

i have no idea where we might be headed today as i try to reach out and speak what the Lord would have me to expound. if it's not from the Lord then it is just hot air. my hot air. and that profits no one anything. i had a couple of ideas last night where it might be headed. first was to talk about religiousity. it is not religion that our God is seeking but a relationship. and He wants it with us; the creation in His own image. but i think that is not it.

the second idea was prosperity. so many preachers today want to emphasis prosperity. indeed the Lord does want His people to prosper. but His prosperity is measured by spiritual growth and the fruit in one's life. it is not by the money we accumulate, though money itself is not evil. it is the love of money. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 tim 6:10 some people can handle riches while other let riches handle them. but i think that is not it either.

i think it is the grace of God. it is His mercy that enables us to lift our eyes and open our hearts to Him. though we often use them interchangeably, their meaning is different. they are like two sides of the same coin. the greek word for grace is Charis, meaning favor, while mercy is Elos meaning compassion and pity. it is His compassion on us that allows His favor to be extended. and believe me, it is unmerited favor we all receive. and yes, it has to be received. embrace it with all your strength for it is the issues of life which flow from it.

there are none that are able to say that they have earned this reward by their own merits. the word says "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." rom 3:23 if one spent their whole life doing good, it would still not be enough. there remains a debt that must be paid. that debt can only be paid by One who was born without sin. there is a sin nature we all inherited from the one who birthed us all. but there is One who was birthed by a power that remained unstained by sin. it is His nature that we inherit as we are born again into a new beginning.

His grace and mercy is waiting for us all. He is that Father that rushes to greet the prodigal son that has gone astray. His forgiveness knows no limits for the one who recognizes how fall they have fallen and displays a heart of true repentance. that means they are ready to turn from their ways and embrace His ways. to please Him becomes your purpose. no longer the thing which pleases your own fancy. to such a one He will pour out an abundance of joy and fulfillment. He will be there to catch us when we stumble and fall. and we all will.

seek now to know this God who seeks to know you. it will change your life to something meaningless and fill it with His wonders. He does not dole out His treasures to those who only dig shallow. one must dig deep to reach His richest items. it will cost more than many are willing to give.

that doesn't mean they will not taste the goodness of His salvation. to know His riches will require a

hunger that is never satisfied. it will be a giving of that which you can never keep for that which you can never lose. "whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it." luke 17:33

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