

## Becoming the Person in 2010 That You Always Wanted to Be

### Series: The Good News About Grace

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REVIEW: WHAT IS SAVING GRACE?

G= GOD'S GIFT TO ME (Romans 3:24)

R= RECEIVED BY FAITH (Ephesians 2:8-9)

A= AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE (Romans 10:13)

C= COMES THROUGH CHRIST (John 1:17)

E= EXTENDED THROUGH ETERNITY (Romans 6:23)

TODAY: HOW CAN WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S TRANSFORMING GRACE IN OUR LIVES?

To be transformed means to be metamorphosed by God's grace.

HOW TO BE TRANSFORMED BY GRACE:

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

#### 1. OFFER OUR LIVES JUST THE WAY THEY ARE TO GOD

Our worship is allowing God to use our bodies and to be the dynamic presence that works through us in every situation.

When we give ourselves to God we are transformed by his grace.

#### 2. DON'T CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF OUR CULTURE, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS

The “pattern of our culture” is focused on the advancement of self.

## HOW ARE WE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS?

- A. We are transformed by changing the way we think.

God guides us in this endeavor.

Psalms 139:23 (NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are.

- B. We are transformed by choosing to focus on others.

Philippians 2:4 (NCV) Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.

Selfish ambition is when we use people as a means to our own ends. They become things to be manipulated rather than people to be cherished and encouraged.

- C. We are transformed by charging through our quitting points.

Philippians 3:13-14 (LB) I am still not all I should be but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.

Transforming grace frees us to forget past failures.

Transforming grace allows us to open our minds to the healing of memories.

- D. We are transformed by charting a course for growth.

Psalms 119:11 (LB) I have thought much about your words, and stored them in my heart so that they would hold me back from sin.

## CONCLUSION:

We must each answer the question, “What am I going to do with my life?” Am I going to live the

way I want or am I willing to allow God to transform me?

It is a matter of choice, which is why in Romans 12 Paul writes, "I urge you..."

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?