



Week 2

Sermon Series: Death is Defeated

Sermon Title: "Efforts from Grace"

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:9-11

Study Handout Week of: February 6, 2022

Group Week of: February 13, 2022

Sermon Date: February 20, 2022

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	The Effect of Forgiveness – Rom 6:1-14
Day 2	God Working in Me – Philippians 2:12-18
Day 3	Good Works – Ephesians 2:1-10
Day 4	Self-Righteous Deeds – Matthew 6:1-24
Day 5	A Repentant Heart – Luke 18:9-14

The Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message God and Paul are speaking to the Corinthians (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) Why does Paul call himself "the least of the apostles"?
- 3) Why does Paul say that he has "worked harder than any of them"?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Paul was a persecutor of the Church (See Acts 7-9), and yet God was gracious to him. And clearly, Paul never forgot the grace of God in his life. When you think of your past sins, what makes you especially thankful for the grace of God? Write it out below, spend some time worshipping God, and if you able to, share this with your group.

- 2) Often, we hesitate to give grace to criminals or those who offended us because we are afraid that they will just abuse our grace. Consider God and His attitude towards us. How can God, who knows that we will continue to sin once becoming Christians, still decide to give us grace through Jesus Christ? Secondly, how should this impact how we offer grace to those who've offended us?

- 3) During the reformation, our forefathers in the faith recovered the doctrine of "justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone." We agree that works cannot justify anyone or make anyone righteous. Write out a few verses below that talk about that truth in the New Testament, then write out this truth in your own words.

- 4) While justification is purely by grace through faith, the New Testament is also completely clear that true faith, and true reception of grace, will certainly produce good works. Write out a few verses below that talk about that truth in the New Testament, then write out this truth in your own words.

- 5) Is there anything in life where you are willing, or even excited, to give 100% of efforts? If so, what is it?

- 6) Because Paul had received great grace, he was willing to work very hard. Even these hard works, he knew, was the working of God's grace in Him. How can a Christian expend 100% of their effort for God, and yet not make it a self-righteous display of personal effort?

- 7) Serving God out of love and thankfulness for the grace He has given us is what makes the difference between a good deed being an act of love, or an act of self-righteousness. What can you do this week, to work on your heart, to love God more, and to be more thankful for the grace He has given you? Write out that act below, try to engage in it all week, and write out any results for your Life Group.