



Costly Grace

BY: Chris Harper

Colossians 4:2-6

“Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah, for which I am in prison, ⁴so that I may reveal it as I am required to speak. ⁵Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶Your speech should always be

who has surrendered his rights daily for the sake of the Gospel. It is like CS Lewis said, “we do not come to God as bad men trying to become good... rather we come to God as His enemy willing to lay down our arms...”

The Gospel, established by God’s loving grace, demands surrender... it demands that we lay down anything of us so that we can receive

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gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.”

As Christians, it is clear, both by Paul’s proclamation and, more importantly, by the standard set by Jesus, it is clear that he who is truly found in Christ, that is if you are saved by the grace of God, is the one

everything from Him: *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.” – Matt 13:44*

Upcoming events



Friday 12/5

B JV/V Basketball @ Switzerland Co., 6 p.m.

Saturday 12/6

B JV/V Basketball v. New Washington, 6 p.m.

G JV/V Basketball @ Switzerland Co., 6 p.m.

MS B Basketball v. Rock Creek, 1 p.m.

MS G Basketball v. Rock Creek, 10 a.m.

Tuesday 12/9

B JV/V Basketball v. Salem, 6 p.m.

The grace of God is that treasure buried in the field. Where the Bible speaks of the great pearl, God's grace is that pearl... grace is that Kingly rule of Christ that creates in us the love of discipline, a discipline that will pluck out an eye if it causes us to stumble and look away from God... Grace is the call of Jesus, the call at which men leave everything, their professions, their homes, their families and surely themselves... they leave it all to follow Jesus...

You need to understand that this Grace, though freely given, it is very costly...

And we must ask for it, demand it even, as much as God allows and promises; as Bonhoeffer said, "costly grace is the Gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock..."

Such a Gospel, such grace, is costly... and warrants sacrifice; it demands compensation.

God's free gift, what we know as grace, it is grace because it allows us to follow Jesus, but it is costly because it demands that we only follow Jesus... To

say, like many do, that you live under the grace of God and yet you serve others masters, that is an affront to God's grace and truly you are only lying to yourself... the Bible is very clear that we can only serve one master...

God's grace is grace because it gives men true life, but it is costly because it demands that you lay down your life upon receipt... To accept God's free gift and then refuse to carry your cross is foolishness... it is like receiving a car without keys; you are going nowhere! God's grace is what enables and empowers us to walk with God, it is His grace that prompts us lay down our lives, and carry our cross daily...

God's grace is grace because it makes the sinner "right" with God, but it is costly because it condemns all sin... Grace is so powerful that it turns you and I, we who were once a children of wrath, God's enemies, terrorists in Heavens view... grace makes the unlovable loveable... and it does so by condemning sin... that's why the child of God, born of grace cannot love, hold onto, or sit still in his sin... we can't. His Word tells us, "*No one who is born of God will continue to*

sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God." – 1 John 3:9 You can't have God's grace and have your sin to. They are incompatible. They may meet on occasion, but they cannot live together in harmony.

Above all, God's grace is a costly grace because it cost God something. We must be quick to remember that what was freely given to us...was paid for elsewhere...

The grace that we shoulder is ours because God shouldered the sin of man on His Son... Grace cost God... the life of His Son. This holiday season, with stories about stars and Wiseman, shepherds and angels... seeing the babe in a manger... please do not forget, through all of this, that, "we were bought at a price..." And surely, what cost God so much, the priceless life of that babe in a manger... surely that cannot be cheap for us... (TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK...)