipleship; gospel; grace; means of grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.
Revelation 22:21

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:1–2