

Crisis, Meet Grace

Rom 16:19-20

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20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

I. Review

1. We were talking last week about when the Name meets a lost cause.
2. We pointed out that the Mayflower Compact, the first written governing document over the Massachusetts Colony, which was signed by the Pilgrims from the Mayflower, it started out: “In the name of God. Amen.”
3. The founding of the independent nation that became the United States of America, began as a lost cause, but because those Pilgrims chose to begin their colony here In The Name of God, putting God’s name on a lost cause, gave that lost cause not only a fighting chance, but also an appointment with destiny.
4. And our nation’s survival at this present time of political and civil divide and a dangerous spreading pandemic, depends upon a people, called by His name who will humble themselves and pray, and turn from their wicked ways.
5. We ended last week by pointing out that when we are baptized in Jesus’ name, it involves calling the name of the Lord over us that brings us into that covenant relationship with God.
6. That is especially true when we are filled with His Spirit, because then we have His name and His Spirit over us.
7. God takes lost causes, like our own, places His name there, and then fixes us with a divine destiny.

II. Introduction

1. So maybe you are one of the individuals or families who are suffering through struggles right now, you are just one of several in the church family, and I assure you, you are not suffering alone.
2. Many of these issues are personal, like yours, so you are not likely knowledgeable of the struggles of others.
3. Nevertheless, it is true that we are suffering together, because we are a family, the body of Christ. When one member suffers, we all suffer. But the other side is also true—when one member rejoices, we all rejoice.
1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.
4. The pandemic has brought challenges to our physical health but has also brought a spiritual oppression that is affecting our emotional health, our relationships, and our families.
5. So, today, we are going to focus not only on God’s ability to deliver us out of it, but also, until He does, how He will help us through it—with His grace.

6. The time is right for the family to come together, be ministered to by God, but also minister to one another.
7. We can heal one another with the kind of love indeed that His church is known for.
8. This morning, I want to preach to you on this subject, "Crisis, Meet Grace."

III. What is Grace?

A. Definition

1. **Grace:** Greek, **char-is**. It has many definitions and applications, but the best definition for this message is divine influence upon the heart and life manifesting through gratitude, favor, and kindness.
2. A person with a gift of grace on them, has **char-is-ma**. The English language borrowed that Greek word, and we say a person has charisma who has a divinely conferred gift or power that confers on the person an unusual ability for leadership.

B. Grace of life for marriage

1. For example, God has a special grace for marriages to benefit from called the "grace of life."
2. With it, a husband and wife can seek to get under this flow of grace of life to help their relationship not only survive, but be strong.
*1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, **dwelt with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.***
3. Marriage, while made in heaven, is lived on earth, and often suffers from assaults from hell.
4. So what is the grace of life and how can it help your marriage manage crisis? Using the definition we just read, **grace is divine influence on the heart and life manifest through gratitude, favor, and kindness.**
5. When God places grace on you, your life is influenced by His favor, your heart is influenced by His gratitude, and His kindness is revealed to you.
6. **The grace of life gives a hidden glow, strength, and insulation that will lead you through the crisis until you come out of the crisis.**
7. Grace then is God's gift to you that insulates you from destruction giving you the patience and peace to make it through.

C. Illustration

1. In 1987, I was working as an insurance salesman on commission only, and it was a very lean time for us. My income was sporadic with occasional good weeks and a lot of not so good weeks. With two little kids, it was a real struggle to make it.
2. I had been assigned to work in Linton on this particular day, and after not making any sales in the morning, I parked my car in a parking lot.
3. And with a heavy heart feeling overwhelmed by a hopeless feeling, I pulled out my Sunday School book to review the next lesson.

4. One of the verses of that lesson that jumped off the page was this:
Heb 10:35-36
35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
 5. And that little promise attached to being patient and doing God's will helped me not to cast away my confidence, but to once again place it into God's faithfulness that He would see us through.
 6. That was evidence of the grace of life flowing upon me to take me through that moment of struggle.
 7. The grace of life is a real, tangible gift from God, that is like a lifeline to survival.
 8. The grace of life was the strength of heart and protection that prevented us from losing our way and helped us find the way.
 9. Cast not away your confidence!
- D. Grace in the family
1. We just read in 1 Peter 3:7 how the husband and wife are "heirs together of the grace of life."
 2. As we move deeper into family dynamics, we are going to see from a passage in Colossians 3, that the inheritance of grace also is at work in family relationships and interactions.
 3. It begins with our attitude. Am I bent on giving up? That is not the right approach.
 4. Am I willing to put all my heart into it? That is the right attitude.
Col 3:23-24
23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
 5. There is an inheritance coming for those who give their all to their family.
 6. In a general admonition for the family that will follow, Paul gives this introduction:
Col 3:15-16
15 And let [I must allow this to happen]
the peace of God rule in your hearts, [my family needs peace to rule]
to the which also ye are called in one body; [God's intent]
and be ye thankful. [my attitude toward my family]
16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; [God's word must be present in the family]
teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing [what kind of music is played in the home?]
with grace in your hearts to the Lord. [all aspects of family relationships need grace of life that gives a hidden glow, strength, and insulation that will lead you through the crisis until you come out of the crisis.]
 7. We cannot expect to be able to do family without grace!
 8. And the passage continues with specific instruction for the family based on having grace in our hearts:

Col 3:17-21

17 *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, [before I say something to my spouse or child, govern that word with that qualifier] giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

18 ***Wives**, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.*

19 ***Husbands**, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.*

20 ***Children**, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*

21 ***Fathers**, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

9. God's plan for families is this flow of grace that will insulate you from the fiery trials that will assault you. And **this grace will keep you and will sustain you until you come out of the fire.**

10. That is how grace works for you.

E. Grace for afflictions

1. Grace for marriages, grace for families, and now grace for general life afflictions.

2. Joseph was next to the youngest of the 12 sons of Jacob, and he was known as a dreamer. In his youth, he had big dreams of how he would one day rule over his brothers, which made his older brothers upset with him.

3. The brothers eventually plotted a scheme to sell Joseph to slave traders but convinced their father, Jacob, that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.

4. Joseph didn't lose his dreams while serving as a slave for he rose in favor with his owner. That is until he was falsely accused of raping his master's wife, for which he was imprisoned.

5. But he still didn't lose his dreams while in prison, but his gifts caused him to rise as caretaker of all the prisoners, and eventually led him to a friendship with a couple of prisoners from Pharaoh's palace.

6. Eventually his dreams took him into the service of Pharaoh himself, serving as second in command, governor over Egypt.

7. But what was with Joseph that delivered him through all those afflictions? Dreams alone did not take him through. No, he needed that gift from God called grace. That divine favor that gave him that **hidden glow, strength, and insulation to led him through the crisis until he came out of the crisis.**

8. The English versions translate the Greek word **charis** as **favor** in this verse:

*Acts 7:10 And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him **favours** (charis) and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.*

9. How are you going to make it through afflictions? The Grace of God.

IV. Grace until

A. Grace holds us

1. God has a gift of grace available to keep our marriages strong, to hold our families together in peace, and to take us through afflictions.

2. Whatever the crisis, the solution is God's grace. "Hey crisis, meet God's grace!"

3. We must bring God's grace into the face of every crisis we meet.
 4. I want to bring our message to a close with focusing on a powerful thought concerning how God's grace will get you through your crisis.
Rom 16:19-20
19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple [innocent] concerning evil.
20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
 5. After commending the Roman church for being obedient to God, Paul instructs them further to do what is right.
 6. And in fact, follow wisdom in doing good and stay innocent of any wrongdoing, for the God of peace is on the scene to give satan a bruising.
 7. Paul revealed something to them they didn't see: that satan had been planting trouble in that church.
 8. So what kind of trouble has the devil been planting around you? We are not ignorant of his devices as he would like us to be.
 9. He would like us to see our suffering, not as him stirring trouble, but as a lost cause beyond hope.
 10. Well, hang on. Keep on taking wise steps and doing good and keep innocent from wrongdoing. Why?
- B. Grace crushes satan
1. The God of peace will soon and quickly crush Satan under your feet!
 2. God knows that you need peace, and while you don't see that peace yet, know that **the God of peace** is working on it unseen behind the scenes.
 3. Analyze the situation before you.
 4. Maybe it is COVID 19 that is causing you trouble with its fear and restrictions.
 5. But maybe it is not the corona virus that is causing the troubles, but it could be satan working behind the scenes to add a spiritual assault to the physical dangers already present.
 6. When there is a physical infirmity present, that infirmity appears to be a place where demons desire to accompany the physical infirmity with a demonic assault.
 7. I studied several passages in the gospels that bear this out where **Jesus delivered both from infirmities and evil spirits** (Luke 6:17-18, Luke 8:2, Mark 9:17 and Luke 9:38, Luke 13:10)
 8. Sicknesses often bring along spiritual attacks that assault our emotions with fear and depression. And people who already suffer from depression also get hit by spiritual attacks that assault their faith.
 9. But the God of peace will bruise satan—we know He can do that.
 10. When satan thought he was crushing Jesus under his foot by orchestrating His crucifixion, what satan didn't realize, was the picture was quite different than he thought.
 11. It wasn't the devil crushing Jesus' head, it was Jesus crushing the head of satan.

12. God was speaking to satan:
Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- V. Conclusion
1. While Jesus was bruised and suffered death, He did it to give you and I victory over sin, death, and the devil.
2. For it was by God's grace that we are forgiven and redeemed:
Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
3. That is why Paul could say,
Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
4. Notice the interesting wording of that phrase: the God of peace will bruise Satan, not under His feet—He already accomplished that on the cross and when He walked out of the tomb.
5. But He will crush satan under YOUR feet. This puts us in mind of Jesus' words:
Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
6. But whether the struggle is only a physical one, or both physical and spiritual, the point of the message today is that while the devil is still causing trouble, and before satan is bruised under our feet, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us. Amen!
Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
7. So here we are in this conclusion, Crisis, Meet Grace!
Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
8. And do you know what the last verse of the Bible says?
Rev 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen