

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

HUMILITY IN GRACE

By Jeff Sweeten

David tried; he was imperfect and his flaws, especially the public ones, were bloody and ugly and out there for everyone to see. Few would have blamed him for throwing in the towel. And, who would know better than David that he did not deserve God's grace? Yet, his heart was troubled over the fact that he sat in his great kingdom hall with God's Ark of the Covenant still unsettled. So, he said to Nathan the prophet "*See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains*" (cf. 2 Samuel 7:1-2).

Nathan responded with God's wonderful vote of confidence for David's concern and he was overjoyed, overcome, and overwhelmed. David's statement of gratitude, one of the most beautiful ever uttered from human lips, began: "*Who am, I O Lord God? And what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?*" (cf. 2 Samuel 7:18-23).

Who are we, that God should bless us with His only begotten Son ("*for God so loved the world,*" John 3:16), with forgiveness of sins ("*repent, and let everyone of you be baptized,*" Acts 2:38) and with a hope of eternal life ("*justified by His grace,*" Titus 3:7)? With so little "effort" He gives us strength far beyond our ability ("*through Christ who strengthens,*" Philippians 4:13), protection from all possible harm ("*who can be against us,*" Romans 8:31-39), and sufficient grace ("*that the power of Christ may rest upon me,*" 2 Corinthians 12:9), in spite of who we really are – and He knows ("*Where can I flee from your presence?*" Psalm 139:7-12). Indeed, our salvation is by the grace of God and not through meritorious works ("*it is a gift of God,*" Ephesians 2:8-9).

What can we say? How does one respond to such a great gift of "*given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:7)? Why, we "*minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God*" (1 Peter 4:10). And, most obviously, we ask "*What must I do?*" (Acts 16:30). As David sat grateful for Divine blessings, we also must ask what should we do, for a free grace does not exclude works that justify, "*for a man is justified by works, not by faith only*" (James 2:24). The Bible's saved knew this!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130