

20210116/7 From the Pastor's Desk – All Is Grace!

All is grace!

Does it ever occur to you that you don't deserve anything you happen to own? And that you don't actually own anything that you deem to be yours?

I have taken road tests for driving license in Hong Kong and in Vancouver. On the day I took my road test in Hong Kong, my driving instructor gave me a final rehearsal. I saw a car flashing distress lights stopped in front of me. After a minute or so, I turned on my right signal and I passed that car. When the rehearsal was over, my instructor told me that I had failed because I had failed to ask for his instructions before I drove past that distressed car. In less than an hour, I took and passed my road test. The distressed car was simply not there when I was on that road the second time. The distressed car could have appeared in my rehearsal, and it could have appeared in my road test. Everything is providential. All is grace!

On November 17 last year, I took my road test in Vancouver. It was my third attempt in 6 months. Everything went smoothly and about 30 minutes later, the examiner asked me to return to the test centre. When I tried to park my car at the test centre, I discovered that there was only very limited space to maneuver because there was a big garbage box to the left of my intended parking spot and there was a car parked to its right. Anyhow, I tried my best and parked my car. When I turned off the engine, I was eagerly expecting good news from the examiner. To my surprise, he said I had failed because one wheel was on the line of the parking spot, and he also said that I had failed to shoulder check when I drove into the test centre. I was disheartened and I could almost cry. Feeling desperate, I asked the examiner if he could pass me, nevertheless. In response, he asked me why he should do so. I told him that it was already my third attempt. After a short silence, he said, "OK, I'll pass you, but you must remember to do shoulder checks!" That day, the examiner had mercy on me; more accurately, God had mercy on me. I got the message loud and clear: it was God's grace that I got my license, just like my first time in Hong Kong.

Driving is both a pleasure and a necessity to me. The driving license that I own now, which allows me to drive, has been graciously given to me by God. If the Lord pleases that I should live a long and healthy life, I would probably be driving until my last moment on earth. Still, my license and my driving will come to an end eventually.

Apart from our salvation in Christ, we don't actually own anything. Everything that we have ever owned and everything that we have ever cherished doing will cease to exist one day. They were first given to us by the grace of God but still, they will not survive into eternity. God doesn't owe us anything. He did not have to create us; He did not have to sustain us; He did not have to save us when we sinned and were doomed; and indeed, He did not have to give us any goodies of life at all. Yet because of his profound love for us, he has chosen to save us, even at a price that costed him dearly and hurt him deeply. His only begotten Son Jesus Christ came to our world - the Word became flesh - to experience the life of a mortal, to experience the pain and sufferings

of our body and soul, and eventually, to be hung on a cursed cross, in order to pay the price of sin in our place and stead. The voluntary sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ satisfied God's justice and fulfilled God's mercy. Just as the Scripture says: He loves me and gives himself up for me!

I'd therefore ask you to pray with me, that by God's grace, we will walk with Him every day with contentment, joy, and a thanksgiving heart, because all is grace!

20210116/7 Pastoring Sharing

一切都是恩典！一切都是恩賜！

你可有想過，你現在擁有的一切都不是你應得的？而你也不是真的擁有你以為已經擁有的一切？

我分別在香港、溫哥華考過兩個駕駛執照。在香港考路試的那天，師傅跟我作最後模擬路試。他一言不發，坐在我的左邊。我看見前方有一輛“死車”，停在單程路上。等了一分鐘，它仍然停在那裡。35歲充滿自信的我打燈，然後超越，滿心歡喜地完成了模擬路試。車停下來，師傅就對我說：“你肥左啦！（“不合格”英文是 FAIL。在香港，不合格通常會說“肥”了。）因為你無問過我（即模擬路試的考官），就擅自越線超車。”不到一個小時之後，我完成了真正的路試。這次我合格了，因為那輛“死車”已經不見蹤影。“死車”可以出現在模擬路試，也可以出現在正式路試。這是神的心意，神的恩典。

得到一位姊妹幫助，在網上得到一個快期，2020年11月17日，我在溫哥華考路試。這已經是我在半年內第三次考路試。路試期間一切順利，不見考官手部有任何動作，只是安然坐在我的右邊。大約半小時後，他叫我駛回試場。試場車位的空間非常狹窄，因為在我要泊的車位左前方放了一個大垃圾箱，而車位的右邊亦停了一輛車。我小心翼翼地把車泊好，關掉引擎，就滿心歡喜，期待好消息。考官打開車門，看見車輪停在泊車線上，就說我不合格，要重考，他還說我駛進試場時，沒有 SHOULDER CHECK。我當時的心情非常沮喪，差點就哭了。我請求考官網開一面，給我合格。他就問我他為何要這樣做。58歲一臉委屈的我就對他說：“因為這已經是我第三次考路試了！”他定睛在我面上，然後說：“好吧，不過你以後要記住做 SHOULDER CHECK!”他動了慈心，憐憫了我。真相就是神動了慈心，憐憫了我。神也讓我深深感受到自己的不足，自己的不配。這是恩典，再清楚不過的恩典。

駕駛對我來說是一種享受，也是一種需要。我現在擁有的駕駛執照讓我可以駕駛，這是神的恩賜。如果神讓我活到80歲，健康亦可以的話，也許我可以繼續擁有我的駕駛執照，一直駕駛到我要離開的一刻。就算如此，地上擁有的一切，享受的一切，都是要過去的。

因為除了相信耶穌基督而得到的救恩之外，我們沒有真的擁有什麼。這世界和世界上的一切都要過去。我們在世上暫時享用的一切，並不是我們應得的，都是神的恩賜。神沒有欠我們什麼。祂不一定要創造我們；祂不一定要繼續讓我們存活；我們犯罪沉淪，祂更加不一定要拯救我們。但由於祂對我們的愛，祂選擇了拯救我們，並且為此付上不能再高的代價。祂的獨生愛子耶穌基督降世為人，道成肉身，經歷人世間的憂患，身心靈的傷痛，最後被掛在木頭上，代替我們承擔犯罪的惡果，獻上自己的生命。主耶穌的犧牲，滿足了神的公義，成就了神的慈愛。就正如經上所說：他是愛我，為我捨己！

救主憐憫，讓我們為著我們真正擁有的救恩，每天帶著知足、喜樂、感恩的心，與我們的神同行！