

TITLE AND NUMBER: 9. The gift of God's grace



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Ephesians 3:7-13

I (Paul) became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace this grace was given to me to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make plain to everyone this mystery which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the ...wisdom of God should be made known... according to his eternal purpose in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you therefore not to be discouraged.

LOOKING FURTHER: Ephesians 3:14-21, Paul's Prayer

What does this Bible passage tell us?

This weekend, many churches celebrate the coming of the wise men who brought gifts to baby Jesus. Paul writes from prison about the gift of God's grace.

God's grace is the outpouring of His love for everyone, rescuing us through Jesus and helping us to become fully alive and grow in our Christian faith. We are welcomed home as beloved children. As we grow and mature, the Holy Spirit is at work in us bringing guidance, peace, patience, self-control and wisdom. As a wise friend once said to me, "When God calls people, He equips them with His grace."

Often life is complicated. We doubt and encounter situations which are difficult with no easy answers. It is good to have questions. Through prayer, reading the Bible, talking to Chaplains and friends, God guides us and leads us into deeper faith and understanding.

This leads to wisdom, where our own lived experience and God's grace enable us to reach out and help those around us. Remember that through Jesus, we are free to approach God with confidence and bring anything to Him. Let's be encouraged.



Reflections:

- What has encouraged you this week?
- Is there anything you would like to bring to God, asking for greater understanding?
- Can you think of times when you have been able to use your own lived experience to help someone else?
- How do you think you have grown in wisdom?
- Can you think of someone who has helped and encouraged you? Give thanks for them.
- Describe what it means to you that you may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

