

Times of Greater Grace Series: 7

Acts 4.33

Grace: An Anchor of Hope for Our Soul

*“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.”*

In this series we have been looking at various aspects of grace. We have already seen

- What grace is
- We have grace to help us in our times of need
- Grace is all sufficient for every trial
- It will exalt us and raise us up
- It is abounding in measure to conquer sin.

This brings us to another aspect of grace - it gives us hope for the future. Grace is an anchor of hope for our soul.

An anchor secures a vessel so that it is not tossed about by the waves. Grace is given to us by the Lord and secures our position. Last time we saw three characteristics of abounding grace that secure our position in Christ.

- Sin brought condemnation but grace brings pardon
- Sin brought a life of sinfulness but grace brings righteousness
- Sin brought death but grace brings life

2 Thessalonians 2.15-16

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace ”

This verse tells us that grace gives us good hope. We are to stand strong and keep the faith (standing on the traditions (teachings) of the word – the message proclaimed and written word). While we are standing strong His grace will come and give us hope. It is an anchor for our soul

Bible hope is more than just wishing for or desiring something. Unlike English where we use it in this very weakened form, the hope that we read of in the Scriptures is a strong 'confident expectation', it is akin to faith, they go together and have been called 'the power twins'

Romans 4.16-22

Grace gave Abraham hope for the future – this whole chapter is dealing with the subject of grace, hope and faith in the life of Abraham.

This grace that Abraham received enabled him to stand in faith for the promise. It was his anchor that God would perform what He had promised him.

Abraham did not waver through unbelief (v20), he did not stagger at the promise but was fully convinced (v21) that God would keep His promise even when in the natural everything was against him (v18).

He took his stand on the word of promise, he believed what God said and grace gave him the hope to anchor in to what God had said until he received the promise of God.

Romans 5.1-5

Paul goes on to say that like Abraham we too are justified by faith and we have access by faith into this same grace – grace that gives us hope and a reason to rejoice. We have a great future. We began this year by saying that this is the year of the greater – we can see and do greater things because of the grace that God has given us. The grace that gives us hope to stand on the promises of God and anchor into them. This hope does not disappoint – what we hope for we shall certainly obtain (see Philipians 1.20)

Paul goes on to develop this theme by saying that we will be saved from wrath through Jesus, and he also goes on to the things we were looking at last week – where sin abounded, grace abounded more!

Titus 3.7

Paul writes in his letter to Titus that this grace and hope makes us heirs of eternal life. We have a glorious future, we are inheritors of eternal life, heirs of God, joint heirs with Jesus (Romans 8.17) because of grace. Grace gives us an anchor for our salvation - see Titus 2.11-14

Ezra 9.8

“And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage”

Ezra recounts how God had dealt with them

- God gave grace to His people while in captivity. They had forsaken the commandments and laws of God – and as God had said previously, they were taken out of their land.
- The 'peg in His holy place' was the remnant of people that hadn't been taken into captivity but left in Jerusalem. Grace was at work here to give them hope. The picture/allusion here is of a tent peg which anchors the tent to the ground.
- This grace brought them hope that God would visit and revive them in their time of bondage and bring them back to their own land.
- God eventually brought them back (vs9)