



This Is Grace | Ethan Matott | 9.26.21

## Weekly Study

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**What's one thing you're most looking forward to in October?**

### SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Ethan preached a message on grace that all Believers need to be reminded of daily. It's impossible to out sin the grace of God, therefore we are never beyond it. Grace isn't the license to stay where we're at but it's the license to free us of the shame of our past and mistakes we'll still make as humans on this side of eternity. When we understand and experience the depth of God's grace, we are set free to extend grace towards others where they need it. Before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

**What's one takeaway you've received from this series, "Vantage Point", so far?**

**What is one thing you feel like God is teaching you right now?**

**What was the most challenging part of your week?**

**What was the highlight of your week?**

**For anyone who's new, we'd love for you to share your story on how you found Red Rocks and give us one thing you'd like to get from this group. How did you end up at Red Rocks?**

GROW

### **Romans 3:21-31**

**What do you know about the book of Romans? What message do you think Paul is trying to communicate in this passage?**

**How does this passage resonate with Ethan's message from Sunday?**

Paul the apostle, formerly named Saul who murdered and persecuted Christians, became the face of church planting during the early church days. This same felon also wrote, most scholars believe, thirteen of the books in the New Testament. We still read and quote his words every day!

How does Paul, the author of Romans, go from murdering to preaching? The answer is the deep grace of God who transforms us from the inside out. The grace that God has for us because He's not merely interested in our behavior but our hearts. He'd rather have us at all costs to set us free from something to set us free to something.

The grace given to us by God is through the accomplished work on the cross through Jesus. Our righteousness is credited to us not by works, but by faith. Only the man who once murdered people for a living would be able to remind us of that in this passage. Receiving what was undeserving and experiencing the depth of His love would turn him into a radical disciple of Jesus.

Paul is a Believer's great example of what God's grace can do to and for us when we allow it. Paul's life and ministry proved the Gospel to be true since he never walked side by side with

Jesus in the flesh; only in and by the Spirit did Paul live his life. Through Paul's testimony, we can be encouraged that Jesus is enough and that His grace is freely given even on our worst days. If not Paul, then trust the words of Jesus through the parable of the prodigal son.

**What's one area of your life you need to allow God's grace into?**

**In what ways can God's grace transform that area of your life?**

M O V E

**Read John 1:15-18**

**What's your takeaway from this passage?**

**How does verse 16 continue to resonate deeper with Ethan's message on grace?**

John the Baptist, Jesus's cousin, had a purpose and mission to lay the groundwork of the kingdom prior to Jesus's ministry arrival. He preached on what was to come and baptized into what was about to be. Though others started to consider him the Messiah, John was quick to correct and point to someone greater than he. Someone who'd manifest the Word into flesh full of both *grace* and truth.

The Old Testament shows us the story of humans failing at keeping the law which ultimately kept them further from God. The New Testament shows us God's plan to reconcile us back to Him in full completion. Jesus was always the plan after Adam and Even's mishap in the garden, setting us free from the burden of keeping in step with the law. Freedom was God's idea that we would live fully and abundantly in Jesus, having a full relationship with our Creator.

Because of the cross, we can boldly approach God's throne on our worst day as we can our best day. Jesus paying the penalty and becoming the ultimate sacrifice, bridged the gap between us and God. Through faith we can experience His grace as we are now seen by the righteousness clothed on us by Jesus's blood. We are no longer defined or known by our sin because that yoke

was broken on Good Friday. Knowing and experiencing this gift propels us to keep walking in freedom on our worst days in our biggest mistakes just as we do on our best days.

**How does knowing the depth of God's grace encourage you to keep walking forward?**

**What are some ways His "grace upon grace" has transformed you?**

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

- *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*