

In The Crowd Series
Grace and Peace
Newport News Campus
10/13/18

Opening

-last minutes sermon change...

-when Tara started with that song "Where the Spirit of The Lord there is freedom..." I know this was the direction we needed to choose...

-I came up here with both messages...but we are changing directions...

Introduction

-Courtroom story

- Derick's first speeding ticket
- So many people, another judge took half the cases
- He didn't look happy, we all praying to stay with happy judge!
- Man with 92 in a 60 ticket
- Lawyer asked for radar calibration, trooper only had from June
- Ticket was prior, judge recessed case while trooper sent someone
- 30 minutes later...still no calibration report
- (meanwhile, other cases continuing)
- 60 minutes...nothing, case dismissed!
- I was about start the wave!
- Normally if we heard that story, we would want that man in jail...but we are all there for the same reason! Amazing how your perspective changes! We were all children of lawlessness that day!
- Some cases weren't about tickets...some people came out in shackles and orange jump suits...one young man never lifted his head, not once, so much shame...not even to see his mother standing behind him...

Grace and Faith

-1 Thessalonians 1:1 & 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

-1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

-Ephesians 2:8

-Hebrews 11:6

-God's grace is different than God's mercy...mercy is not giving someone what they do deserve...grace is giving someone what they don't deserve...

-I cannot appropriate God's grace without faith! That's what both Ephesians and Hebrews reminds us of...it's interesting isn't it that in the great faith chapter in Hebrews, here is this verse talking about believing that God rewards...my faith appropriates His grace!

-1 Thessalonians 3:6 & 2 Thessalonians 1:3

-Some of you cannot receive the many gifts that God wants to give you because you are shackled with shame...shame stifles your faith and robs you of grace...

-(have people stand who...)

Peace and Love

-1 Thessalonians 3:6 & 2 Thessalonians 1:3

-just as my faith appropriates God's grace, so too does my love appropriates God's peace

-1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

-John 14:23-29

-My love for God drives me to want to live a life that pleases Him (2 Corinthians 5:9)

-Jesus presses us about love here in John 14 because He knows that love in the heart of a person causes them to want to obey The Father...and Jesus knows that when we obey The Father, we appropriate His peace!!!!

-some of you here tonight, you are like us in that courtroom, living your life so fast, just hoping to not get a "God ticket" living life on the edge, always pushing the envelope...

- How far can I go with my girlfriend/boyfriend
- How much can I drink before its too much
- How much can I spend before I violate my budget

- How much of my giving can I withhold...
- How long can I be upset before I'm offended...

-(have people stand who...)

Band

-as we pray...

Close

-every week!!!!