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Pastor's Corner

God's Grace is Seen in the Cross

1 Corinthians 19-21

Being grateful is about raising your understanding of what is happening to us and around us in order to search for meaning beyond the pain and agony being experienced. It is looking for and waiting on the wisdom of God to unfold. It is in the most wretched of times that the grace of God continues to enable us to see the possibilities that only God can reveal. Possibilities that testify of God's goodness to come to our rescue in times of crisis. God never asked us to be thankful or grateful for the horrific things we experience. But be thankful and grateful in it, going through it. This requires a shift in perspectives and willingness to believe something good can come out of the worst events in our lives.

For me, the Cross is the pivotal of salvation. It is the place all rescue and hope is centered. It is the place where the foolishness of God intersects and destroys the wisdom of men. The Cross is the place where hope, in the midst of our trials, is validated by the power of the resurrection. In spite of the experiences of those who do not believe, those who find themselves caught up in an adversarial position toward life and living, the Cross gives testimony that God has the last word. The Cross becomes a light in the midst of the dark and death that signals the fact that hope is real and though the future looks bleak God does have the last word. It speaks the truth that God offers an alternative and alternate reality for those who trust and believe.

The Cross speaks to those who have lost their way. It announces to those who find themselves in a state of confusion, the Cross says there is a platform upon which you can stand where restoration can be found. Where those who feel broken by their fellow man and woman can be given an opportunity to be made whole again. The Cross tells all who would listen though suffering may appear to have the upper hand, the pain and sorrow we find ourselves experiencing because of our suffering itself will be undone. The Cross is God's testimony that those who suffer now will by faith experience the resurrection and deliverance is on our horizon. The Cross tells the world that even though the shadows hide the pain of our nighttime experience, though the nights seem long and unending, those tragic moments are all short lived. When the truth and power of the Son's light is revealed, the shadows are vanquished. The darkness is replaced by the light of God. It is true the pain of the Cross is real. But so is the healing power of the Savior who rises against all objects and claims victory for us all who believe - over death, over suffering, in a world gone mad. The Cross says those in pain shall find comfort. The Cross says those in anguish shall be comforted. The Cross says that the lost can be found and again recognition in God's eyes. The Cross tells us through the power of the resurrection, the abandoned can be comforted and given solace.

The Cross tells us that our tomorrows are better than our yesterday's. For those without faith, the Cross represents tragic circumstances that we are without a future or redemption. For those without faith the Cross becomes the conclusion and testimony that life had no real purpose and suffering has no real meaning. However, for those who trust in the power of the resurrection. For those who trust in the power of God, you will come to know that good does ultimately triumph over evil. That peace does finally reign. The good that you do for others does really matter. The love you courageously give does in fact bear fruit. The Cross, that stumbling block for who do not believe; but for believers, the Cross represents the hand of God that lifted a drowning Peter from a stormy sea, and says to those who believe - God's hand will life me up in my time of trial. It represents that voice that speaks to the raging seas "Peace Be Still." And His disciples are once again safe in His hands. That same voice that commanded the storm, will speak softly to your heart, and bring peace into your life and all your circumstances.

God Bless and remain safe,

Pastor Gool