

JUST WORDS

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS



Grace Week of Oct. 1

THE MAIN POINT

Grace is the unmerited favor of God, apart from all our deserving.

KEY TEACHINGS

- Our sinful nature wants to earn or deserve a gift. Therefore, we have a hard time accepting grace.
- We typically give gifts to friends. The radical nature of grace is that he gives a gift to "enemies." Rom. 5:10
- Grace is not cheap, but costly. God's grace only comes by the sacrifice of Jesus.

Weekly Bible Readings

- Monday – Romans 7:1-3
- Tuesday – Romans 7:14-25
- Wednesday – Romans 8:1-11
- Thursday – Romans 8:12-27
- Friday – Romans 8:28-39

Reflect

Q: What is the problem with “do more” and “try harder” versions of Christianity?

Q: Luther writes, “Why does man take pride in his merits and works, which in no way are pleasing to God?” How would you answer that question?

Q: Read Romans 5:1-5. What is the primary message of the Church? Why should that message be primary?

Q: Cheap grace is when we abuse or take for granted the gift that God has given us. What are ways to guard against this? How can we live in response to God's grace?

Key Quotes:

“God saves no one but sinners, he instructs no one but the foolish and stupid, he enriches none but paupers, and he makes alive only the dead; not those who merely imagine themselves to be such but those who really are this kind of people and admit it.” - Martin Luther

“God accepts no man's merits, but has free mercy. He has not put our hope in ourselves, but only in himself, in his mercy.” - Martin Luther

“Pure grace is the free favor of God counter to all man's deserving.” - Martin Franzmann

“The church is in the inn and infirmary for those who are sick and in need of being made well.” - Luther

SERMON NOTES:
