



A Little Bit of Grit, a Whole Lot of Grace: Romans 1:16-17

September 8, 2024 (Vision Sunday)

By Pastor Joshua Clough

Group Leader Notes

Welcome to Vision Sunday 2024 where our new senior pastor, Joshua Clough, is going to kick off our new ministry year! Our theme for this ministry year is *Rediscover Grace*. We will begin a new sermon series called *Grit and Grace: Lessons from Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Each week we will get into the major themes of Paul's letter. To shake thing up, Pastor Joshua will begin at the end by delivering his Vision Sunday sermon for 2048, what would be Grace Chapel's 100th anniversary.

Questions: What vision does God have for your life? What vision does God have for your church?

Bottom Line: To pursue God's vision will require grit and grace.

Take Home Message:

For the last 75 years, our church has become a vibrant, growing, multicultural community of seekers and believers, discovering life with God for the good of the world. For us to continue to spread the good news of God's grace will require grit –persistence, perseverance. As Pastor Joshua ushers in a new era in the life of our church, he invites us to take a first step, take a next step, or take a deeper step to rediscover God's grace and to rediscover Grace Chapel.

Main Scripture Reading:

Romans 1:16-17 ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[a] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”^[b]

Other Scripture References

- Proverbs 29:18a
- Psalm 78:4b-6
- Romans 3:23
- Acts 27-28
- Psalm 127:1

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. Pastor Joshua began with a quote from organizational psychologist, Benjamin Hardy:
Humans are not driven by the past, we're pulled forward by the future we're most committed to.
 - What does this mean to you?
 - Share some examples of how this has played out in their personal, professional or religious lives.
2. Pastor Joshua says, "In 2048 your legacy here, at Grace Chapel, will have made a difference in the lives of many." Read Psalm 78:4b,6 together:

*We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
... so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.*

Spend a few minutes to discuss how you have benefitted from the contributions and works of prior generations.

3. Read Romans 3:23 together: "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" The word "*sin*" means "*to miss the mark*" and is an archery term.
 - What thoughts and feelings come to your mind when you hear the word *sin*?
 - How does Jesus' death on the cross free us from *sin* and how does that impact you?
4. Thinking ahead to Grace Chapel's 100th year anniversary Pastor Joshua "reflects" upon all of the work that our church "has done over the last 24 years", Pastor Joshua reviews our growth in:
 - Campuses/ new campuses
 - Partner churches
 - Small groups
 - Care
 - Mission/ justice
 - Generations/ Next Gens
 - Church known for what we are for, not against
 - Finances and buildings
 - Prayer

He said: “Because we were passionate about the life changing message of Jesus and did anything necessary (short of sin) to help people experience grace. We adapted, we shifted, we made decisions to meet people where they are and to help others along their journey to Christ. We strive to be a vibrant, growing, multicultural community of seekers and believers, discovering life with God for the good of the world.”

- Which of these achievement “goals” resonate with you?
 - What are your hopes for our Grace Chapel ministry between now and 2048?
5. Part of rediscovering Grace and laying the framework for our legacy here at Grace Chapel is praying for and opening our hearts and minds to the leanings of the Holy Spirit. In this significant season of ministry and with our hopes of living out our mission, there are needs in and out of our church that need filling. Thankfully, many of us are serving in needed ways. Is there anything new you sense the Lord telling you in the area of service?

Looking through the list of volunteer teams, please pray that these open roles will be filled:

- Tech team
- Worship team
- Care & support
- Church operations
- Community life
- Group Life
- Kidstown
- Marketing & Communications
- Student ministry
- Campus team
- Digital ministry

Let's Pray

Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.