A person with dark curly hair and hoop earrings, wearing a red, white, and blue plaid shirt, holds a rectangular piece of brown cardboard. The cardboard has the words "Grace Found Me" written on it in a thick, black, brush-stroke style font. The person is standing in front of a brick wall with light-colored mortar. The image has a dark, vignetted border.

Grace
Found
Me

What is grace?

Greek **χάρις** *charis*

Grace is not opposed to *effort*, but to *earning*. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action.

Grace is God acting in our life to do what we cannot do on our own. – Dallas Willard

Book of Galatians

PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

Missionary Journeys of Apostle Paul



Grace Found Me

Introduction to Galatians

- Epistle (a circular letter) written by the Apostle Paul
- Original recipients were “the churches in Galatia” (1:2) which had been founded during the first missionary journey of Paul.
- Galatia was a region of cities in southern Asia Minor where the Gauls (Celtic people from the British Isles) had settled after migrating from western Europe through Italy and Greece.
- Region included the cities of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, located in modern Turkey.
- Paul and Barnabas visited these cities on Paul’s first missionary journey.



Letter
written by
Paul from
Antioch of
Syria in
about 48-50
AD

Galatians 6:11-18

Last week...

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Galatians 6:1

Greek verb **καταρτίζω** *katartizete*... like setting a broken bone or mending fishing nets

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;
for whatever a man sows, this he will
also reap. Galatians 6:7

You reap **spiritually, relationally, mentally,** and
physically in direct relation to what you plant.

- Holman New Testament Commentary

Each sower decides what his harvest will be.

- Bible Knowledge Commentary

See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. Galatians 6:11

Paul took the pen from his scribe and wrote the rest of the letter himself, a practice he often followed (cf. 1 Cor. 16:21; Col. 4:18; 2 Thess. 3:17). It may be that Paul wrote the conclusion in capital letters after the rest of the epistle was penned mostly in lowercase letters. While it has often been suggested that he did so because he was afflicted with weak eyesight, it is more likely, given the tone of the letter, that the apostle sought in this way to give a final emphatic thrust to his message. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Paul personally picks up the pen and writes with large letters to emphasize his concluding words and to validate that the letter was genuine.

– Holman New Testament Commentary





“Saint Paul Writing His Epistles”

by Valentin de Boulogne (ca 1594-1632)

Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. Galatians 6:12-13

The Judaizers who insisted that circumcision was necessary for salvation (cf. Acts 15:1), in summary, (1) were only men-pleasers (cf. Gal. 1:10) seeking to make a good impression outwardly; (2) were afraid of persecution (Gal. 6:12b); (3) wanted to boast about the number of Galatians they hoped to win over to circumcision as a religious and merit-earning rite (Gal. 6:13). The legalists knew the offense of the Cross would be softened if they openly proclaimed justification by faith and works (i.e., circumcision) and if they could claim conversions to that position in Galatia. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

The Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 refuted the teaching that circumcision (or any other physical act) was the seal of one's salvation.

What do some Christian churches teach?

- Baptism
- Speaking in tongues
- Confession
- Communion

The True Gospel

Jesus + _____ = salvation

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

In contrast to the Judaizers, Paul had pure motives. Paul's motive was to brag, not about himself or his merits, but about the cross of our Lord Christ. The Judaizers gloried in the flesh (circumcision), but Paul gloried in Christ. The world was crucified to Paul and he to the world. He looked at the world as if it were on a cross; that is, he considered the world as good as dead and he as good as dead to the world. – Holman New Testament Commentary

“I have been **crucified** with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20

About what do you boast?

- Some **boast** in chariots and some in horses, but we will **boast** in the name of the Lord, our God. Psalm 20:7
- My soul will make its **boast** in the Lord; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. Psalm 34:2-3
- In God we have **boasted** all day long, and we will give thanks to Your name forever. Psalm 44:8
- Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man **boast** of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man **boast** of his might, let not a rich man **boast** of his riches; but let him who **boasts boast** of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 9:23-24

For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Galatians 6:15

In view of the Cross of Christ and a believer's new position with respect to the world, no outward religious symbol or lack of it means anything as a way of salvation (cf. Galatians 5:6). The only thing that matters is to be a part of the new creation by the new birth (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17). - Bible Knowledge Commentary

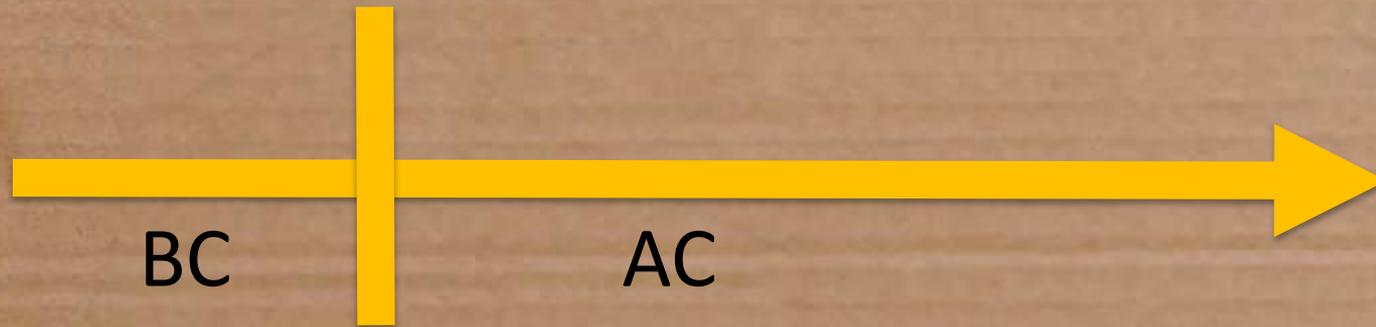
It is easy to get caught up in the externals (of circumcision or uncircumcision). Paul says that in all reality, the externals are meaningless. What counts is a new creation produced by a new spiritual birth (compare 2 Cor. 5:17). What counts is God changing us from the inside out. The message of the Judaizers was powerless to change hearts. What changes hearts is faith in Christ for both salvation and spiritual growth. - Holman New Testament Commentary

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a
new creature; the old things passed
away; behold, new things have come.
2 Corinthians 5:17

Timeline of your Life

You have lived a past without Jesus Christ.

Have you begun a new life with Jesus Christ?



BC = Life Before Christ

AC = Life After Christ

And those who will walk by this rule,
peace and mercy be upon them, and
upon the Israel of God. Galatians 6:16

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the
Spirit. Galatians 5:25

Galatians 6:1-10... As disciples of Jesus, what are some practical ways to “walk by the Spirit”?

1. Forgive the sins of others (v. 1)
2. Bear one another's burdens (v. 2)
3. Be humble, not arrogant (v. 3)
4. Examine your own life (v. 4)
5. Bear your own load (v. 5)
6. Share good things with your spiritual mentors (v. 6)
7. Do not mock God (v. 7)
8. Sow (plant seeds of) spiritual things (v. 8)
9. Do not lose heart in doing good (v. 9)
10. Do good to all people (v. 10)

From now on let no one cause trouble for me,
for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.
Galatians 6:17

Paul's calling as an apostle and the message he preached had been challenged by the Judaizers. He asked for an end to such trouble, and he offered as a final proof to his critics the marks of Jesus on his body. These "marks" (stigmata) meant signs of ownership such as were branded on slaves and cattle. Paul referred to the scars on his body, which were caused by persecution for Christ's sake (cf. 1 Cor. 4:11; 2 Cor. 4:10–11; 6:5, 9; 11:24–25), because they demonstrated he was a slave of Christ and not just a people-pleaser. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with
your spirit, brethren. Amen. Galatians 6:18

Paul began his letter with the commendation of grace (Gal. 1:3). Now he concludes with that same blessing of grace. Throughout all the division and suspicion, Paul still ends with affection by calling them brothers. With all of his godly logic and now his open love, how can the Galatians refuse the appeal of this letter? How can they continue to accommodate the theological atrocities of the Judaizers? We hear nothing more about these churches, and we are led to believe that Paul persuaded them to abstain from legalism and to affirm grace. For a short moment they thought about going back to the dark prison of legalism, but finally they came to their senses and stayed out in the bright sunshine of grace's freedom. - Holman New Testament Commentary

Our walks with Jesus start and end with grace

Start

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ Galatians 1:3

End

The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your
spirit, brethren. Galatians 6:18

What do we do with Grace?

Grace is the basis for:

- **Our Christian identity:** “By the grace of God I am what I am.” (1 Corinthians 15:10)
- **Our standing before God:** “this grace in which we stand.” (Romans 5:2)
- **Our behavior:** “We behaved in the world ... by the grace of God.” (2 Corinthians 1:12)

<https://www.christianity.com/theology/what-is-grace.html>

Grace is the basis for:

- **Our living:** those who receive “the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ,” (Romans 5:17) by the “grace of life.” (1 Peter 3:7)
- **Our holiness:** God “called us to a holy calling ... because of his own purpose and grace.” (2 Timothy 1:9)
- **Our strength for living:** “Be strengthened by the grace that is in Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:1) for “it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace.” (Hebrews 13:9)

Grace is the basis for:

- **Our way of speaking:** “Let your speech always be gracious.” (Colossians 4:6)
- **Our serving:** “serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)
- **Our sufficiency:** “My grace is sufficient for you.” (2 Corinthians 12:9) “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)
- **Our response to difficulty and suffering:** We get “grace to help in time of need,” (Hebrews 4:16) and when “you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace...will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:10)

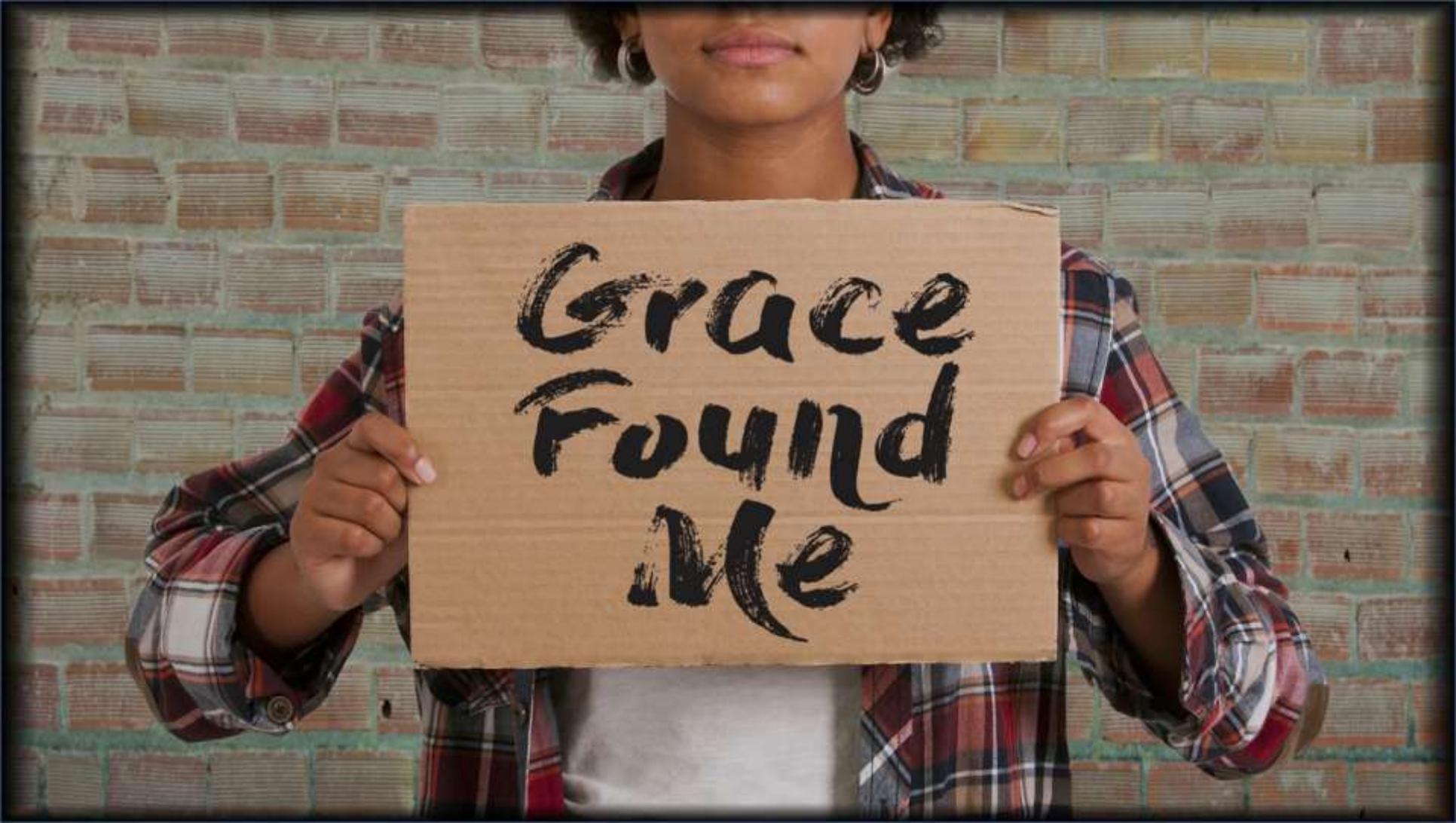
Grace is the basis for:

- **Our participation in God's mission:** As recipients of grace we are privileged to serve as agents of grace. Believers receive grace (Acts 11:23), are encouraged to continue in grace (Acts 13:43), and are called to testify to the grace of God (Acts 20:24). Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21). God's mission is to the entire world.
- **Our future:** God and His grace are everlasting. "Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13)
- **Our hope beyond death:** "grace [reigns] through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:21)

Has Grace found you?

For by grace you have been saved
through faith; and that not of yourselves,
it is the gift of God

Ephesians 2:8

A person with dark curly hair and hoop earrings, wearing a red, white, and blue plaid shirt, holds a rectangular piece of brown cardboard. The cardboard has the words "Grace Found Me" written on it in a thick, black, brush-stroke style font. The person is standing in front of a brick wall with light-colored mortar. The image has a dark, vignetted border.

Grace
Found
Me

Thank you for giving generously to God's work at First Melissa

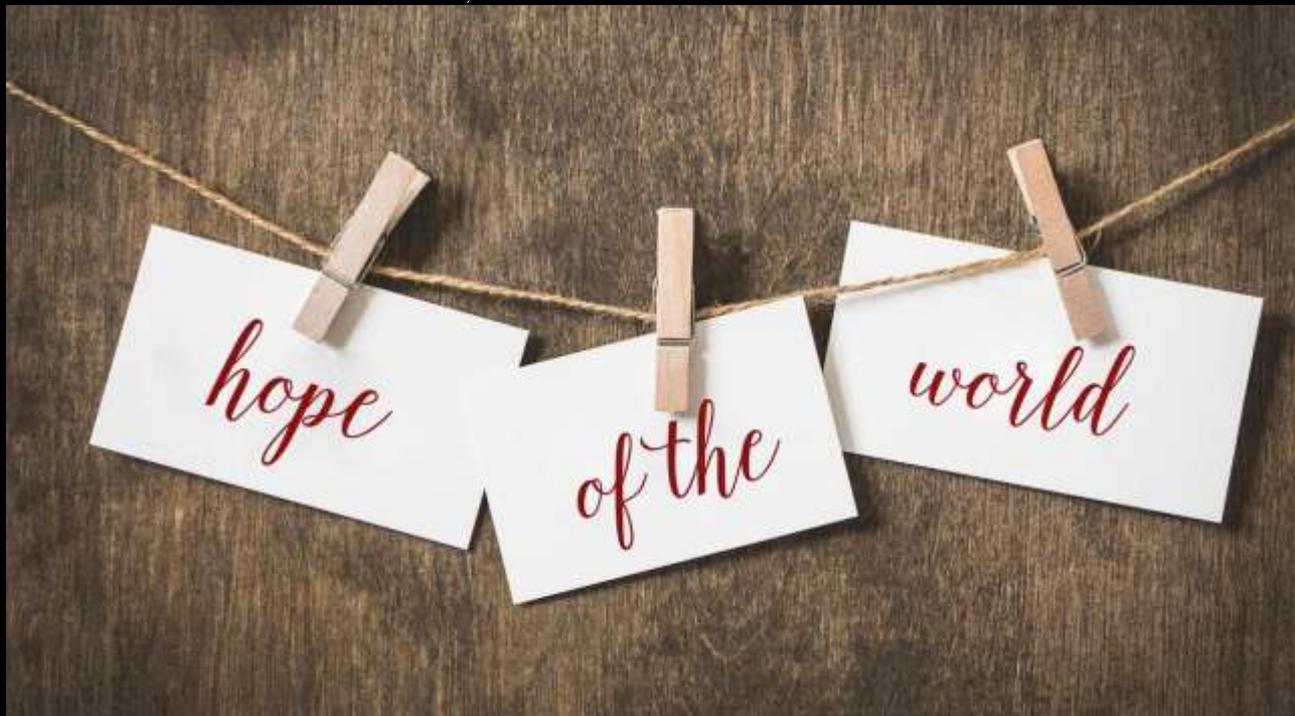
Offering Envelopes located in a chair near you

Offering Baskets will come by at the end of the service

Offering Boxes located near the exit doors



New Christmas teaching series



starting Sunday, December 10