

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

2500 NE 78th St. Vancouver, WA 98665 ~ (360) 573-7127

November 2022

Grace

Recently our pastor has been doing a series on Grace. It has been insightful and thought provoking. One week, his wife spoke and she talked about how sometimes we may not easily see our need for grace. I thought, "Well, who doesn't need grace?"

But I began to think more about it and about how Jesus told the parable of the two men who were forgiven debts by the banker. The concluding principle of the story is that we are more grateful when we are forgiven of more.

I really had to ponder that in my own life. For those of us who are inclined to be rule followers and who truly do make every effort to do the right thing, we may think we don't have much to be forgiven or much grace needed. As I think back to my youth, I really thought I had it all figured out, this religion thing. Why wouldn't God be pleased with me? I know the rules, I follow the rules. I was a good worker, I went to church, memorized my verses, was kind to people, welcomed them in, and on and on.

It really wasn't until I reached young adulthood and had to face some real struggles and hard times, that I developed a true relationship with Christ. Even though I had been a follower for years, I don't think I had a real relationship, where I shared with Jesus the depths of my heart and my pain and my confusion about this life. What a difference there is between keeping the rules and having a relationship! Only then we realize that we have much to be forgiven.

The amazing benefit of knowing, really knowing the Savior! I think of it kind of like having a best friend here on earth who has a birthday party. There are many people invited to the party and of course they all know the friend. But me, I know her as my best friend! That makes all the difference. I know her look that tells me she is amazed and delighted, but we also know the inside jokes, the little comments or gestures that only best friends know. What a privilege to be a best friend! That is how I want to be with Jesus! And can you imagine when we get to see Him in heaven?? To have spent all those hours here on Earth crying out to Him and then to see Him face to face. What a day that will be!!

Until that day comes, let us ponder that amazing grace! God's unmerited favor toward us, kindness from Him that we don't deserve, nothing we have done or can do will ever earn this favor.

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Yes, let us ponder, be amazed, and be so very, very, very grateful!

Jan Richards

Grace is an overarching term that includes all of what God gives us. Thanksgiving is the only reasonable response. Chaplains with County-Wide Chaplaincy are thankful for one another on our team, each one with different talents, strengths, and gifts from above. We are thankful for Clark County first responders: Firefighters, Police Officers, Sheriff Deputies, 911 Operators, Ambulance Personnel, Medical Examiner Investigators, and others.

We give thanks to you who support CWC through prayers and donations. We thank you quilters for supplying us with quilts for grieving family members.

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for His mercy endures forever.” Psalm 136:1

The Chaplain Team

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