Day 5 Living by Grace through Faith

**Main Points**

1. We are to live by grace through faith, but the message of Ephesians 2:8-9 often is distorted to something more like this.

***Efarceus 2:8-9***

*For by law you continue to be saved by obedience; it is by your diligent discipline and sacrifice, the requirement of God, 9by works, so that you may humbly boast.*

1. Basically, what we are implying is that Jesus got the ball rolling through His death and resurrection, but now that we are saved, it’s up to US to maintain our salvation through our own efforts. While we do mature and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, we are right now **complete** in Him (Col. 2:9-10).
2. Our hearts are established by grace, not through the keeping of laws and formulas (Heb. 13:9).
3. We need to be aware of and take heed to the warnings of Jesus and of Paul. There are wolves within the “Christian” world who seek to undermine the gospel of grace and take us captive for less than noble purposes.

**Discuss**

1. Those who teach that we must add law to grace often do so for less than noble reasons. Others, mix law into grace out of positive motivations. How is it that either one of these scenarios can be true? What might it sound/look like? How can we avoid this trap of mixing law into grace? Why is this so important?

Day 6 Allowing Grace to Permeate Your Life

**Main Points**

1. When someone has been buried in layers of law for perhaps many years, it can take a good amount of time to get free. Some have described this process as removing grave clothes. David and I saw it as being tied in hundreds of knots inside, and each time we saw a truth, that knot was released and new life began to flow in that area of our lives.
2. Sadly, mixing law into grace can leave a trail of devastation, especially when it comes to relationships. When we see the damage that has been done, it is no easy task to undo it because it involves someone else. That person might still be entrenched in law or be damaged and resentful about how our beliefs and subsequent actions hurt them.
3. Marriage, which is supposed to be an example of Christ and the Church is most greatly damaged by law and formula to the point where two people who truly love each other don’t know how to peacefully live with each other. Because this relationship is so close to the heart, change can be very painful and slow.
4. Allowing grace to permeate our lives involves RECEIVING the love and grace God extends to us with all of our shortcomings, and then EXTENDING grace to others.

**Discuss**

1. Why do you think that mixing law into grace causes such devastating effects on relationships, especially marriage?
2. How does “grace for me, but no grace for you” undermine our efforts to improve our relationships?
3. Discuss the importance and freedom of understanding that the only behavior you can change is your own. Why might it take perhaps even years of practicing this truth for it to take effect in the heart of someone else?