

Call to Worship: Colossians 3:16

Scripture Reading: Psalm 37:4-11

Sermon: God and the Word of His Grace - Acts 20:32

Benediction: Psalm 31:5

(Act 20:32) "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

### I. We are brothers

A. through faith in Jesus Christ we have an adoption as sons Galatians 4:4-7

B. during this life, we may not be able to have the close fellowship with our natural families that we would like to have, but God's church is our family (Luke 8:20-21)

Luke 8:20-21 And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." (21) But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

C. elders must not think of themselves too highly; not even apostles should, certainly not church elders

Matthew 23:6-8 [The Pharisees] love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, (7) greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' (8) But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

### II. Our well-being has been entrusted to God Himself

A. Greek *paratithemai* lit "to place alongside" meaning "to deposit with"

B. 2 Timothy 1:12 I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep *that which I have committed unto him* against that day.

### III. God Himself will see to our well-being largely through the word of His grace

What does Paul mean by "the word of His grace"

-we have had this phrase before in Acts Acts 14:3

-we get an idea of what it is

-14:1 a spoken message which many people believe (both Jews and Greeks)

-we see other phrases that describe the same thing

-14:7 "good news" "preaching the gospel" lit. "announcing the good news"

-13:26 "word of salvation" or "message of salvation"

-13:48-49 "word of the Lord"

-we get the content of it Acts 13

28 Jesus Christ was killed, though innocent of any wrongdoing

29 He was buried

30-31 God raised Him from the dead, and caused Him to be seen by many witnesses

38 in Him there is forgiveness of sins

39 by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by keeping the law

-so, we know it is the message about what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for sinners, whereby they are saved through believing in Him

-it is most definitely not a message of what man can do to please God (you could not then be justified by it!)

-APPLICATION: I am laboring here to demonstrate that it is primarily by the preaching of the gospel message that believers are built up and given their inheritance

-they are kept in the faith

-they are taught and motivated regarding the Christian lifestyle Titus 2:11-15

#### IV. Through this word of His grace, God will build us up in the faith

A. see how this works 1 Cor 3:9-15

B. see how this works Eph 4:11-15

Ephesians 4:11-15 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

#### V. Through this word of His grace, God will give us an inheritance

A. Romans 8:16-18 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (18) For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

B. Poole: heaven is called an inheritance,

1. because we have it only by adoption, and it is given only unto children,

2. because it is a firm and lasting possession, not for a term of years, or a certain time, but for ever and ever.

## **brothers**

JRY: addressing them as “brethren” does some helpful things for us

-reminds elders not to think of themselves too highly (Mt 23:8)

-reminds the church who their family is (Luke 8:20-21)

## **I commend you to God**

Greek *paratithemai* lit “to place alongside” meaning “to deposit with”

## **and to the word of His grace**

JRY:

RWP:

The instrumentality through preaching and the Holy Spirit employed by God. Cf. Col\_4:6; Eph\_4:29.

Calvin:

the gospel

Paul meant to express the means whereby the Lord doth defend the salvation of his, which (as Peter saith) is kept by faith, ( 1Pe\_1:5) and the means of this keeping dependeth upon the word, lest it come in hazard amidst so many dangers. And it is very expedient for us to know how God will keep us.

so soon as he receiveth us to be kept, he maketh his word the instrument to keep our salvation

he addeth the adjunct “grace,” (for the genitive case, after the manner of the Hebrews, doth signify an effect) to the end the faithful might the more safely rest in the word, where God doth show forth his favor

Poole:

the gospel, which leads us to the rock upon which we must build, if we would not be moved when the storm comes.

Clarke:

the doctrine of salvation by Christ Jesus

MacLaren:

the way by which the Apostle conceived of God as working for the blessing and the guardianship of that little community in Ephesus was mainly, though not exclusively, through that which he here designates ‘the word of His grace.’

the revelation of the grace of God in Jesus Christ, with all the great truths that cluster round and are evolved from it, is the all-sufficient source of enlightenment and security for individuals and for Churches. And whosoever will rightly use and faithfully keep that great word, no evil shall befall him, nor shall he ever make shipwreck of the faith.

Gill:

the Gospel, so called, because it is a publication of the grace and favour of God to the sons of men; in the choice of some of them to everlasting life, in the mission of his Son to redeem them, in the justification of them by his righteousness, and in the forgiveness of them through his blood, in the regeneration of them by his Spirit, in adopting them into his family, and making them heirs of eternal life; and because it is a means of implanting his grace in their souls; to this he bore witness, by giving it success, notwithstanding the opposition made against it, and by miracles wrought in confirmation of it, as follows:

### **which is able to build you up**

Poole:

increasing the number of believers, and augmenting their graces. God is said to build, and so is his word, both concurring: the gospel builds, as a means appointed by God; and God builds, who blesses that means. Hence he is called the God of all grace, 1Pe\_5:10.

Trapp:

As being God's arm, and might instruments of his power 1 Cor 1:18; Rom 1:16

JFB:

"which" means God

Clarke:

The foundation is Jesus christ; God is the great master-builder

### **and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified**

see Eph 1:11, 18; 3:18; 5:5; Col 1:12

Poole:

heaven is called an inheritance, because we have it only by adoption, and it is given only unto children, Rom\_8:17; as also, because it is a firm and lasting possession, not for a term of years, or a certain time, but for ever and ever.

From June 16th, when this was a point in that sermon:

II. We are kept by that same gospel of the grace of God (32)

A. Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, is no longer with us personally

B. He has commended us to God

C. The means by which God will wield His power to keep us is that same gospel of His grace see 1 Cor 1:18; see Romans 1:16

1. it is the means by which God will wield His power to build us up

2. it is the means by which He will wield His power give us an inheritance among all those who are sanctified