**Finding Grace**

**A Savior of Grace**

**The Grace of Sufficiency**

**Hebrews 4:14-16** - *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Psalm 119:105** - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

3 ways Jesus demonstrated His sufficiency

**I. Our Sufficient Savior Allowed Himself to be Examined by Eyewitnesses**

A. He was willing to take on a human body…

**v. 14** – *…and the Word became flesh…*

1. So that He could be tempted in all points, yet without sin.

**Hebrews 4:15b** - *… One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

2. So that He could sympathize with our weakness.

**Hebrews 4:15** - *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

**Hebrews 5:8** - *Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.*

3. So that He could die on the cross in our place as a substitutionary atonement for our sin.

**Colossians 1:21-22** - *And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach…*

B. He was willing to live with people.

**John 1:14** - *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**1 John 1:1-3** - *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also…*

C. He revealed God’s character in ways only God’s Son could accomplish.

**John 1:14** - *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father…*

**John 1:16** - *For of His fullness have we all received…*

“Islam affirms of Jesus that He was a prophet, a miracle-worker, sinless, virgin-born, and the Messiah. However, it flatly denies Jesus’ deity, crucifixion, and resurrection (Sura 4:171, 157). Christianity regards these doctrines as not only important but absolutely essential for doctrinal soundness and even for salvation (John 1:1-5; Col. 2:9, 1 Cor. 15:3-8, 17-22).” (Gunn, p. 17)

**II. Our Sufficient Savior Told us the Truth about Our Moral Condition**

A. Darkness has to be exposed, starting with our own.

**John 1:5** - *The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

B. That was the point of John the Baptist’s ministry

**Matthew 3:7-8** - *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance…”*

**John 1:29** - *The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*

C. The more we acknowledge the depravity of man (starting with ourselves), the more we will see our desperate need for God’s sufficient grace.

**John 1:16** - *For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.*

**III. Our Sufficient Savior was (and is) Full of Grace and Truth**

**John 1:17-18** - *For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*

A. Some chose to reject His grace.

**John 1:11** - *He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

B. Others chose to accept His gift of grace because they acknowledged their desperate need.

**John 1:12** - *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name…*

1. We affirm that many unspeakable evils have been perpetrated in the name of Christianity.

2. We encourage persons genuinely interested in the Crusades to study the original source documents.

3. We acknowledge that “Many Muslims (including, at present, the majority of Muslims in America) oppose militaristic interpretations of jihad and view the actions of these terrorist groups as moral atrocities.” (Gunn, p. 17)

4. We affirm that many terrorists are operating off of their brand of Muslim faith and their actions cannot be understood or defeated apart from that acknowledgement.

5. We believe our gracious Savior taught a clear separation of church and state and we therefore, do not want or expect the state to accomplish the church’s mission.

**Matthew 22:21** - *They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.”*

6. We believe our gracious Savior taught us to never impose our religious beliefs on others by force.

**John 18:36** - *Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”*

7. We believe God instituted government, that we have clear responsibilities to it, and it has clear responsibilities to its citizens.

8. We reject superficial substitutes that fail to recognize the depravity of man and our desperate need for grace.

9. We celebrate the grace and truth of our sufficient Savior and seek to relate to others in a similar fashion.