

-Hebrews 10:22-25 "Grace Living"

- Intro: What are the practicalities of living by grace? What does a covenantal understanding of God's redemptive plan produce in our lives? What does the religion of the mediator look like in practice?

- Main idea: The law(s) of God in the heart is Christ in the heart through God's forgiveness and righteousness, by grace and faith alone, in Christ alone, according to the promise of the New Covenant.

- 1) Grace empowers us to live in sincerity of heart, namely, to confess who we are in light of God's judgment and grace. We can confess the worst of us yet believing God's best for us; we can confess the depth of our sin yet identifying with the riches of God's grace in Christ!
- 2) Grace communicates assurance based on Christ's person and work; faith provides ears and eyes to see our assurance in God's promises fulfilled in Christ. To believe is to trust with assurance in Christ alone. It means to rest with confidence on Christ for us before God without our works!
- 3) Grace transforms by the conscience cleansing power of God's acquittal and loving verdict in Christ. The legal law of our acquittal grounds the moral reference of our conscience and shapes the relational bonds of our affections. Justification grounds and launches sanctification!
- 4) Grace nourishes hearts and activates bodies through word and sacraments. God keeps working in our lives to help us persevere by regular participation in the means of grace; namely, to feed on Christ for us: His forgiveness, righteousness, and riches for us in union with Christ freely!
- 5) Grace provides doctrinal understanding of God's story for us in Christ. We are gathered together on the basis of the good gospel confession. God's fellowship in Christ is not around some common practices or behaviors but around a common doctrinal confession of faith!
- 6) Grace disciplines us into worship and service in gratitude and good works. While we are saved personally and individually, we worship and disciple in community. We are liberated inside out to pursue a life of worship and service for mutual edification in God's Kingdom!
- 7) Grace looks back and forward to Christ in His passion and new creation for us. Our faith in Christ compels us forward with the living and empowering life of Christ on our behalf as the promise and new direction of our lives. The final verdict and blessing of the future has dawned on us through God's fulfillment of all promise in Christ!

-Reflection: What motivates and guides my Christian life? Am I being renewed daily in the midst of struggles and temptation in the free pardon and righteousness of Christ? Where do I run for validation and significance in life and before God? What are competing sources of validation in my life next to Christ? How do they enslave me to sin, the flesh, and the pride of life? Am I growing in preoccupation with self- pride, reputation, and validation or less concerned with self amid regular ordinary service to those around me? Are God's people and our future together part of my life, hope, and expectations?