

Transforming Grace

Part 3

A Pilgrim's Progress

2 Peter 3:18 & 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Transforming Grace: A Seven Part Series on the Way Grace Changes Lives

The Power of Grace Living - *Two weeks ago*
The Process of Grace Living - *Last Week*
The Pursuit of Grace Living - *Today*
Grace & Good Works - *Joe on March 15 & 22*
The People of Grace Living - *Don on March 29 & April 5*

Introduction:

Changed Lives: A Couple Days in Philippi & the Compelling Reputation of the Thessalonians

[Last Week Review...]

I. The God-ward Orientation of the Way of Grace

II. The Effective Operation of the Way of Grace

According to the NT Vision of texts like 2 Corinthians 3 & Galatians 5, Christian Transformation is:

- A. Incremental
- B. Inevitable
- C. Inside-out
- D. Inter-connected

Growth in Grace can thrive because of:

1. The Coordination of all Christian Graces

All that cultivates Any Godly Fruit, cultivates every Godly Fruit

2. The Counter-action of all Christian Graces

Every Good pursued naturally strangles it's "opposite" Sin

III. The Hopeful Opportunity of the Way of Grace

Seven Life-changing Pursuits for which Grace Equips us as Christians:

A. Follow Jesus Christ

It's about Relationship not Religion

Revelation of Jesus Christ -
Union with Jesus Christ -
Imitation of Jesus Christ -

B. Enjoy God

It's about Knowing God not Owning God

Adoption -
Refreshing our "Happiness in God" -

C. Pursue Holiness

One Step more than Overhaul

Coordination -
Counter-action -

D. Engage People

Grace Invasion more than Gloomy Separation

Love -
Creation Mandate -

E. Savor Biblical Instruction

A Berean Appetite not a Brainless Agreement

Precept -
Principle -
Preference -

F. Express Thankfulness

Grateful Enjoyment more than Groaning Self-Denial

Gifts & the Giver -
Feasting more than Fasting -

G. Live Life

Freedom & Fullness more than Fences & Formula

Enlarging Desires -
Setting out on a Treasure Hunt more than Sweeping a Mine-field -

2 Peter 3:18

18 Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.