

## Piece of Work

### Begin service with reading Ephesians 1:2

Have you ever been called or called another "a piece of work?" According to today's text, you are a piece of work, but in a very positive way.

We are talking about the grace of God today.

### What grace is NOT:

- Simply a prayer before a meal  
**1 Timothy 4:3-5** ...foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.
- Only cultural sophistication or elegance
- The ability to miserably tolerate an intolerable situation
- License to sin
- Cheap
- Cop-out from assuming responsibility or to avoid spiritual disciplines
- The absence of challenge or effort

**Grace is the power and ability of God made freely available to his children**

### Ephesians 2:1-10

### Five Expressions of Grace

#### Saving Grace

#### Sanctifying Grace

- Titus 2:11-12
- God's power & ability to purify & enable us live holy lives in this corrupt world

#### Strengthening Grace

- **Romans 5:17** For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- God's power & ability to energize and inspire us to live victoriously and to reign over challenges

#### Giving Grace

- **2 Corinthians 9:8** God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.
- God's power and ability to meet our needs and take joy in giving to others

#### Ministry Grace

- **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

### Grace is the DNA of God

- DNA is the molecule that resides in each of the hundred trillion cells in your body.

- Each strand of DNA contains the blueprint that enables your body to live, develop and function.
- The genetic code we received from our parents determined our hair color, height body frame, etc.
- As a child of God we receive our spiritual DNA from God.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ.

## Close

- We began the service by reading **Ephesians 1:2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- God's grace strengthens us to live victoriously above circumstances and empowers us to live holy lives and equips us with gifts for ministry.
- Paul also finished his letter with **Ephesians 6:24** Grace be with all those who live our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

## Piece of Work Study Guide

How do you define "grace?"

Read Ephesians 1:2 & Ephesians 6:24

- ▲ What significance do you find in the fact that Paul began and ended his letter with an extension of God's grace to the readers?
- ▲ Is it possible that you do not give enough thought to the power of God's grace?
- ▲ How can you gain greater faith in God's grace?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- ▲ What does it mean to "sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus?"
- ▲ What does it mean to be "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works?"
- ▲ We are saved by grace through faith, not of works. How is this different than being "created for good works?"
- ▲ Good works do not save us. Yet, we are saved unto good works. Is this a contradiction?

Read Titus 2:11-14

- ▲ What does grace teach us according to this passage?
- ▲ How does grace make us zealous for good works?