

Week 8 (10/11) – Barriers to Embracing Grace

Once we understand grace the challenge becomes how do we fully embrace grace. You can only embrace one thing at a time, but most of the time we attempt to hold to assurances of our salvation based upon our own efforts as well as claiming God's grace. It does not work that way. We have to choose one or the other. This week we will be looking at three barriers to embracing grace and then one benefit.

Barrier #1 - I don't need much grace...I'm a good person

- Luke 18:18-29...still lack one thing
- Matt 25:31-46...When Lord?
- His part - My part - The Negro boy down in my Southland years ago, wanted to join a church. So the deacons were examining him. They asked, "How did you get saved?" His answer was, "God did His part, and I did my part." They thought there was something wrong with his doctrine, so they questioned further, "What was God's part, and what was your part?" His explanation was a good one. He said, "God's part was the saving, and my part was the sinning. I done run from Him as fast as my sinful heart and rebellious legs could take me. He done took out after me till He run me down." My friend, that is the way I got saved also. - J. Vernon McGee Romans, Vol.1

Barrier #2 - If I accept grace I must admit that I need it

- Lk 18:9-14 – Parable of the Pharisee and tax collector
- 1 Cor 10:12 - If you think you stand, take heed lest you fall
- Rom 2:17-24; 3:9-23 – all sin and fall short of glory of God

Barrier #3 – Fear – I want grace for myself...but I don't want to promote grace because it leads to lawlessness.

- Gal 5:13-18

Barrier #4 Doubt - Don't trust God...that he really loves me....

- 2 Kings 6:8-23 – “open is eyes”
- Rom 5: 1-8
- I don't experience grace or love in other relationships

Barrier #5 - Rebellion

- I Don't want reconciliation....it places demands on me and removes my excuse to remain unchanged
- I want it to cost me something...then I will feel better about the gift