

God's Grace and Your Past|THE PILLAR|Part 4

1 Timothy 1:12-14

The difference between the law and the gospel is the difference between fatih and works, life and death, freedom and bondage, and truth and error. This is exactly what Paul wanted Timothy to guard: the truth that leads to life. It's proclaimed beautifully in this poem by John Bunyan:

Run, John run the law commands
But gives us neither feet nor hands.

Far greater news the gospel brings:
It bids us fly and gives us wings.

1. What has the law exposed in your life? How do you see your heart, your actions, your thoughts and your words in light of the law? What does Paul say to all of us in Romans 3:10-12?
2. Since the law is wonderfully hopeless, demonstrating our absolute depravity, what does grace produce in your heart?
3. Grace produces gratitude. The more we understand what God has done and the more our hearts and our eyes are set upon Him (the higher our view of God), the more our hearts should be filled with gratitude. What are you grateful for your in your life? Would your family and friends say you are a grateful person or a grumbling person? Why? What is it that they see?
4. The Law makes a person realize how bad he or she is, and the gosepl makes a person realize how kind and merciful God is. Is your life impacted by the grace of God? How so?
5. Grace simply defined is getting something you don't deserve. What is your personal definition of grace? How does this play out in your daily life? Who encounters God's grace in your life? Does your life demonstrate graceful living? How so? Who never sees or expereinces God's grace in your life?
6. Paul understood everything good thing in his life was undeserved. We live in a culture that breeds entitlement. What do you truly deserve? How should this impact your understanding and your experience of God's grace?
7. How can you daily remind yourself of the Truth that the shame of the past is eclipsed by the mercy of God? Remember that the past is still there, but the past is not Supreme! God, through Christ, rescued you from your yourself.
8. What is God's plan for your life and how do you see Him working that plan out? When did he strengthen you to understand the Good News of the Gospel?
9. How are you using your past as a platform to show the beauty of God's grace today? How are others seeing God's grace in your life each and every day?