

SERMON NOTES

October 14 & 15, 2023

Out of Control: Grace Happens Ephesians 2:8-9

There are two ways to save my life:

Ephesians 2:8-9

Word Study: Saved – Greek “Sozo”: - To be _____ or _____.

1. Performance:

- a. Prove my existence and value by _____ the _____.
- b. I will _____ whatever is at the top of my ladder.
- c. Sin is putting _____ at the top of my Ladder.
- d. I can easily _____ but I am often _____.

Psalm 19:12

2. Grace:

- a. Grace is _____ because on my own, I will never _____.
- b. Grace is a ladder that _____.
- c. The primary expression of grace comes to us when _____.

Romans 8:33 b–34 a

1) Vertical Beam:

- I have a _____.
- Because I am a sinner I have a _____.

Romans 6:23

2) Horizontal Beam

- Jesus _____
- God's _____ for the human race.

John 15:13

Life Steps

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Monday

John 15:13

Reflect: Grace is self-sacrifice and forgiveness, hope, and love extended to people who have done nothing to earn or deserve or merit it. Recall an experience when someone extended grace to you. How did their grace gift impact you?

Prayer: God, thank you for working for the good in my life even though I am not deserving.

Tuesday

Ephesians 2:1-5

Reflect: What does it mean to you to “be saved?” Where in your life do you need an experience of God’s saving grace?

Prayer: God of truth and grace, rescue me and heal me in Jesus name.

Wednesday

Ephesians 2:6-9

Reflect: What is Paul saying regarding the process of being saved from our sins? What is the significance of grace being a gift rather than something earned?

Prayer: Generous God, all of your gifts are good, but nothing is as amazing as your grace. Thank you.

Thursday

Psalms 19:12-13

Reflect: What does the Psalmist say regarding self-critique or self-assessment? What does “hidden faults” mean to you?

Prayer: Perfect and Holy God, reveal and forgive my hidden faults.

Friday

Romans 8:33-34

Reflect: How does this passage help us when we are being judged by others or even ourselves?

Prayer: God of perfect vision, help me to see myself as you see me.

Saturday

Romans 11:1-6

Reflect: What is the difference between the ladder that the world wants us to climb and the ladder that God uses to come down to us? What is at the top of the ladders you are relentlessly climbing? Why are you “really” climbing them?

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your gift of grace, unearned and unmerited, but you freely gave it anyway. Thank you.

Sunday

Romans 6:8-14

Reflect: One of the main words for “sin” in the Bible is “debt.” How does understanding sin as a debt impact your understanding of grace? It is difficult for us to forgive and forget a wrong done to us. In light of God’s gift of grace to us, how will you get better at forgiving others? What will be your “do different” this week in light of God’s gift of grace to you?

Prayer: Loving God, now that I know you are always working for the good in my life, help me to do the same for others, even those who have wronged and hurt me.