

# My Grace Is Sufficient

## - II Corinthians 12:9-10

- **Often times in the church circle, we use phrases & words with very little thought as to what they really mean or how they impact us on a daily basis. For instance ...**
  - The love of God – What does that really mean to you this morning? Is it just the friendly love of some being way beyond our reach? Is it just the love of a Creator caring for His work? Is it a God who feels sorry for us in our pitiful state & shows mercy towards us? Or is it something greater?
  - God knows our needs – Do you really believe that? We are not just talking about financial or health, but even the smallest details in your life, God knows. Every care, every concern, every failure, and every victory, God knows. He knows you this morning, and though I may not know your need or what you are going through today, I know this ... Jesus is the Answer!
  - God's grace is sufficient – In a sermon like this it is easier for us to understand and visualize the grace of God meeting our needs, but we are going much deeper here this morning. I want you to see the grace of God as being all of the resources of an Omnipotent God that are at our disposal in our time of need.
    - Each of us this morning have needs, some great in our eyes, others not as big, but nonetheless they are all important to us.
    - If you take all of our needs & put them together this morning, God's grace is sufficient to supply every need if we will trust in Him, Amen?
    - God has blessed us here in this country, and in this land we have been given an abundance of natural resources.
      - coal, copper, lead, phosphates, uranium, bauxite, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, silver, tungsten, zinc, petroleum, natural gas, timber.
    - Yet as great as these resources are, they are limited as to the needs they can meet & how many they can reach. Yet God's grace has no limits & it's endurance is from everlasting to everlasting.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **God says here in our passage this morning, "My grace is sufficient for thee."**
  - Paul here is enduring a hardship that is not just aggravating or in the way, but it's causing him pain each day. We don't know what this pain was or how long he had dealt with it, but obviously it was affecting him.
  - So Paul does what any child of God would do & he cries out for the Lord to deliver him.
  - Now our immediate thought is, "If God really loved him, he would stop his suffering."
    - The problem is, our thoughts are not God's thoughts & how can we be sure that relieving him would in fact be best for Him.
    - God sees the bigger picture, not just in Paul's life, but in each of our lives. And so after three requests from His faithful servant, God gives Paul a promise, a promise that each of us can claim today, His grace is sufficient.
  - So how did Paul respond to this? He changed his view of his suffering! No longer did he see his suffering as a setback. With the grace of God on his side, he actually saw his suffering as something that was worthy to praise God for.
    - "I would rather have a thorn in my side with the abundance of God's grace, than to have no problems at all & be without the mighty grace of God.
    - So immediately, he stopped grumbling & begin praising God.

- **You hear people talk about the sufficiency of God's grace, but you don't really fully appreciate it until you have tested it.**

## **I. God's Grace Is Sufficient In The Hour Of Salvation**

- Folks, don't forget, Paul had not always been Paul. At one time he was known as Saul of Tarsus, one of the most wicked & well-known accusers of the believers.
  - Paul at one time hated Christians & their Christ. His blood boiled when they talked of new converts & he despised the very mention of Jesus name.
  - His desire was not only to make them pay for being a Christian, but more than that, he desired to stamp Christianity out once and for all.
- But God had other plans. Over in the book of Acts chapter 22 we read that finally Jesus brought Saul to his knees.
  - The Bible tells us that He blinded Paul's eyes, but in the same manner caused him to see better than he had ever saw before. Now he could see spiritually.
  - His entire life, Saul had never saw his sin the way that he could clearly see it now. And in a moment Paul's sins would be forgiven if he would just place his trust in Christ.
    - This morning, if you will trust Christ & His sacrifice for your sins, you too can be forgiven & have the promise of eternal life.
    - "But Pastor, you don't know what I have done." That may be true, but let me give you a little insight into Saul's life.
      - He hated Christians & persecuted them.
      - He sought to cast them into prison for their faith.
      - He & his gang would even seek out to kill Christians.
    - Yet as great as his sins were, God's grace was greater.
  - If you are here this morning & you are not sure if Christ can forgive your sins, let me remind you of this one verse:
    - Romans 5:20 – "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"
  - In that moment of trust, Paul passed from death unto life. The grace of God reached down & saved him, and that same grace can save you unto the uttermost if you will trust Him in faith today.
- His Grace is Sufficient For Your Salvation

## **II. God's Grace Is Sufficient In The Hour Of Sin**

- I don't believe this will surprise anyone here today, but Christians are NOT perfect people. We sin often & we find ourselves coming short of God's plan for our lives more often than we should.
- If you are a Christian this morning, this is no excuse for sin, its just a fact.
  - We should be striving to be more like Christ, we should be desiring to get any wicked sin out of our lives, but it is a constant fight in man's soul.
  - And this truth remains, if a Christian has sin in their lives, you are not content with it nor are you satisfied to let it remain in your life.
    - When Peter denied Jesus, something he said he would NEVER do, Satan had him discouraged, but he wasn't defeated. Why? Because he didn't belong to Satan anymore, he belonged to God.
    - And Peter wasn't happy with his sin. He didn't stay in his sin because we see him crying out, "Lord, I'm sorry. You know I love you!"

- We too like Peter should not be content in our sin. As a Christian, though we may fall, we should be quick to find our knees & seek repentance from our Heavenly Father.
  - I John 1:9
- When David fell & sinned against God, we find him crying out to God for forgiveness.
  - Psalm 32:1-5 – “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: ... I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”
- When David confessed his sin unto God, forgiveness came down like rain from Heaven & covered him & washed him of his sin.
- If you are here this morning, you may be saved, but there is sin that is draining the joy & peace from your life, there is forgiveness this morning & it’s available to all those who call out to Him.

○ Even more so as a child of God, God’s Grace Is Sufficient In The Hour Of Sin.

### **III. God’s Grace Is Sufficient In The Hour Of Suffering**

- Paul was placed in a Philippian prison one day.
  - They beat him until his back was dripping with blood.
  - They locked him in stocks & chained him to a guard.
  - All this for proclaiming the Gospel message & serving God.
- What about in the midst of suffering? Is God’s Grace Sufficient even in those times?
  - Acts 16:25-26 – “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed.”
- There is a story of President Theodore Roosevelt coming home from Africa on a hunting trip & as the ship entered the bay, they rolled out the red carpet, rang the bells, the people were shouting, “Welcome Home!” and they made a huge deal of the President come home from his trip. On that same ship was a missionary who had the Lord in Africa over 50 years. He had lost his wife, lost his children, and he was exhausted & worn out, but there was no one to greet him, no red carpet, no bells. When he arrived at his hotel room, he fell to his knees beside his bed and cried, “Lord, I don’t want to complain, but I have given my life to you. I have served you & even suffered for your sake. Yet when I come home, there was no one to greet me & welcome me home.” The missionary said the Lord spoke to his heart these words ... “Son, you’re not home yet.”
- This world may never stand with us in our stand for the cross, the trials & troubles of this life may discourage us from time to time; but listen, we’re not home yet.

➤ **You don’t know this morning when the hour of suffering will come your way; but remember this, His Grace Is Sufficient!**

- Whether it’s salvation,
- Whether it’s sin,
- Or perhaps trouble has overcome your life today, Jesus is the Answer!