

Sermon Series: UNLIKELY HEROES

Sermon Title: The Grace Factor

Date: October 25, 2020

Biblical Passage: I Corinthians 15:3-11

Passage Background and Summary

In this passage, Paul begins by recounting the crux of the Gospel message: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised from the dead, so that we might be freed from our sins. Paul also recounts the post-resurrection appearances of Christ to the Cephas (Peter), the disciples and others. Paul then testifies that Jesus had appeared to him, “the least of the apostles” who was unfit to be so because he “persecuted the church of God.” Paul attributes all that he has attained to the grace of God. In fact, he says, “I am what I am” by God’s grace.

Sermon Points

Pastor Warnock continued his series, “Unlikely Heroes,” by lifting the Apostle Paul, as a living and breathing example of the grace of God. Paul, a defender of his father’s faith, had persecuted the Church until the grace of God saved him from himself. Paul testifies that God’s grace transformed him from a persecutor of the Gospel to its biggest proponent and purveyor. Like Paul, each of us has experienced *the grace factor* in our own lives. God’s grace has met us throughout our lives, has saved us from our enemies, has saved us from ourselves. God’s grace allows us to be:

1. **Be honest about our past**, especially those parts of past about which we are not proud.
2. **Happy about our present**, knowing that God’s grace continues to guide and sustain us.
3. **Hopeful about our future**, being confident that God’s grace will lead us forward.

Discussion/Reflection Questions

1. What is your testimony about how God’s grace transformed your life?
2. Describe a time in your past you felt God’s grace was unavailable to you.
3. How have you relied upon God’s grace during this time of pandemic?
4. How can you rely on God’s grace to accomplish what God has called you to do?
5. How can the church better model Christ in extending God’s grace to others?