

Let Us "Continue in the Grace of God"
(Acts 13:43)

Introduction:

1. According to this verse, Paul and Barnabas persuaded the people in Antioch *"to continue in the grace of God."*
2. This activity deserves our careful attention as we begin our 9th year.
3. In our lesson we are concentrating on 3 reasons why we must *"continue in"* God's grace.
 - a. The grace of God saves us from sin.
 - b. The grace of God teaches us how to live.
 - c. The grace of God is sufficient.

Discussion:

- I. FIRST, LET US *"CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD"* BECAUSE IT SAVES US FROM SIN
 - A. The point is clearly revealed in Ephesians 2:4-9.
 - B. There is widespread agreement on the fact that we are saved by God's grace.
 - C. Unfortunately, there is widespread disagreement over "how" and "when" we are saved by grace.
 - D. We are not concerned with the opinions of men -- we need to know what God has said in His Word about His grace.
 - E. Let us allow the apostle Paul to explain how and when we are saved by grace.
 1. God's grace had allowed Paul to overcome his former life as a persecutor and a blasphemer (1 Timothy 1:12-14).
 2. Notice how Saul is introduced (Acts 7:58; 8:1, 3; 9:1-2).
 3. The Lord appeared to Saul as he traveled to Damascus (Acts 9:4-6).
 4. How did he feel after arriving in Damascus? (see Acts 9:9, 11b)
 5. What was Saul told to do in Damascus? (see Acts 22:12-16)
 6. How did Saul respond? (see Acts 9:18)
 7. Notice the effect of God's grace upon Saul (Acts 9:19-21).
 - F. We are saved by God's grace when we comply with His conditions (Mark 16:16).
 - G. Let us heed the warning issued in 2 Corinthians 6:1.
- II. SECOND, LET US *"CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD"* BECAUSE IT TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE
 - A. God's grace does not give us license to live as we please (Romans 6:14-15).
 - B. Rather, we learn from Titus 2 that God's grace teaches us:
 1. to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (vs.11-12a)
 2. to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (vs.12b-13).
 - C. As these guidelines are followed, God's grace can be seen (Acts 11:22-23).
- III. THIRD, LET US *"CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD"* BECAUSE IT IS SUFFICIENT (2 Corinthians 12)
 - A. In vs.1-6 Paul mentioned an experience in which some special information was revealed to him.
 - B. In connection with this, he was given *"a thorn in the flesh"* (vs.7).
 - C. According to vs.8, Paul asked the Lord 3 times to remove this *"thorn."*
 - D. Notice what Paul was told in vs.9a.
 - E. What lesson did Paul learn? (see vs.9b-10)
 - F. In connection with this, let us read Hebrews 4:16.

Conclusion:

1. The passages we have studied should persuade us *"to continue in the grace of God"* as we serve Him in our 9th year.
2. As we conclude,:
 - a. Have you been saved by God's grace?
 - b. Are you living as God's grace teaches?
 - c. Is God's grace sufficient for you?