

BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

CHOOSE GRACE

12.15.19

ZECARIAH'S PROPHECY

⁶⁷Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy: ⁶⁸"Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. ⁶⁹He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, ⁷⁰just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. ⁷¹Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. ⁷²He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant—⁷³the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. ⁷⁴We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live. ⁷⁶"And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. ⁷⁷You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace." – Luke 1:67-79

I. Grace is a _____ from God

"Grace is getting what you don't deserve."

"The very center and core of the whole Bible is the doctrine of the grace of God." – J. Gresham Machen

"Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues." – John Stott

"Grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them." – Augustine

- Grace is _____, not _____

"God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins." – Romans 5:16

"Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." – Hebrews 4:16

II. Grace is the basis for our _____

"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

"You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession...Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people." – 1 Peter 2:9-10

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." – Ephesians 2:10

III. Grace is our _____ before God

"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are." – Romans 3:22

"Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand." – Romans 5:2

IV. Grace is ours to _____

[Zechariah about his son] "You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins." – Luke 1:77

"For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ." – Romans 5:17

V. Grace is ours to _____

"Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive." – C.S. Lewis

"Make no mistake, when it comes to human interaction, grace is a choice; a decision, made in reaction to a situation, which creates one of two scenarios: graciousness, or harsh judgment." – James Emery White

"Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'" – Matthew 18:21-22

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." – Colossians 3:13