**Finding Grace**

**Our Savior of Grace**

**The Grace of Evidence**

**Hebrews 4:16** - *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.*

**1 Peter 2:23** - …*and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously…*

**2 Corinthians 8:9** - *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*

3 ways God’s grace goes the extra mile

**I. Through Fulfilled Prophecy**

A. Powerful examples

1. The Old Testament promised that the Savior would be betrayed by an intimate friend (Psalm 41:9).

* Jesus was betrayed by the kiss of one of His disciples (Matthew 26:48-49).

2. The Old Testament promised that the Savior would be totally innocent (Isaiah 53:9).

* When Pontius Pilate condemned Jesus to die he said, “I find no basis for a charge against Him” (John 18:38).

3. The Old Testament promised that the Savior would be mocked (Psalm 22:7-8).

* Jesus was blindfolded, spat upon, insulted, slapped around, and crowned with thorns (Mark 15:16-20).

4. The Old Testament promised that the Savior would be counted as a criminal (Isaiah 53:12).

* Jesus was crucified with two criminals, one on His right and the other on His left (Luke 23:32-33).

5. The Old Testament promised that the Savior would have His hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16).

* When Jesus was crucified, nails were driven through His hands and His feet (John 19:18).

6. The Old Testament promised that wicked men would gamble for the Savior’s clothes (Psalm 22:1).

* The soldiers who crucified Jesus “divided up His clothes by casting lots” (Luke 23:34).

7. The Old Testament promised that the Savior would be God-forsaken (Psalm 22:1).

* Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

8. The Old Testament promised that His bones would not be broken (Psalm 34:20).

* A sword pierced Jesus in the side, but His bones were left unbroken (John 19:31-36).

9. The Old Testament promised that He would be buried in a rich man’s tomb (Isaiah 53:9).

* Jesus was buried in the garden tomb of a nobleman named Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57-60).

10. The Old Testament promised that the Savior would experience great thirst (Psalm 22:14-15).

* Jesus said, “to fulfill the Scripture, ‘I am thirsty’” (John 19:28).

**John 1:14-16** - *…we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth…For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.*

B. Which explains the confidence and authority given to followers of Christ

**II. Undeniable Evidence**

A. Everything that happened already on Easter Sunday

B. His visit to the disciples without Thomas

1. His entrance

**John 20:19** - *So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst…*

2. His assurance

***v. 19*** *- …Peace be to you…*

3. His display

**John 20:20** - *And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.*

4. His provision

**John 20:22** - *And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

“As the resurrection of Christ is an historical fact, it is to be proved by historical evidence. The apostle therefore appeals to the testimony of competent witnesses…To render such testimony irresistible it is necessary:”

1. That the fact to be proved should be of a nature to admit of being certainly known.

2. That adequate opportunity be afforded to the witnesses to ascertain its nature, and to be satisfied of its verity.

3. That the witnesses be of sound mind and discretion.

4. That they be men of integrity.

“If these conditions be fulfilled, human testimony establishes the truth of a fact beyond reasonable doubt. If, however, in addition to these grounds of confidence, the witnesses give their testimony at the expense of great personal sacrifice, or confirm it with their blood…then it is insanity and wickedness to doubt it. All these considerations concur in proof of the resurrection of Christ, and render it the best authenticated event in the history of the world.” (Charles Hodges)

**John 20:24-25** - *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”*

**III. Through Patient Repetition**

A. What do we know about Thomas?

“…was the eternal pessimist…a melancholy person who had the uncanny knack for finding the cloud in every silver lining.” (John MacArthur, Commentary on John, p. 384)

1. At the raising of Lazarus

**John 11:14-15** - *So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.”*

**John 11:16** - *Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.”*

2. In the upper room

**John 14:1-4** - *“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.”*

**John 14:5** - *Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”*

B. Jesus’ grace to him

**John 20:26-27** - *After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”*

**John 20:28** - *Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”*

**John 20:29** - *Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”*

**Hebrews 11:1-2** - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.*

C. Take-aways for people like you and me

1. If you have not yet trusted Christ…

2. For Christians regarding the way we think about our God…

3. For Christians regarding the way we seek to glorify the Lord…

4. For Christians regarding the way they seek to relate to and minister to others…