

The Grace of Godliness - Part 4

THE HUMILITY OF GRACE 1Peter 5:6-11

STIMULATE

** From last week's study, what is at stake when we let the Lord down by disobeying His Word?

His glory is at stake. People don't think less of us when we sin, they think less of Him because we have called ourselves Christians.

** Hopefully we have all taken a close look at our own lives to determine if something needs to be added to or removed from our life, in an effort to follow Jesus Christ (with a heart of praise to His glory) into a lifestyle of ever increasing godliness!

May the Lord be pleased as we apply what we have learned from His word each week!

MOTIVATE

** As we noted last time, this series continues to build upon itself and this morning in Part 4 of "The Grace of Godliness" we are going to see how all that we have learned should increase the godliness in our everyday lifestyle.

** What was Paul's "Confession of Grace"?

"By the grace of God I am what I am"! (1Corinthians 15:10)

** What was the "Gift of Grace"?

"...the gift of righteousness..." (Romans 5:17)

** Who is to receive "The Glory of Grace"?

"...to the praise of the glory of His grace..." (Ephesians 1:6)

** What is to be our response to all that our Lord has done for us? The answer comes from "The Humility of Grace" that we find in Peter's first epistle, chapter five, verses 6-11, would you please join me there.

Read passage (V. 6-8) (V. 9-11)

Opening Prayer

The Humility of Grace

INVESTIGATE

V. 6 ** What is our foremost "duty", as a Christian, in response to all that we have received by God's grace?

"Humble yourselves..." [tapeinothete] This word is an aorist imperative, indicating a duty that calls for immediate attention!

** Who is the one to do this command and to whom is it being done?

We are to obey this command by humbling ourselves.

** The reflective nature of the very next word here in verse six, gives us the "enticement" for obeying this command, what is it?

By using the word "therefore", Peter reflects back upon the statement he has just made in verse five.

Enticement - "...for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble".

** According to verse five, when we humble ourselves, what do we receive from God?

More of God's grace!

** Looking at verse six, what is the "environment" of this command?

Environment - "...under the mighty hand of God..."

All see - Hebrews 10:26-31

V.26 - "knowledge" [epignosis] is more than just a passing acquaintance with the gospel, this person knows it well, intellectually, but has no heart!

V.27 - Instead of receiving a sacrifice for their sin, they have a "certain terrifying expectation of judgment".

V.28 - Old Testament Israelites who willfully rejected the Mosaic Law, were under the penalty of death. What could be worse than that?

V.29 - In the church age, people who knowingly reject the gospel by continuing to sin, reject the Trinity!

The Father "...trampled under foot the Son of **God**..."

The Son "...regarded as unclean the **blood**..."

The Spirit "...has insulted the **Spirit** of grace..."

V.30 - God is faithful to follow through with His promise to judge sinners, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay" and "The Lord will judge His people".

V.31 - How frightening is it, when people walk away from the Truth into a life of unrepentant sin? "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God"!

Alright then, back in verse six of 1Peter, chapter 5...

** After hearing the command to humble ourselves, we have seen the "**Enticement**" of the command and the "**Environment**" of the command, next we are going to see the "**Enhancement**" to the command. What will God do for those who take Him seriously and humble themselves before Him?

Enhancement - He will "exalt you at the proper time". This is an amazing reality from scripture. cf. 1Corinthians 3:8, 4:5

** Did you notice when God is going to exalt you?

"...at the proper time..."

****** How does waiting for the "proper time" relate to one humbling themselves?

"Part of humility is willingness to patiently wait for things according to God's timetable."
Jay Adams [Trust and Obey. A Practical Commentary on First Peter, page 150]

V. 7 ****** Well, the command is certainly clear, but how do we practically apply it? How do you humble yourself?

By "casting all your anxiety upon Him..."

****** What will that accomplish?

In our humility we acknowledge that we cannot do it ourselves and at the same time we are reassured that "He cares for you".

All see - Psalm 55:22-23 "...He will sustain you..." "...I will trust in Thee..."

Matthew 6:25 "...do not be anxious for your life" 6:32 "...your heavenly Father knows..."

Philippians 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing..." "...the peace of God...shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

V. 8 ****** Now back in 1Peter, verse 8, as we humbly cast our anxiety upon the Lord, what is to be our state of mind?

We are to "be of sober spirit" and "on the alert".

This is the third time that Peter has used this term in his letter. To be sober [nepho] meant "to abstain from wine" and carries the idea of not letting outside, worldly forces influence your thinking away from obeying the Word of God.

cf. 1Peter 1:13, 4:7, Ephesians 5:18-20, Colossians 3:16

****** Why do Christians have to be so seriously minded about the life that they live?

Because "...your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

****** What does that statement say about the intensity of Satan's desire to master us through sin?

"...like a roaring lion" indicates that Satan is (a) ravenously hungry, (b) intent on capturing prey.

All see - (a) Daniel 6:1-24, (b) Genesis 4:6-7

V. 9 ****** Again, back in 1Peter, with such a strong adversary what should we do to win the battle?

"...resist him, firm in your faith..." cf. James 4:7 Satan flees when we stand firm on the Truth!

****** What does Peter want us to remember about the uniqueness of our suffering?

It is not unique! Peter wrote this epistle during the time of Nero's persecution of Christians, around 64 AD. Look at 1Peter 4:12 (Read verse), Nero would wrap Christians in animal skins, dip them in oil and set them ablaze to light up his garden parties, truly a "fiery ordeal".

Hebrews 11 is the hall of fame of those who trusted God "firm" in their faith when they were called to suffer. cf. Hebrews 11:37-40

And all of this was "being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world". It can be done!

V.10 ** How long will the suffering of this life go on?

"...after you have suffered for a little while..."

This is the second time Peter has referred to a brief period of suffering. cf. 1Peter 1:6-7

"...if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials..."

"...that the proof of your faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ..."

** That is not one of the more popular messages of Christianity, that we must suffer, but it is true. Why is that?
Two reasons -

1) To follow the example of Christ. (1Peter 2:19-21)

2) The world hates Jesus Christ and the godliness He produces in Christians. (2Timothy 3:12)

** How is our God described in this verse?

"...the God of all grace..." cf. 1Peter 4:10

** What did He do?

He "...called you to His eternal glory in Christ.."

** What four things will He do, when we humbly submit to His will, even if it means we must suffer?

He, Himself (personal touch), will "...perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you".

perfect - "to bring to completion" (Philippians 1:6)

confirm - denotes the stabilizing of something by providing a support, so that it will not totter. (Luke 22:31-32)

strengthen - "to impart strength, to make strong" here indicates that in our own strength, we would fail. (John 15:5)

establish - "to lay a foundation of, to found" unlike the second term, which refers to supports put around, this term speaks of the secure foundation on which something rests. (1Corinthians 3:11)

V.11 ** Occasionally the writers of Scripture become overwhelmed with the reality of what they have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and they will pause to break out in praise. We call that a doxology, what is it that has overwhelmed Peter?

God's power as a ruling, creator God! "To Him be dominion forever and ever"! Peter expresses again the worship which he had stated in chapter 4, V.11.

One of our Lord's brothers, Jude, does the same in his epistle in verses 24-25, as does the apostle John in the book of Revelation, 1:6, 5:13.

** How does Peter draw us into this expression of worship?

By concluding with an "Amen", he is stating that "truly" or "most assuredly" what has been stated shall come to pass!

EXTRICATE

** What is to be our response to all that our Lord has done for us, according to the command Peter gave us?

We must worship the God of all power and grace, by humbling ourselves before Him.

** From verse seven, what practical step did Peter give us to manifest our new humble spirit?

Cast all your anxiety upon Him! Trust in the Lord!

DELINEATE

** Even if we must suffer at times in this life, what will our God be faithful to personally do for us?

V.10 - 1) perfect 2) confirm 3) strengthen 4) establish

EVALUATE

** Are you truly humble before the Lord? Are you willing to obey Him and trust in His care for you?

ACTIVATE

** Lord, may your "Grace of Godliness" produce in me the image of Jesus Christ, as I humbly submit to your design for my life.

Closing prayer