



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

January 11-17, 2021

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Week 1: Sermon Series from *Grace Still Works* by Pete Moon

Introduction; Chapter 1

Sermon Title: "Grace Still Works"

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| <p>Notes from sermon on 01/10:</p> | <p>Things For Which to Pray This Week:</p> |
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Family Focus Question:

Do you believe that God's grace can actually work?
Can it actually change things when other attempts fail?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Have you found grace to be transformational for you? How?
2. How do you define grace? What is it? What is it not?
3. How does grace make the Christian faith different from all other world religions?

Monday, January 11: Read Hebrews 2:1-4

This week we begin preparing for a very unique sermon series for Reveille, in a very unique way. We have the honor of reading the book *Grace Still Works* by our own lead pastor, Pete Moon, and preparing for a five-week series covering each chapter each week. We have the opportunity to read one chapter each week in advance of each sermon, as well as prepare our hearts and minds every day by reading supporting scriptures through the GPS.

Yes, this is a little extra homework, and it could not come at a more important time. In a time when we are tempted to either throw our hands up in despair or try to take matters into our own hands in frustration (and futility), we have the honor and privilege of turning to the one thing that sets Christianity apart from all other faiths: *grace*. In the words of the writer of Hebrews, we must not "ignore so great a salvation." Grace is what will get us, our world, our country, and our congregation through this difficult time. Grace is the powerful force actively at work in our world. When we understand grace in a focused

way, particularly through the gospel, we will not only find the power that we have so desperately been looking for, but also discern a transformative way to shape our world and our church.

Tuesday, January 12: Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Are we ready to boast about what God is doing? In a time when we see so much human weakness – in others and in ourselves – this passage from Paul reminds us that we can be more confident than ever that God is at work. We don't have to worry about having all of the answers right now. We may often find ourselves in a similar position to the Midlothian congregation Pete describes in the introduction of *Grace Still Works* – unsure of what to do and unable to articulate a coherent and confident "mission." How much more powerful can God's grace be if we accept our weakness and live with a "mission prayer" outlook (see page 8)? Let us rejoice that God's grace is sufficient, and that when we are weak, we can be strong in God's grace. *What is your mission prayer for your family and yourself in 2021?*

Wednesday, January 13: Read Luke 18:9-14

To fully accept God's grace, and embrace its incredible power, we must first start with an attitude of humility and repentance. If we want to change the world, praying "God be merciful to me, a sinner!" is a great place to start, according to this teaching from Jesus. In the first chapter of *Grace Still Works*, Pete quotes Dietrich Bonhoeffer's words warning against having an attitude of "cheap grace" that does not require repentance, discipline, or confession. The prayer of the repentant sinner is exactly where we need to start in 2021. What power might we feel when we completely surrender our illusion of being right, and prostrate ourselves in front of our Lord in confession?

Thursday, January 14: Read Romans 1:16-17

We don't need to be right about everything. We just need to have faith and live by that faith. Our faith in a grace that transcends all of our weaknesses and is actively at work even when we cannot see it is what sets our faith tradition apart from all others. Faith in God's active grace is what can enable us to move forward, even when all "rational heads" are telling us that we should despair. What "irrational" hope can we show the world? Are we ready to live by that faith, helping showcase God's grace to the world?

Friday, January 15: Read Romans 2:1-4

It's so tempting to be judgmental about everything that's going on. Today's strong words from Paul should stop us in our tracks. We cannot begin the year with blame, judgment, and self-satisfaction and expect to enjoy the riches of God's "kindness and forbearance and patience." As we pray for God's healing of our country and our world, we must also remember that we, too, are living under God's grace and forgiveness. Today, let us lift up our entire nation in prayer, and ask for forgiveness, including for our part in all of it.

Saturday, January 16: Scripture Memorization: 2 Corinthians 12:9a

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Sunday, January 17: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *Almighty God, forgive us. In the words of Hebrews, we are guilty of "ignoring so great a salvation." You have come down and offered hope and salvation, all by grace. Even so, we are a proud and arrogant people. We want to do it ourselves, and we are hesitant to acknowledge our weakness and pride. By this grace, forgive us and restore to us the joy of our salvation. Remind us of the wonder of your ways and the love to which it points so that we might pass on a lifestyle of grace-filled joy that is contagious. This we ask in the name of Jesus.*