Building A Healthy Church

Ephesians 3:1-13

New Life
CHURCH CRAWLEY

2 Tim 1:7 *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."*

Amplified Version: *"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of sound judgment and personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control]."*

THE GRACE OF GOD MEANS WE HAVE ***COURAGE TO LIVE FOR JESUS***

- 1st Roman imprisonment, approximately AD 60 and 62.
- under house arrest while awaiting trial for 2 full years
- Even some among Caesar's household came to faith (Philippians 4:22).
- During this time, Paul wrote four letters which are now part of the New Testament: Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, and this letter to the Ephesians.

COURAGE IN IMPRISONMENT….

- Paul also asked that his readers not be discouraged by his imprisonment (Eph 3:13).
- Twice in this letter, Paul reminded his readers that he was a prisoner (Eph. 3:1; 4:1).
- At the close he called himself an “ambassador in chains” (Eph. 6:20).

WHY IMPORTANT?

- The orthodox Jews in Paul's day considered the Gentiles "dogs," but some of the Christian Jews did not have a much better attitude toward the Gentiles. (Gal 2:11-21)

- Paul began his early ministry in a local church in Antioch that was racially mixed (Acts 11:19–26).

- Paul courageously defended the grace of God and the unity of the church (Acts 15; Gal. 2:1–10).

Pauls own experience was that courage was needed: 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:9

- flogged severely at least 5 times
- been exposed to death again and again.
- three times beaten with rods, once pelted with stones,
- three times shipwrecked, spent a night and a day in the open sea,
- constantly on the move.
- in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.
- worked hard and have often gone without sleep;
- known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food;
- been cold and naked.
- besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.
- Who is weak, and I do not feel weak?

THE GRACE OF GOD MEANS WE HAVE COURAGE
TO LET OTHERS LIVE FOR JESUS

Ephesians 3:6 *"And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews.... are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus."*

Ephesians 3:10 *"God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety..."*

There should be no national, racial, political, physical, or social distinctions in the church!

Galatians 3:28-29

"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you."

How does this work out in practise?

- Paul's advice in Romans 14 - not look down on others v3, not condemn v3,
- idea of discounting as unimportant, & to criticise by making negative assumptions
- variety of people: rich/poor, old/young, radicals/ conservative, extravert/introverts

REAL ISSUE - ACCEPTANCE

Romans 14 “because we are the Lord's”! X7 times

Goes against culture of individualism!

THE GRACE OF GOD MEANS WE HAVE COURAGE TO BE OURSELVES

There are new riches available to the followers of Christ:

- “the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us” (Eph. 2:7),

- “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph. 3:8).

“endless treasures” available to them in Christ.

The words can also be translated “unfathomable, untraceable,” which means that they are so vast you cannot discover their end.

Paul made it clear that he himself had no special claim on God's wealth, for he considered himself "less than the least of all saints" (Eph. 3:8).

The name Paul (Paulus) means "little" in Latin, and perhaps Paul bore this name because he realized how insignificant he really was (Acts 13:9).

He called himself "the least of the apostles" (1 Cor. 15:9).

BUT not a low self self esteem - Paul had a healthy view of himself

1 Cor 15:10 *“I am what I am by the grace of God”*

“But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favour on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.”

CONCLUSION:
HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

EMBRACE GRACE

Zechariah 4:6-7 courage to move forward is not by your own strength/power –

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty. 'What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of "God bless it! God bless it!"'

Literally – GRACE TO IT! GRACE TO IT!

CONCLUSION:
HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

- EMBRACE GRACE

EMBRACE EVANGELISM

I AM ANDREW……..INVITES

HOPE EXPLORED – APRIL 2022

Vision: TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE IN JESUS

New Life
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CONCLUSION:
HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

- EMBRACE GRACE
- EMBRACE EVANGELISM

EMBRACE EMPOWERING

The Holy Spirit is Gods empowering presence in our lives, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit

NEED PRAYER TODAY?
Please join us at the front.
Filling of Holy Spirit Acts 4:8,31
(Boldness to preach)

GARAGE
1 STOREY
EXIST.
RETAINING
WALL
NEW
INTERLOCKING
BLOCK
RETAINING
WALL
AREA OF
TABLE LAND
478.085S.M.
1 STOREY
ADDITION
4.87M
FIN. FL.=100.00
GRENVIEW BLVD.
STOREY DWELLING
13.74M
EXIST.
BUILDING
2 STOREY
ADDITION
EXIST.
DECK
TO BE
DEMOLISHED
7.76M
NEW
INTERLOCKING
BLOCK
RETAINING
WALL
NEW
STORE
ADDITION
8'x12'
EXIST.
SHED
EXIST.
RETAINING
WALL
52.90M
FRONT
PORCH
ACTUAL
GRADE
ELEVATIONS
SHOWN IN
METRES
DRIVEWAY
11.28M EXIST.
FRONT
SETBACK