

The Ferocity of Grace

Sunday Morning, May 20, 2012

Thesis:

In Times of Trouble Rely on God's Grace,
Not Only For Ourselves, But For One Another!

Introduction:

Whether Relationally, Socially, Financially, Physically or Spiritually, Each of Us Faces Times of Trouble
Like Living in a Pit! *(Joseph in point I, Daniel)*

(Stand for Reading of Main Text and Prayer?)

I. Are You "Crowded" With Trouble?

(II Corinthians 4: 8-9, 16-18)

8 We are pressured in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair;

9 we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed.

16 Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day.

17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

18 So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Coal Turns to Diamond with Pressure and Heat

(Genesis 37: 12-23)

12 His brothers had gone to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem.

13 Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers, you know, are pasturing the flocks at Shechem. Get ready. I'm sending you to them."

"I'm ready," Joseph replied.

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14 Then Israel said to him, "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

15 A man found him there, wandering in the field, and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

16 "I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph said. "Can you tell me where they are pasturing their flocks?"

17 "They've moved on from here," the man said. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph set out after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 They saw him in the distance, and before he had reached them, they plotted to kill him.

19 They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer!

20 Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We can say that a vicious animal ate him. Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to save him from them. He said, "Let's not take his life."

22 Reuben also said to them, "Don't shed blood. Throw him into this pit in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him"—intending to rescue him from their hands and return him to his father.

23 When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off his robe, the robe of many colors that he had on.

II. Do You Know the "Ferocity" of Grace?

(II Corinthians 12:9)

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me.

"Grace" - Favor of God, Unmerited Benefit

"Sufficient" - Obstructing Ferocity

Examples:

A Missile Fire Interrupted

A Catcher's Mitt

A Firefighter's Life Net

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Throw Yourself on Christ!

(I Peter 5:7)

...casting all your care on Him, because He cares about you.

III. Is "Lifting Weight" A Relief?

(Galatians 6:2)

Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

(Romans 12:15)

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Conclusion:

In Times of Trouble
Rely on God's Grace
Not Only For Ourselves
But For One Another!