

Home Group Notes
Week of September 11, 2022
2 Corinthians 6:1-13



HOME GROUP NOTES

Welcome. We are in fresh times of doing life and mission together. Pastor Doug Baker gave us a vision for this season. We're calling it, "Journeying Together with Jesus toward Transformation." "Together" is an essential part of being in a Home Group. It is our desire to follow Jesus' example and instructions for how we can encourage and care for one another as we draw closer to God.

Our view of the Bible, the Scriptures, is very high. One of our core values is, "The Bible is God's story, given to transform you and to be the authority in your life." We believe that God oversaw the writing of every word of the Bible, and that these words are essential for us to know, love, and follow Jesus. So, we treasure the Bible, believing that God is speaking to us. We consider them to be the words of God.

If you are not yet in a Home Group community, please know that we have a place for you. Just go online to our website, www.trinityonline.org and sign-up under "Home Groups."

ABOUT HOME GROUP NOTES

The "Home Group Notes" will commonly have multiple parts:

- 1) Conversation starters on the focus of the week
- 2) Questions and suggestions to help you look into and learn from the Scriptures
- 3) Suggestions for you and your friends to discuss how we might apply what we read
- 4) Prayer requests from the Trinity family and our serving teams

CONVERSATION STARTER

This week's focus is about "the grace of God." What do you think it means to live out the grace of God? How is this opposite of some things that we are seeing in America?

OUR CURRENT SERIES

We are currently walking through the book called "Second Corinthians" (2 Corinthians). This was a letter written by Paul, an early leader and writer, to the Christ followers in Corinth, a city in Greece. He has been addressing an important issue of their day. While they were a local church that had had some serious problems, they were at least following Paul's instructions. But something happened that people were drifting from allegiance to what God had revealed to Paul. Much of this letter was written to reestablish his credentials as an "apostle" and teacher. As Paul is revealing his reasons for them to reestablish their relationship, we can learn and consider with self-examination what it means to live as one who is following the Lord Jesus.

LET'S LEARN FROM THE BIBLE, GOD'S REVEALED WORD

Read through 2 Corinthians 6:1-13. Consider the questions to help discover what it means and how it applies to your own life.

What actions does Paul urge the Corinthians to take in this passage? (vs. 1, 13) How might they be connected?

In verse two, Paul refers to a passage in the book of Isaiah (49:8). As always, he urged people to receive the grace of God that leads to salvation. He also reminded them that this had happened in their lives – that God provided a time for them to know and receive salvation by grace.

- Q. Do I share Paul's passion to help others know the grace of God? Is this something that feels urgent in my life?
- Q. What do you think it means to "not receive the grace of God in vain?"

Paul shared what this looked like in his own life in verses 3-10. We, too, are all called to live and bear the fruit of a life changed by the grace of God. This doesn't mean that everything we see in Paul's life should also be in ours. But much of the same attitudes and actions should be true of us. Consider the following thoughts and questions that we can ask of our own lives:

- Paul said, "³We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way."
 - If I examine my own life, am I living to do whatever is needed to help other people come to know and follow Jesus? Am I living with integrity and transparency that lends credibility to my choice to follow Jesus?
- Paul said, "⁴in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger."
 - If I examine my own life, am I willing to suffer for the sake of Jesus and the gospel? Or am I like most Americans, living for my own comfort and pleasure?
- Paul said, "⁶in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love"
 - Could I say the same things about how I treat others? Would people say that I am known for my kindness and love?
- Paul said, "⁷in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything."
 - Paul's mission was very specific – to take the gospel to those who were not Jewish. This called for great sacrifice, fearless speech and actions, and the constant experience of rejection. While we were not given his mission, we live in a world that is lost, watching, sometimes attacking, and judging us from a worldly perspective.
 - Am I living as a person who has received the gift of salvation by the grace of God? Am I trusting the power of the Holy Spirit to give me truthful speech, to trust God with the results, and willing to face the rejection and hatred of the world?

In summary, Paul said, “As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.” Am I living as someone who has “received the grace of God, living in God’s favor?” Is this being lived out in my daily life?

Paul next addressed the people very personally and passionately: “We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians . . . I speak as to my children.” This is the only place that Paul calls them by name, “Corinthians,” and reminds them that it was he who helped them to know Jesus. What was Paul’s request (plea)? What weight did he add to the request?

Why, do you think, that this description of Paul’s action and attitudes (3-10) follows his call to not “receive the grace of God in vain?” (v. 1) What might have been Paul’s aim? How are these connected?

DISCUSSION

About nine years ago, the Trinity Church family studied and discussed a challenging book by David Platt. He asked questions and added statements of self-evaluation. Some found this to be an unwanted challenge. I believe that it is healthy to examine oneself, not wanting to live in vain. This week’s questions are difficult for all of us. The church in America is often stuck in a ‘come and watch on Sunday’ mode. This is nothing like the example of Paul in this chapter.

How do you feel about such questions? (see above)

What are some ways that we can view and respond to Paul’s call in verse one?

Paul’s appeal in v. 13 should inform us of the importance of opening our hearts to one another and living in His grace together. How can we do that? What might it look like? How can we go beyond the shallow and isolated lives to intimacy with God and one another?

HOW WILL YOU APPLY THIS?

Reserve some time this week to consider the questions of self-examination. God wants you to live in the fullness of His grace and to bring this grace to others. Ask God to help you to know and live in His grace.

PRAYER NEEDS

- Pray for your group’s Global Partners
- Pray for our Elders, Pastors, and Directors as they pray and seek God’s direction
- Pray for our Young Adults as they follow God’s call to grow deeper and reach wider