

Wasting Grace

Intro:

Gal 2:20

what do you live for? For the Christian this should be the easiest question in the world - unfortunately I don't think it is.

Problem:

2 cor 5:16-21

Another word for our ministry of reconciliation is a ministry of grace...

Grace is a word we often use but rarely appreciate

Before we eat we say...*grace*

When something good happens to us we feel...*grateful* or even *gratified*

When we are successful we get...*congratulated*

When we play host and hostess we are being...*gracious*

When we leave more money than the bill we are leaving a...*gratuity*

When we add notes to a song we add...*grace notes* which are a *gratuitous* flourish

When you need more time to pay off your bill you may get a...*grace period*

Politicians or pastors may *fall from grace* into *disgrace* and if they are a spy they can become a *persona no grata* - literally a person out of *the good graces* of the US

But though the word is common and used everyday only Christians can offer God's saving grace to a fallen world.

Paul's fear is that we would waste it...

Main Idea:

Do not waste this grace

...this privilege

...this possibility

...this power

...this perspective

Implication:

1 Tim 1:12-2:4

Notice how these two ideas go together - wage the good warfare + strive for peaceful quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way...what's going on and how does it reflect on our passage?

You were meant to change the world - not through the government, through revolution or riots but through grace, through a revolution of hearts changed by the gospel -

This your privilege, your possibility, your power, your perspective as an ambassador of grace.

Application:

Do not waste this privilege trying to blend in with the world

Do not waste this possibility waiting for a better season

Do not waste this power striving for political change

Do not waste this perspective consuming propaganda of outrage and fear

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/worldliness.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-apathy.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/fear-of-man.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-pessimism.html>

<https://document.desiringgod.org/don-t-waste-your-life-en.pdf?ts=1446647175>

Wasting Grace

Text:

Do not waste this grace ...this privilege

2Cor. 6:1 ¶ Working **together** with him, then, **we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.**

2 cor 6:14 (Paul is speaking to professing believers- grace is efficacious to save -but more seems to be in view...do not take His grace without profit of its intended effect...fruitfulness - we are meant to be ambassadors of reconciliation...are we?)

1 cor 3:10-15 (2 cor 3:1-4:1 we are co-laborers with Good Himself - on His mission (do not take his grace for granted laboring for wood hay stubble and straw...))

judges 10:1-5 (This was their legacy...)

Matt 5:10-16 (do not waste this grace - do not waste this privilege trying to blend in with the world)

...this possibility

2Cor. 6:2 For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Isaiah 49:1-8 (Paul is quoting here and drawing parallel between Christ, Himself and ultimately us)

Rom 10:8-15 (what if you don't go, don't proclaim? What if you do?)

(Jonah 3:1-4:1 (now today is the day of salvation - nahum (200 years later it is not) what he didn't go?)

2 pet 3:10-15 (do not waste this grace - do not waste this possibility waiting for a better season)

...this power

2Cor. 6:3 **We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,**

2Cor. 6:4 but **as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance,** in afflictions, hardships, calamities,

2Cor. 6:5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;

2Cor. 6:6 **by** purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, **the Holy Spirit, genuine love;**

2Cor. 6:7 **by** truthful speech, and **the power of God;** with the **weapons of righteousness** for the right hand and for the left;

1 cor 9:19-27 (Paul had a clear desire to serve one master- one goal - and he knew what it entailed - (Jn 15:18-20) a servant is not greater than his master - if they persecuted and crucified our Lord why would we expect any different treatment? He had great endurance that came from a clear priority but he had more than a clear goal - he had real power...(1))

gal 5:16-25 (our great endurance, our purity knowledge patience kindness genuine love truthful speech does not come from classes and techniques but from God the Holy Spirit Himself)

eph 6:10-20 (we fight in the strength of His might - with weapons of righteousness)

Phil 2:12-13 (do not waste this grace - do not waste this power striving for political change)

...this perspective

2Cor. 6:8 **through** honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;

2Cor. 6:9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed;

2Cor. 6:10 as sorrowful, **yet always rejoicing;** as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, **yet possessing everything.**

1 pet 4:12-19 (why are we surprised? We have forgotten the perspective of grace)

job 1:6-7; 2:1-2 (what a difference if he knew who was watching)

eph 3:7-10 (we know...that we are well known...and we are always rejoicing...)

eph 1:3-19 (do not waste this grace - do not waste this perspective consuming propaganda of outrage and fear)