

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

AUGUST 2, 2020

Big Questions: What is our essential need? Part 1 - David Lane

WARM-UP

1. Pastor Dave describes many of God's fundamental attributes: His character and nature. God is **Incomprehensible** (we can't figure Him out on our own but He is known through His Word - Scripture); **Relational** (He desires our whole selves trusting Him); **Eternal** (He is not a victim of the times); **Faithful** (you can trust Him); **Good** (He transcends evil, pain and suffering); **Just** (He will eliminate all evil); **Merciful** (waiting for all people to turn to Him); **Holy** (completely deserving of our worship and trust). Which of these attributes resonate with you? Have any of them impacted your life particularly in the last few months?

DIGGING DEEPER

The seventh big question of this series that Pastor Dave wants us to consider is, "What is our essential need?" In this question, we want to connect our essential need with who God is, and in particular, His grace. By doing so, our essential need can be met, and our lives lived for Him. It is the question of relationship, the question of blessing, the question of grace.

What is God's Grace? – READ: Ephesians 1:3

2. God's Grace can be defined as 'the bestowal of unmerited or unearned favor or blessings'; God's Grace is a gift that no one deserves, but that God grants anyway. In this Ephesians verse, for believers, what do we receive through our trust in Jesus? Is this also a definition of God's Grace?

Why do people receive God's Grace? – READ: Ephesians 1:4-6

3. In verse 4, when did God chose to give believers His Grace? What does that tell you about the nature of God and His Grace?
4. In verse 5 and 6a (starting with the ending of verse 4), why did God bestow His Grace on believers expressed by our adoption into His family?
5. In verse 6b, how does His Grace come to believers? Is this Good News? Why?

What does God's Grace offer me? – READ: Ephesians 1:7

6. In verse 7, what are we provided when we accept the gift of God's Grace? Dave said, "we cannot 'out-sin' the Grace of God." What does he mean by that? Is this Good News? Why?

How do we receive God's Grace? – READ: Ephesians 1:13

7. What are the two steps we must do to receive this free gift of God's Grace? Once we have received and accepted the gift, what happens next? And who is involved? What does this mean for the believer's life?

PRAYER

Let us pray that we would take our eyes off our circumstances and place them on God, seeking His face, and His character and nature that will meet and exceed our needs. Let us also pray asking how He wants us to live for Him in the places where we live, work, and play and how we can bring the knowledge of His Grace to others that we encounter.

Note: In this message, Pastor Dave recommended two books to better understand the character and nature of God - *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer, and *Knowledge of the Holy* by A.W. Tozer

In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQTWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw