



PART 1: GOSPEL OF GRACE

Colossians | 8.17.25

Libin Abraham

(The following text is automatically generated and has not been edited)

Libin Abraham 0:00

Over the last year, we realized that our daughter, Avery, who just turned nine, she was having to squint to be able to see what was five or 10 feet away from her, and so she couldn't read appropriately. And so we took her this summer, right before she started school, to her optometrist, who's a friend of ours and a part of our church, and she got tested, and sure enough, it confirmed that she needed glasses or contacts. As I was asking the optometrist, Dr Anisha, a few questions, I said, hey, when I was younger, when we grew up, kids didn't really need glasses or contacts until they were middle school, maybe even high school, but it just seems like kids are having to get contacts and they're losing vision when they're younger and when they're even sooner. And she confirmed that, she said, Yes, more and more children are being prescribed lenses for myopia, which is essentially nearsightedness. And the reason is, well, half of it is genetics, and half is environmental. And the environmental piece is that kids today spend so much time focusing on what's right in front of them, whether it be a book or a phone or a tablet, compared to 20 years ago, when they were outside a lot more, and you had a more broader vision of the world, and now we're literally training our eyes to be myopic, to focus on what's right in front of us, and everything in the distance, everything in the peripheral, gets a little blurry, because we've trained our eyes to look at what's right in front of us, and so we ended up getting needing lenses and all those kind of things. And I wonder if what happens to kids younger, physically and their vision can happen to any one of us, anytime. Spiritually, in our vision of God, like in life, we get so hit in the face with so many things, and then we end up focusing on what's right in front of you. We get nearsighted, we get a myopic vision by the pressures of our day to day life, by the burdens of our job that we feel like we're carrying, by the cultural distractions every day that are just knocking at the door of our soul. And sometime in that journey, we get spiritually nearsighted, and we begin to focus on everything right in front of us, and we lose a grand vision of Jesus. We lose sight of the supremacy of Christ, the sufficiency of God in our life. Why? Because we're so fixated on what's right in front of us. Well, this happened to an early church in a small city in first Asia, in first century Asia, minor, modern day Turkey, in a city called Colossae. This little church was beginning, just getting going, but they were being confronted with the philosophies of their day, with new and fresh ideas. And they were being told, Look, look, look, if you really wanna know God, you gotta follow these practices and rituals and traditions. If you really want the secret sauce of who God is, you gotta add to Jesus a few extra things. So yeah, that's fine. Keep Jesus, but add to him a little bit of Angel worship, and that's how you really get to know God. Add to Jesus, some humanism, some earthly philosophies. Add to Jesus, some legalism. Add to Jesus some asceticism. It's cool to keep Jesus, but you gotta have more. And soon this early church, just a few decades from the resurrection of Jesus, where alive witnesses were still alive, they were beginning to lose focus of Jesus because of everything that was coming right in their face. For you and I, it's possible today that in the pressure of life and all the things that can distract us, that every day, our soul can be tempted to find more joy and excitement in something outside of Christ. Even good religious things can rob us of our attention away from Jesus. It could be a new belief system you come across Tiktok. It could be some trendy religious practice that says, look, look, here's how you really know God. Here's a secret you've been waiting for. Could be some charismatic leader on television saying, if you really want to know God, I've got it for you, and for a little three payments of 1999 I can send it your way, plus shipping and handling, you can know God really well, as this early church was beginning to lose sight of Jesus for the things that were coming up in their face. Paul gets a wind of it, and he writes a letter called Colossians. He writes this letter to correct their spiritual vision, to laser focus them back on the wonder of Jesus the. Supremacy of Christ and how Jesus is enough. You don't need a girl outside of him. You just need to grow into him. You need to discover him. He is it. So he writes this letter to them, as we're going through the options for Avery with lenses and glasses and contacts and all of that, Dr Anisha told us, Hey, you ought to try what's called ortho K lenses, or ortho K contacts. And what it is is they're nighttime contacts. I know you're thinking, Well, no, you wear contacts during the day,

that's when your eyes are open. No, no, these are nighttime contacts that you wear at night, and then you don't have to wear them during the day, because what it does is it reshapes your cornea at night. It's pretty cool. If it actually stops, or extremely slows down your vision loss, because it's reshaping your cornea overnight, so you wear them at night and you can see just fine during the day. But she said this, you got to wear them every night, because this isn't a permanent solution. Every night you got to wear these contacts to reshape your cornea. It's not a permanent solution. It's a daily work that we do so that you can have focus and see clearly and in the spiritual life, every single day, we lift our soul up to the light of Jesus in wonder and awe of him, and it reshapes our soul. You don't just do it once, and you go the next 30 years. I don't know, the natural pull of this world is to throw distractions your way, to divide your attention away from him. So every day, we fix our gaze on him, and we stand in wonder of who he is. It's a daily activity of focusing our eyes on Jesus. So the next six weeks, we're going to be in Colossians. And what I'm asking you to do is every day, set the attention of your soul on Jesus. Colossians is considered the most Christ centric, Christ exalting epistle that Paul is written. In fact, church historian and scholar. JB, Lightfoot, Bishop Lightfoot said it like this about Colossians. He said the doctrine of the person of Christ is here stated with greater position, position and fullness than in any other set of Paul's epistles. More than any of Saint Paul's epistles, there's more precision and clarity about Jesus in the book of Colossians. So we're going to go through it over the next six weeks, but here's what I want to ask you to do in your own time. I want to ask you to do something unique. I'm going to ask that over the next six weeks, you grab a sheet of paper and a pen, not your tablet, not your iPhone Notes app, get a thing called a piece of paper or a journal, and every single day, write down two to three verses. In Colossians in order, every day just write down two to three verses. See, Colossians has just four chapters. It's got 95 verses. And if you would commit to writing two to three verses of Colossians down by hand, slowly on paper, by the end of our series, you would have written down by hand the entire book of Colossians. Now here's what I'm asking you, to write it down because speed is often the enemy of depth, in this fast paced world we're looking we're living in, and you already are thinking, I could just read it on 2x and I'll get a general idea of Colossians. I'm actually asking you to go painfully slow as you read the book of Colossians. And when you write it down, don't try to rush it just two to three verses a day. And what it's doing is it's letting the Word of God, the words of Christ, dwell in your hearts. It's letting it marinate in the deepest part of who you are. And as you do this every day for the next six weeks, I believe your soul will experience the wonder of how great and good Jesus is, and you will come alive with fresh wonder of who he is. So join, join with me in this. Write two to three verses for Colossians every day for the next six weeks. All right, cool. I got one person. Yeah, I'm excited. Let's go. Here's verse one

Libin Abraham 9:21

of Colossians. One Paul, an apostle of Christ, Jesus, by God's will, and Timothy, our brother to the saints in Christ at Colossae, who are faithful brothers and sisters, Grace to you and peace from God our Father. So we know that Paul is writing this letter as he's accompanied by Timothy. What you will find out later in this letter is that Paul has actually never visited Colossae, which means Paul didn't start this church. So I know you're thinking already, well, how did this church started? Well, let me tell you how it started, because I know that's burning in your heart. How did this church church start? This church started during Paul's third missionary journey in. When he's there in Acts 19 at Ephesus. And if you remember, in Acts 19, he gets kicked out of the synagogue, and then he's teaching at the school of Tyrannus for two years. And while he's there, Luke records in Acts 19 that all of Asia Minor heard the word of God from Paul across those two years, everyone in Asia Minor heard the word of God. So most likely what happened is there was a there was a man by the name of Epaphras who lived in Colossi, who was just 120 miles outside of Ephesus. He heard about this guy named, named Paul, who's preaching this message of Jesus, who died and who rose from the grave. And he says, I gotta go and hear this. So he leaves Colossae makes 120 mile journey to Ephesus, and he hears Paul preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. He's so moved, he's so convicted, he gives his heart to Jesus. Then he realizes I gotta go back home. I gotta tell my people in Colossi about this Jesus, I gotta tell them that there's a better way. There's a new lord, there's a savior they can give their life to, and don't have to keep working and striving and trying to earn righteousness from God. They can receive it by faith in Jesus Christ. So he goes to Colossae and begins to spread the message of Jesus, and hearts began to turn to Christ, and He plants a church, and that's where you have the church in Colossae beginning. Fast forward a few years, Paul is in prison for the gospel, and guess who comes to visit him? His buddy, Epaphras. He got to lead to Christ. And long story short, we read that Epaphras becomes a fellow prisoner with Paul. As he's in prison with Paul, he begins to share with the Apostle Paul all the things that are happening, all the wonderful things in Colossae and all of the distractions in Colossians. As Paul hears the update of this church, he's so thankful and he's concerned, so he writes this letter back to this church. So Paul writes this letter and notice he notice how Paul addresses the Christians in Colossae to the same with me, saints in Christ at Colossae. Saints in Christ at Colossae. For every Christian, you and I, we have two addresses that we equally occupy. We have a physical address and we have a spiritual address. For these guys, their physical address was Colossae. They lived in the city of Colossae, just like you

live in the city of Dallas or planner, or Carrollton or Frisco, or wherever in the world you might be joining us from, that's your physical address. But you don't just have a physical address. You have, even more importantly, a spiritual address. And notice that Paul mentions their spiritual address before their physical address. Why? Because their spiritual address informs how they engage in their physical address. Are you following me? Our spiritual address gives us a framework for how we relate to one another, how we relate to our city and how we relate to God. So while you may be in Plano or in Dallas, like these guys were in Colossae their spiritual address in yours and mine, our spiritual address is what we are, saints in Christ. That's our permanent location. We are in Christ, saints in Christ today, if you look up the word saint in any modern day dictionary, it will say, well, a saint is, first of all someone who's dead. So sorry that can't be any of you. And they got to be at least dead for five years, and then they have to be officially inducted into sainthood because of their preeminent level of holiness. But in the New Testament, that's not how a saint is defined. 62 times in the New Testament, a believer in Jesus is addressed simply as, tell me saints. Even the naughty Christians in Corinth were called saints because the moment you placed your faith in Jesus, you become a saint. That is what is true of you. Now I don't think I can convince Stacy to call me Saint Liban around the house, and you shouldn't try to convince your spouse either, but that's who we are. We are saints in Jesus. Now hear me, we are saints not to the degree that we are like Jesus, rather to the degree that we are in Jesus, we're not saints because of our spiritual performance, or the quality of our spiritual life, or how great we are at keeping the spiritual practices. Those are good and needed, but that's not what defines your sainthood. Your sainthood is not how much you are like Jesus, but. How about you are in Jesus? You are a saint because your sins have been forgiven. You are a saint because your position is in Jesus. You are a saint because your identity is holy and your calling is set apart. So how many saints of God do we have in the house today? If you are in Christ. You're not a sinner begging for grace. You are a saint, clothed in the full righteousness and holiness of Jesus, set apart unto God, holy and righteous in Him, we are saints in Christ, Jesus. But I want you to remember this, that the calling of a saint is to live fully alive in Christ and to be fully engaged in Colossae, but not as servants of Colossae, but rather servants of Christ. This is why this matters at your workplace. This is why this matters in how you engage in politics, how you love your neighbor, how you treat your family, how you are citizen, how you are an HOA member, even you are saints in Christ, fully alive and yet fully engaged in the Colossi of our day, whatever or wherever that might be. But don't get it twisted. You're not a servant of Your Colossi. You're a servant of Christ, which informs how you engage in the world around you. Saints in Christ who are at Colossi. Verse three reads, Paul says, We always thank God the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, I for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love you have for all the saints because of the hope reserved for you in Heaven. Notice Paul's beautiful triad, faith, love and hope. Paul says, Man, I'm in prison, but I am just welling up with gratitude because I'm hearing of your faith in Jesus, how you've trusted in him, how you've believed in him, and how you're growing in faith. And what's beautiful about faith that it leads to a life of love. Faith isn't stagnant. Faith isn't just okay. I got faith and now I go on living as I used to live, no, no. Faith results in a life of love. In fact, that's the evidence of faith. And Paul says faith has led you to loving all the saints, loving in a sacrificial way, loving in a generous way, the saints of God. Why? Because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. This isn't a wishful thinking kind of hope. This isn't a hope so or a wish so. This is a solid hope, an objective hope, not just a hope that we have, that we feel, but a hope reserved for us in heaven. Meeting with one of our friends here this week, and he was telling me about the time that he and his wife went through a miscarriage at 30 weeks, and just the grief that came with that. But today, they're living with the hope of seeing their daughter in heaven, and they just get excited every day what she'll be like and what she'll look like and what she'll sound like. They have a real, tangible hope reserved in heaven. Just because you're a Christian doesn't mean you don't go through loss or pain or death now you grieve. But we grieve with hope. We grieve because we have something solid anchoring us in our grief. We have hope because we know the total sum of our life isn't here on the earth.

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We have hope because we know that we are meant to live eternally with God. This is all temporary. It's all a shadow of what is to come. Our real hope is anchored in heaven, a place that God is preparing. If you think about it, why is it that people sometimes have a hard time being a person of love? Well, it's because their hope is all situated here on this earth. And if that's the case for you, guess what? You're going to do everything you can to acquire as much as you can here? You're going to fight, you're going to bicker, you're going to grow jealous, greedy, envious. You can't be a person of love when you're motivated by all of that, but when you realize that my real eternal life, my forever home, is there and not here. It frees up your hands and your heart to love well and to serve well. And there's nothing too risky that you can't lose. And you see people differently. You see relationships differently. It doesn't detach you, not for a moment, but actually re engages your heart. But the best way we re engage this world is with a hope outside of this world, unshakable hope in the Lord Jesus, Christ reserved in heaven for us. I just find it amazing that Paul is in prison in chains, and he's not praying for his release. He's

not complaining about his chains, but while in prison, he's praying for a church he's never met, and as he's praying, in the midst of his own suffering, he's welling up with gratitude. Says, I'm just thanking God for you, thanking God for you. Can I just tell you saints in Jesus Christ, the condition of your soul does not have to be in bondage to the circumstances of your life here on Earth, it is possible that you could be in a prison like Paul was, or in a hospital room. You could have just been laid off. The worst news possible. Could have just hit your face this week. But when your eyes are on that hope reserved for you in Heaven, when you have anchoring faith in Jesus, your soul can be lifted up towards God in prayer and in thanksgiving, regardless of what happens here on this earth, your soul can have joy see a ground level myopic vision of this world says, or of God says, My joy is contingent on what's right here in front of me, but a vision of Jesus allows you to see the horizon where your hope is, and you'll realize, no matter what happens to My life or my body or my finances or even my family, my hope is secure because my life is in Jesus. It can't be shaken because he is my hope. He is my reality, and he is my faith, amen. So don't let your soul be in bondage like Saul. Be in a place where you can be in prison, and yet your soul is in prayer, thanksgiving to God, because you know where your ultimate hope is reserved. Paul goes on to say what he's praying in verse five, he says, You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel that came to you in this Gospel, Paul says, is bearing fruit and growing all over the world. Can I just tell you 2000 years from this letter being written, the gospel is doing exactly the same thing. It is bearing fruit all over the world. And Paul goes on and says, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace. The gospel has all kinds of fruit. It bears in your life and in my life, but the first of those fruit is to be enamored by the grace of God. So Paul says, when you heard the news of the gospel, what Jesus has done, you came to truly appreciate God's grace, because for all these centers, people have been striving and working and trying to earn, but now they can just sit in wonder and awe of the infinite grace of God. You don't hear the Gospel, and you think to yourself, yeah, I think I could have worked myself into that. I could have earned that you don't hear the Gospel, and you think, Man, that's a good starting place. Let me just add to it, all of the things that I can do to improve it. No, no. When you hear the Gospel, when you receive the gospel, you can't add to it, you can't take anything away from it, but you stand in wonder of the sheer grace of God. Why? Because this is all about God's action of mercy and grace and love for you and for me, the gospel is not a book of good news. It's, I'm sorry, it is not a good book of good advice. It's a book of good news. It's not about a list of things you got to now do to earn the gospel. It is about the perfect work of Jesus that's all Betty, already been done for you, and it is an invitation to simply receive but we could never have achieved. So the only response to this gospel is to be enamored and to appreciate the grace of God. Notice the Gospel that Paul begins to illustrate. He says, here's the gospel. He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. This is what happened in the Gospel. He's transferred you from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of his son that he loves. Before we accepted the gospel, that's where we belonged, the kingdom of darkness, the domain of the evil one, our heart, our. Soul was enslaved to sin, owned by Satan himself. We could not break out of that sin cycle. We couldn't be free from that guilt and that shame. There was no way of climbing out of that pit. But thanks be to God that He came for us when we could not climb the ladder up to God. God climbed the ladder down to us. It's called the Incarnation God took on flesh, became fully one of us. Lived on this earth a perfect life, overcoming the weakness and the temptations that we all have, but he overcame that. He would go to a cross because somebody would have to pay the penalty of our sin, that debt we owed God and Jesus paid it. God paid it on our behalf, because He is just and he is loving. And so for six hours, Jesus would observe the full payment of our sin, the wrath that was owed us. And he gave his life in exchange for you and me. He was buried in a tomb, and then three days later, thanks be to God, he rose, conquering sin, death and the grave. We're thankful for this incredible gospel. Because Jesus died, our sins are forgiven. And because he rose from the grave, we have new life with God, forever, free, eternal life of God. And what happened in that moment? A transfer took place. The moment you believed in the Gospel, a permanent, literal transfer took place. You who were once in the kingdom of darkness, the domain of darkness, were now placed, transferred into the kingdom of his son, and now he sees you as he sees his son, perfect, holy and as saints. And I just have to believe that today, for somebody in this room and somebody online, this is your day of transfer. This is the day you trust in Jesus, and you give Him your heart, you give him your life. And what he does in that moment, he takes you from the kingdom of darkness, and he places you in the kingdom of His Son. It can happen to you. It can happen for anyone in this room. Notice what happens when this transfer happens in him. We have two things. We have redemption, which means to buy back, to purchase back, and we have the forgiveness of sins, not may have or could have no in past sense, the moment you're transferred, you got a total package of two things, redemption and forgiveness of sins. Think for a lot of times, we have an easier understand time understanding the redemption. I know I'm redeemed once and for all, but I'm not really forgiven once and for all, because if you're like me, in a moment of sin, we immediately feel guilt, and we say to ourselves, man, I did the thing that I told God I would never do. I said the thing that I'd never say. I had all these promises, and I was really good for a few weeks, a few days, a few hours, maybe, but I blew it. I messed up. Don't think God could ever forgive me again. Think I've met my quota. How can I go back to him? I told him I'll

never be in this place again. I love him, but I've disappointed him. Surely he's done with me. Surely I've met the limit of God's forgiveness. To think like that is to be back on a performance track, not a grace track, to feel like any of our bad performance can outweigh the grace of God. It's actually to think that the transfer was just temporary. But that transfer isn't temporary, it's permanent. Can I just tell you some good news?

Libin Abraham 28:51

I love it. Sometimes you hear a lot of bad news in church. I've got good news for you. And here's the good news, all of your sins past, present and future, were completely forgiven in Jesus before even one of them was committed. That's the good news, past, present, future, all of it forgiven. If you're thinking that sounds too good. Man, preacher Boy, that can't be true. Here's the truth. Colossians, two verse 13, Paul says, And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive. It was in your church attendance. It was in your religious performance. No, no. He made you alive with him and forgave us all of our trespasses. How many is All? All? It's not some. It's not the ones you remember to confess. No, no, it is all of your trespasses were completely forgiven when the moment you are alive in Jesus, past, present and future, all of it completely erased. That's how good the grace of God is. That's why, even in sin, you don't have to be marked by grace. I mean by guilt. You can run to God in grace. You. His affection towards you didn't change. The swivel chair didn't turn. He's always right in front of you. It's the God of grace. This is how good news, how good the gospel is, how good news Jesus is for us. Now here's the deal, this incredible grace that we have come to appreciate. It doesn't lead us to a chase. It leads us on a walk. By Chase, I mean the kind of furniture you can just sit and not move a bone of your body. Grace leads you to a walk with Jesus, not to a lounge. Meaning, it leads you to a new kind of life. The very goal of the gospel, it wasn't just the forgiveness of sins that's the starting place, but the goal of the gospel is to give you life in Jesus, a new life empowered by the Spirit of God, a redeemed life, a free life, life with God. And this is what Paul now says in verse nine, when you come to truly appreciate the grace of God. Now Paul says, here's what I'm praying. I'm asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, there is a walk we're invited into, a life that grace compels us to live and empowers us to live, a walk with God, a life with him, transformed, redeemed and free. And Paul says, I want you to live this new life. God didn't just give you a saved life, he invites you to an abundant life, living out his purpose, living out his calling, living out his life on the Earth. And Paul says this is so pleasing to the Father. When you join him on his walk and you live this transformed life, it pleases the Father. I've loved being able to teach our kids, the older two, how to fish. Haven't taught them how to hunt, because I don't know how to hunt yet, but one day, maybe I will learn, but only to eat, of course, because we do eat all of the fish we catch. This last summer, Avery and Liam caught their very first fish. Now, all by themselves. They've caught some fish before with my help, but this last time, I was like, Okay, here's how you cast a bait, here's how you throw the rod in, and then you set hook and you reel it in. And every and Liam caught their first fishes. Every so proud. Every birthday weekend we go on a lake house where one of our members lives, and so we just get to enjoy some fish and and when they caught their first fish without my help at all. I was really pleased. I was so proud that I loved them just the same before they caught their first fish and afterwards. But I was pleased and I was proud because they put into practice what I put into them. They put into action and just did what I taught them, and I had instilled in them, and I had shown them, and now I was celebrating how fulfilled they were. I was delighting in how joyful they were, because they just put into practice what I put into them. This is what Paul is saying, because God has put infinite grace into your heart, he's lavished you with mercy and love and unconditional favor when you put into practice what he's put in you, God is pleased. Doesn't love you more or less, but every time you receive grace, and you apply grace, and you live in grace. The Father is delighting in you, rejoicing because you're experiencing wholeness, you're experiencing deep fulfillment, you're experiencing the abundant life, free from sin and free from guilt and free from shame that he longs for you, and you may be wondering, what does that grace walk look like? What does it mean to walk worthy and to be pleasing? Well, Paul actually gives us the answer. He gives us four specific participles in the Greek that describe to us what walking worthy of the Lord and pleasing looks like. So I want to go through this real quick. The first one is this verse 10, bearing fruit in every good work, bearing fruit. Now we're not saved by good works, but we are saved to bear good fruit. We're saved to make a difference on the earth. We're saved to sow seeds of love and kindness and grace, to sow the seeds of the gospel in and through our life. This church in Colossae would not have existed unless Epaphras, who heard the gospel from Paul, said to himself, you know what? I can't just keep this to myself. I got to take it back home. I got to preach this gospel. I got to sow seeds of what Jesus has done on the earth. What he's done in my life, and he just began to sow seeds of the gospel. And as those seeds were being planted, God began to water and God began to grow the seeds. And now there's our church, friends, Your life was meant to sow seeds of the gospel in how you live and how you love and what you hope for, to show seeds and to sow seeds of grace, so that we will live a life walking bearing fruit in every good work. Second of all, to walk worthy means we are growing in the knowledge of God, not just

knowing about God or knowing God's will, that's a part of it, but we're growing in intimacy with God, when you experience grace, you realize this isn't just transactional. This is relational. I want to know this God of grace. I want to know the one who reached down into the depth of my pit and my sin and rescued me. I want to hear his voice. I want to love him. I want to offer him my heart. I want to offer him my affections. I want to grow in knowing him intimately. This is the life of growing in intimacy and knowledge of God. It's apostles walk worthy pleasing the Lord colon bearing fruit in every good work, growing in your knowledge of God, and third of all, being strengthened, verse 11, being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience. Life in grace isn't dependent on your ability or your power. A life in grace is a life on your knees where you are being strengthened from a different source. It comes from him. He strengthens you. He gives you strength according to his power, his glorious might. It's limitless power, limitless strength. And when you are strengthened by him, and you are being strengthened. Every day you receive wisdom and grace and strength. For him, Paul says, now you'll be able to live with endurance and patience. The word endurance in the Greek is to abide under pressure. So when you're under pressure, you don't have to come unglued, because you're being strengthened, you don't have to call it quits. You can endure the hard times. The word patience is to take heat literally, to endure heat. So when the temperature seems to be turned up and you got another diagnosis and you got another bad news, and people just seem to drive you crazy, you can stay patient. Why? Because grace is filling you up. You're being strengthened on the inside, walking worthy, being strengthened. And lastly, the fourth participle is joyfully giving thanks to the Father who has enabled you to share in the Saint's inheritance in the light. And you've experienced the grace of God, you always have reason for gratitude, joyful gratitude, not begrudging Thanksgiving, but joyful thanks. Living to live with this kind of gratitude, because you know that your inheritance in Christ isn't dependent on the stock market. It's fully secure in Jesus. You have treasures from your father that the trials and tribulations of this world cannot even come close to. So you have reasons in every circumstance, as bad as it might be right now for you, how tough it is right now in your real life, pause is a life of grace, walking worthy means there's ample reasons to be joyfully giving thanks.

Libin Abraham 38:47

William Tyndale is a man who first translated the New Testament into English, the scriptures into the English language, and as a result, he was imprisoned. Can you imagine that just forgiven a scripture in our language? He was put in prison. Tyndale will live in prison for one year under harsh conditions before he was executed, it cost someone his life to translate the scriptures for us as he's going through these harsh conditions. In October of 1535, William Tyndale will write to the governor with a request for some necessities that he would love to have as he faced his execution. So Tyndall wrote the governor and said, Look, I would just ask for these things. And this, this is the list he gave. Would you give me some warmer clothing in prison? Would you give me a piece of cloth so I can patch up my leggings. But then he said, more than anything, above all, could you send a Hebrew Bible and a Hebrew Dictionary and a Hebrew grammar book? Please send me the Hebrew grammar book. I'm thinking, if I'm in prison, facing my I'm not asking for a Hebrew grammar book as much as I love the language of Hebrew. Do. But for Tyndale, just give me a Hebrew Bible and a grammar book, because I want to keep studying. He said, I just want to pass my time in study. I just want to know God more. I have this appetite to know Jesus more. Just give me a copy of the scriptures for Tyndale these last few hours of his life. He just wanted to keep bearing fruit. Just wanted to be a blessing for just one more person. Maybe I could just translate a few more verses in the Old Testament and give it to somebody so they can know Jesus. I want to know him. I want to bear fruit. It's not that I've gotten stuck somewhere. I've done enough, and now I'm satisfied, and I want to keep bearing fruit. I want my life to count for the gospel. And there are \$10 bearing under the weight of execution with joy, because that's what grace does. This is the kind of life we're invited to when we've experienced and appreciated the grace of God. If you're saying to yourself, may my life look so different from that. Don't have that kind of joy or an appetite to know God well. Over the next six weeks, sit under his grace, stand and wonder of who he is and the beauty of the gospel, and this week, as we jump into the Christ hymn, let's all fix our gaze on Jesus so that we live differently here on the earth. Would you pray with me, father? We thank you for this letter that's been preserved, for our reading, for our learning, for our growing thank you that we are saints, even in days when we don't act like it, you don't change your mind about us. We don't get transferred back. No, no, we're permanently saints in Christ. For some men today, God, who, for whom Grace has just gotten old news, they've lost the wonder of it today, would you send a fresh spark deep in their soul, and may they truly appreciate the grace of God. There might be somebody who needs to be transferred into the kingdom of God today, because they're seeing the good news of the gospel. Maybe they're tired of striving, trying, working, earning, and today, good news has come, and they're receiving the finished work of Jesus. It's their day of transfer, and we rejoice in that. I pray that all of us in this room, God and online, we would be empowered by the Spirit, strengthened by the Spirit, to live worthy of the life that grace has given us, pleasing to the Lord, bearing fruit, growing and knowing you, patiently enduring, joyfully, giving thanks, being strengthened in view of the Almighty God we

serve, allow us to live that way this week. Thank you for Hope reserved in heaven. All this in the name of Jesus, we pray and the church said together aloud, amen, amen, amen. Can we thank God for the gospel of Jesus, the gospel of amazing grace? Amen?