

# The Wonder of God's Grace

Life Group Discussion Questions – October 23, 2022

Description: God, who is holy and everlasting (Psalm 90:2, 93:2), freely grants favor to all human beings, who by nature and by choice are sinners and broken.

The Bible teaches us that God grants two types of Grace:

## COMMON Grace & SAVING Grace

What does God's **COMMON GRACE** look like?

Description: Universal blessing and favor from the hand of God which all people freely enjoy, but does not require salvation.

- His universal favor of **PROVISION** Part 1
- His universal favor of **PROTECTION** Part 2
- His universal favor of **PERSONAL** morality  
Romans 2:14-15

The Human **MORAL COMPASS** - *'do instinctively the things of the Law'*

Innately know **RIGHT** from **WRONG**, truth and falsehood

Innately sense **JUSTICE** from **INJUSTICE**

Innately believe in human **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Human **CONSCIENCE** – *'their conscience bearing witness'*

The Human **ETHICS** – *'thoughts alternately accusing or else defending'*

Auburn Grace Community Church – October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

**Romans 2:14-16** *For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.*

### DISCOVER

1. Phil has shared a definition of grace during each of his messages in the series. What is the definition? What words would you have used, before the series on grace began, to define grace? What is your understanding of common grace?
2. What might the world look like if we did not have God's favor of personal morality? Does everyone believe the same about what constitutes moral behavior? Then how do we know personal morality is from God if people believe differently? What moral standards do you believe to be universal?
3. God gave us a sense of justice and injustice. How did Jesus want us to approach justice without being driven by vengeance? Is doing good for others an example of living with justice? Why is it so important that love guides acts of justice?

### EXPLORE

1. Read Exodus 20:1-17. How does the Law align with a 'woke' view of moral behavior? Which commandments have become less important in the world today? Now turn the mirror around and look at yourself. Have you kept all of the commandments? How do we balance our own guilt with expectations for moral behavior with those under our influence? Do you spend more time looking at the behavior of others or of yourself?
2. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How did the life of Jesus demonstrate to all people how to follow the law? What are some examples of where Jesus challenged people who made the law to be about rigid rule keeping?
3. Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. Does this sound like behavior the world desperately needs? Do you greatly want to follow the teaching of Jesus as He taught in the beatitudes? Which of the beatitudes do you most identify with?
4. Read Matthew 5:17-20. What did Jesus want from those created in His image beyond rule keeping and the outward appearance of personal morality?

### EXPERIENCE

1. Phil taught about our innate need for accountability. Who are you accountable to? Who do you trust to share your shortcomings with? What can you do to make pursuit of Godly living a joy?
2. What would your life look like without your conscience bearing witness? What does God want you to do when He bears witness to you?

### PRAY

*Pray...Father we know you created us in your image and that we were given the understanding of right and wrong. Yet, we desperately need you in the person of the Holy Spirit to open our eyes when we veer off course. We are thankful for the common grace shared amongst all your children. May we fulfill our role in carrying your love to a hurting world.*

*Action...We are all on equal footing given the innate gifts of common grace received from God. Share with someone you meet your recognition of a blessing from God that all people can appreciate.*