

## HEALING GRACE

Psalms 147:3

January 27, 2008 Sunday a.m.

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Nobody sails through life.
  - 1. We all have problems.
  - 2. We all have hurts.
  - 3. We all have hidden wounds.
- B. Today, I want us to look at how God's Grace heals the hidden wounds of our life.
  - 1. Psalms 147:3 tells us this is what God does.
  - 2. How?
  - 3. By helping us to change the way we think about ourselves—Romans 12:2.
  - 4. The Bible says, "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he."
    - a. If we think we are a loser...
    - b. ....victim.
    - c. ....failure.
  - 5. Why is the way we think about ourselves so critical?
    - a. Because our beliefs determine our behaviors.
    - b. Because the way we think determines the way we act.
- C. Today we need to see what God thinks about us because of His Grace.
  - 1. Our parents, teachers, or friends may have said we are dumb, or no good, or can't do anything right.
  - 2. Let's see how God looks at us, though.

### I. FIRST, BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE WE ARE ACCEPTABLE.

- A. We all want to be accepted by our parents, peers, even total strangers.
  - 1. This drive to be accepted is behind many of the things we do.
  - 2. Even the way we dress, the car we drive, the house we live in, and the career we chose is influenced by our desire to be accepted.
- B. The Bible says God accepts us—Romans 15:7.
  - 1. Notice his acceptance is without conditions.
  - 2. He accepts us because of His Grace, not our performance.
  - 3. Remember as a kid how teams were chosen out on the playground. Remember also how good it felt whenever we were chosen and how bad we felt when we weren't?
  - 4. God chooses us, warts, pimples and all.
  - 5. Some of us are still trying to be accepted by someone, maybe even our parents. They may never accept us, though, but God will and does—Psalms 27:10.

### II. SECOND, BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE WE ARE VALUABLE.

- A. How much do you think you're worth? I'm not talking about your net worth, but your self worth.
- B. How do you judge the value of something? Two factors are involved.
  - 1. First, the ownership determines the value of something.
    - a. For example.... Craig Jackson recently paid \$614,000.00 for a guitar. The guitar wasn't gold-plated or jewel encrusted—it was just an ordinary guitar, except that it happened to be the guitar that Paul McCartney learned to play his first chords on. Ian James loaned the guitar to McCartney when he was young, and sold the guitar at auction to help fund his retirement.
    - b. The Bible says we belong to God—I Corinthians 6:20.

2. Second, the other thing that determines value is what somebody is willing to pay for it?
  - a. Your house is only worth what someone will pay for it.
  - b. What did God pay for us? John 3:16.
  - c. God thinks you are valuable because you are.

### **III. THIRD, BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE WE ARE LOVED.**

- A. Many of us don't feel loved.
- B. God loves us, though-John 15:12.
  1. His love is consistent. Not until "divorce do us part".
  2. His love is unconditional.

### **IV. FOURTH, BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE WE ARE FORGIVABLE.**

- A. A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.
- B. God is ready to forgive us because we have sinned-Isaiah 43:25.

### **CONCLUSION**

- A. Do you have hidden wounds?
- B. Do you have a poor opinion of yourself?
- C. God doesn't.
  1. He accepts you.
  2. He values you.
  3. He loves you.
  4. He forgives you.
- C. In other words, His Grace will heal your hidden wounds if you will let him.