



MORE THAN ENOUGH

FREEDOM FROM WORLDLY MEASURES OF SUCCESS

From Worship to Weekday - November 21, 2021

More Than Enough Stewardship Sermon Series

We have a God who gives more than we could ask or imagine. He supplies our every need and satisfies the desires of our hearts. However, we are so easily caught up in the attraction to possessions, achievements, and other worldly measures of success. Somehow, we believe these things bring happiness and value. God sets us free from this trap, and through his gift of Christ, makes us more than enough and provides for us more than enough.

Can I Ever Be Enough?

Inside every person is a desire to be “enough” – good enough, smart enough, pretty enough, popular enough... The list goes on. It is a desire that haunts and continually denies. God also wants us to be “enough”, but he has a different path for getting there. It does not come through success in school or on the job. It does not come through the myriad of standards of excellence the world provides. It does not even come through the good works we do, the offerings we give to God, or the moral victories we accumulate. “Enough” comes by grace, through the immeasurable riches of Christ.

CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER

- 1) How did you see God at work this past week?
- 2) What has God been teaching you in his Word this week?
- 3) What do you remember about last week's sermon?

CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

CONNECT WITH GOD

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. This is a great verse for Reformation Sunday. But can it be a good section of scripture for Pledge Sunday?

One of the biggest problems with giving in the Church is a failure to understand the foundation of grace we have. How do you define grace?

"All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God's good and bounteous gifts." So set giving aside and focus on receiving. What blessings do you count as bounteous gifts from God?

Last week we explored the question, "How much is enough?" And, "For what?" This week the question is "How much is enough?" and "For whom?" There are Law answers to that question and there are Gospel answers to that question. What are some of those answers?

When considering if you can ever be enough for God the answer we want to give is "Of course! God loves me just the way I am." If you are just looking at this through the Law, God does not love you just the way you are. The Law calls out the sin in your life. Read Ephesians 2:1.

Then, the Gospel says the answer is, "Absolutely!" God loves you just the way you are because you are completely covered with the righteousness of Christ, with every trespass and sin forgiven. Read Ephesians 2:4.

What does Ephesians 2:10 say about the fact that every offering you have given to God was already planned by him long before you gave it? What do you think about that?

We have been saved from sin, for good works. And one of those good works is our giving. That is the natural outcome of being saved by grace. And if you've understood the receiving part of all this, God has given you so much in Christ... If you've understood the receiving part of all this, the giving will follow. What will your financial response to God's gifts and grace be for the year ahead?

Pledging might be more beneficial to you than it is to Bethlehem." How could this be true?

CONNECT WITH GOD IN PRAYER