

**October 14, 2020**

Words of grace for you.

People traffic in a variety of commodities everyday; some are legal others are illegal. Recently numerous stories regarding human trafficking were in the news. We also read and hear of people trafficking in illicit drugs. And of course there is the legal trafficking that also occurs daily. As Christians we have a commodity to traffic of great value and yet many Christians are reluctant or fail to traffic in grace. Read with me now 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

*12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; 14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. 15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Once you receive God's grace, what should you do with it? Should you hide it away? Should you share it? Sadly, many Christians do nothing with it. I want to encourage us to become traffickers in grace. We must recognize that we are called by God into service to share or traffic in His grace.

Trafficking in Grace, as with everything else, begins with God. It is God who calls us into a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus. Paul

acknowledges that grace is a gift from God throughout his writings. For example Ephesians 2:8-10 reveals God's grace at work. This passage reads, "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Jesus saved Paul, the foremost of sinners, as proof that God's grace is able to save anyone. Many people are reluctant to come to Jesus because they believe they are unworthy of God's gift of salvation and forgiveness of sin. Of course, none of us are worthy of this most amazing of gifts. This is, however, the nature of grace. It is offered to us despite our unworthiness. Remember, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Trafficking in Grace is how we answer God's call to kingdom service. Paul asserts it was Jesus who after extending grace to Paul placed him into service to accomplish God's purpose and plan. In the same way we are also put into service by God in order to accomplish His plan and purpose. God's purpose is to have His grace proclaimed to the entire world since God "Desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

God places each of us in particular places at particular times to accomplish His plan. In order to do that we must become traffickers of God's grace to a world that is corrupted and contaminated by sin.

Jonah is an example of trafficking in Grace. Recall that Jonah was called to participate in the trafficking in grace and he rejected it. Nevertheless, God used Jonah even in his disobedience proving God's grace is for all people.

Today I invite you to join with me on this glorious journey God has set before us. It is a journey filled with hindrances, roadblocks, and numerous other perils along the way. But it is also a journey that will end in the glory of God's heaven. Let us become faithful participants in trafficking God's grace to this corrupt and sin stained world. Let us pray.

*Almighty God, thank You for calling us into Your service through Jesus. Help us with all courage and boldness traffic in Your grace sharing without freely the grace we receive through Your Son and our Savior, Jesus. Amen.*

None of us are worthy of God's gift of salvation and life because of our sin. Despite this God calls us into relationship with Him through Jesus.

Until the nets are full