

Sunday, August 5, 2018  
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington  
Dr. LaBarron McAdoo, Sr.

Series:

Sermon: The Purpose and Paradox of Grace

- **2 Corinthians 12:1-10** - (KJV) 12 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. 6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

**Grace has another side. There is another side of grace.**

Paul is on the defense because people are questioning his legitimacy and value. People by this depraved nature love to de-value people. You got to be thankful for how God made you. When people start picking on you. Devalue drama moment. V. 1-6

Paul goes into third person style. He mentions a divine principle he has. We struggle sometimes to responding with people with their foolishness.

1. Three detailed Things about this privilege he has. He had a privilege moment to get to a place, in a time, to see some things. Since they tried to devalue him, he told them about himself.
  - i) It happened 14 years ago.
  - ii) He says to the people that are trying to get to Heaven that he was already there. He says it was paradise. He went there and God took him there. Somethings you can't tell how He did it but you know He did it.
  - iii) He gets a revelation of words. He was given privilege and keeps it.
2. The paradox is seen. V. 7- 9 The paradox is a gift. Sometimes God does a grace thing. Sometimes God has to partner the good with some burdens because God knows the person. God has the habit to balancing our blessings with our burdens so we don't lose our minds. Because he had the privilege of hearing and seeing, God coupled Paul with a thorn. We don't always recognize gifts. Sometimes the issues we go through are not devilish but divine. The pain

Purpose. It was a messenger from Satan that God allowed to nag at him. He lets the messenger of Satan to get in a nagging position on him.

**3.** He discovers God's provision. V. 8-10 With it, comes sufficient grace. It strengthens. The purpose is to strengthen you. He went from pleading to get rid of his infirmities to preferencing it. He has taken it to another level by taking pleasure in it.

You can shout when everything is going your way, but when grace brings you trouble, can you still worship God?