

JEHOVAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

4th Quarter 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Growing Deeper in the Word

YouTube

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
7:00PM

**"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a
light to my path." — Psalm 119:105**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

OCTOBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN STEWARDSHIP

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. It includes all aspects of life, such as time, skills, and assets. Our attitudes toward stewardship reflect personal values and priorities.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Responsibility, Cheerful Giving, Right Attitude

LESSON FORTY: IT SHOULD COME FROM THE HEART

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What does my use of time and resources reveal about what I treasure most?
2. In what areas of my life do I struggle to place God first?
3. Am I stewarding my finances, talents, and opportunities with eternal priorities in mind?

TEXT: MATTHEW 6:19-24

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: TRUE STEWARDSHIP SHOULD COME FROM THE HEART AND REFLECT WHOLE HEARTED DEVOTION TO GOD'S KINGDOM.

INTRODUCTION: Kingdom citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. Stewardship includes every aspect of life—our time, talents, finances, relationships, influence, and opportunities. In **Matthew 6:19-24**, Jesus teaches that stewardship is not merely about outward actions; it is a matter of the heart. Our attitudes toward stewardship reveal our personal values, priorities, and devotion. Jesus teaches that stewardship is ultimately a heart issue. Kingdom citizens are called to manage every resource God provides with faithfulness, wisdom, and sincerity. Our treasures, perspective, and loyalties reveal where our hearts truly belong.

1. THE HEART REVEALS WHAT WE TRULY TREASURE. (vv. 19-21)

Jesus contrasts earthly treasures with heavenly treasures. Earthly possessions are temporary and vulnerable, but heavenly investments have eternal value. Whatever captures our heart will ultimately direct our decisions, priorities, and stewardship. Many people think stewardship only concerns money, but Jesus broadens the issue to include our deepest affections. If our hearts are centered on worldly gain, recognition, or comfort, our stewardship will reflect those desires. However, when our hearts belong to God, we willingly invest our time, gifts, and resources into His Kingdom. It is important to remember that stewardship begins internally

before it is expressed externally. ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (vv. 19-20)*** Kingdom citizens should evaluate whether their resources are being used for eternal purposes and ask themselves this question: **How can I better use my gifts and abilities for God’s Kingdom?** A heart devoted to God sees every blessing as something entrusted by Him. ***“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (v. 21)***

2. HEALTHY SPIRITUAL VISION LEADS TO FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP. (vv. 22-23)

Jesus uses the illustration of the eye being the ***“lamp of the body.”*** A healthy spiritual perspective fills life with light, while a distorted perspective leads to darkness. ***“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness.” (vv. 22-23)*** How we view God, possessions, and purpose determines how faithfully we manage what He has entrusted to us. A selfish or materialistic mindset clouds spiritual judgment. People begin to see resources as personal property rather than God-given responsibility. But when our spiritual vision is clear, we recognize that everything we have belongs to God and should be used for His glory. Stewardship requires spiritual discernment. We must ask God to help us see opportunities to serve rather than simply opportunities to gain. **What distractions or attachments compete for your devotion to God?** Our use of time, talents, and finances reflects our spiritual eyesight. Faithful stewardship may include using talents to encourage and serve others, managing time wisely for prayer, family, ministry, and rest, and giving generously with sincerity and gratitude. It also involves using influence to point others toward Christ. First Corinthians 4:2 — ***“It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”***

3. WE CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS. (v. 24)

How does faithful stewardship demonstrate worship and trust in God? Jesus concludes with a powerful statement: no one can serve both God and money. ***“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (v. 24)*** The issue is not possession itself, but devotion. Faithful stewardship flows from loyalty to God rather than attachment to material things. When the heart is surrendered to God, stewardship becomes an act of worship rather than obligation. Kingdom citizens understand that everything they possess belongs to God first. Money, talents, careers, and possessions are tools for advancing His purposes—not substitutes for Him. As such, stewardship should never be driven by guilt, pride, or recognition. God desires willing and cheerful stewardship that flows from love and gratitude. We honor God when we place Him above personal ambition and material security. When stewardship comes from the heart: we give generously, we serve faithfully, we manage responsibly and we live with eternal priorities. Everything we have is entrusted to us by God, and faithful stewardship reflects our love, worship, and commitment to Him. **What practical changes can you make this week to become a more faithful steward?**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

OCTOBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN STEWARDSHIP

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. It includes all aspects of life, such as time, skills, and assets. Our attitudes toward stewardship reflect personal values and priorities.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Responsibility, Cheerful Giving, Right Attitude

LESSON FORTY-ONE: WALK IN THE LIGHT

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What areas of my life need greater spiritual light and accountability?
2. Are there any “unfruitful works” that I need to separate from?
3. In what practical ways can I walk more intentionally as a child of light this week?

TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:6–11

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP BEGINS WHEN KINGDOM CITIZENS CHOOSE TO WALK IN THE LIGHT OF GOD’S TRUTH AND LIVE WITH SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

INTRODUCTION: Kingdom citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. Stewardship includes every aspect of life—our time, talents, relationships, influence, finances, and opportunities. According to **Ephesians 5:6–11**, believers are called to “*walk in the light*,” living lives that reflect God’s truth and righteousness. Our stewardship reflects our values and priorities. When we walk in spiritual light, we manage God’s blessings with wisdom, integrity, and purpose. Walking in darkness leads to wasteful and unfruitful living, but walking in the light produces fruit that honors God. Faithful stewardship is not simply about managing possessions—it is about honoring God with every aspect of life. When we walk in the light, our priorities, attitudes, and actions reveal a heart committed to God’s Kingdom.

1. WALKING IN THE LIGHT REQUIRES REJECTING DECEPTION. (vv. 6–7)

Paul warns believers not to be deceived by “*vain words*” or influenced by disobedient lifestyles. “*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*” (vv. 6-7) Therefore do not be partners with them. Faithful stewardship begins with discernment and a commitment to God’s truth. The world often promotes values that encourage selfishness, greed, and temporary pleasure. Kingdom citizens must guard against attitudes that distort God’s purpose for resources and abilities.

Poor stewardship often begins with spiritual deception—believing that our lives, possessions, and talents belong only to us. Walking in the light means recognizing that everything we have belongs to God and should be managed according to His will. Kingdom Citizens walking in the light must strive to avoid influences that encourage ungodly priorities. They must evaluate whether their decisions are shaped more by culture or by Scripture. They must also practice stewardship with honesty, wisdom, and accountability. **How can you better demonstrate goodness, righteousness, and truth in your stewardship?**

2. WALKING IN THE LIGHT PRODUCES GODLY FRUIT. (vv. 8-10)

Paul reminds believers that they were once in darkness, but now they are *“light in the Lord.”* Therefore, they should live in ways that produce goodness, righteousness, and truth. Our stewardship should produce visible spiritual fruit that reflects God’s character. Kingdom stewardship is more than maintaining possessions—it is about using every resource in ways that glorify God and bless others. *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” (v. 8)* Walking in the light demonstrates integrity, compassion, generosity, and faithfulness. The way we manage our time, relationships, finances, and talents should reveal the fruit of a transformed life. **What influences or distractions may be hindering faithful stewardship in my life?** As Kingdom Citizens, we must learn to use our gifts and abilities to serve others. We must steward our time intentionally by prioritizing prayer, worship, family, and ministry, and we must allow our decisions to reflect righteousness and truth. Walking in the light through stewardship may include encouraging others with our gifts, serving faithfully in ministry and managing finances responsibly and generously. It also commands us to use our influence to lead others toward Christ and to be truthful and trustworthy in all responsibilities.

3. WALKING IN THE LIGHT EXPOSES UNFRUITFUL WORK. (v. 11)

Paul instructs believers not to participate in the *“unfruitful works of darkness,”* but rather to expose them. **(v. 11)** Wise stewardship requires separating from practices that dishonor God and hinder spiritual growth. Kingdom citizens must be careful not to misuse the blessings God has entrusted to them. Time can be wasted, talents neglected, opportunities ignored, and resources abused when we walk in spiritual darkness. Walking in the light involves accountability and courage. Faithful stewards choose holiness over compromise and purpose over wastefulness. Kingdom Citizens are encouraged to identify habits or behaviors that hinder spiritual growth. We must remove distractions that prevent faithful stewardship. Learn to use your life as a testimony that points others toward God’s truth. Paul teaches that believers are no longer children of darkness but children of light. As Kingdom citizens, we are called to steward every area of life in ways that reflect God’s truth and righteousness. **Walking in the light means rejecting deception, producing spiritual fruit and avoiding unfruitful works of darkness.**

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OCTOBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN STEWARDSHIP

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. It includes all aspects of life, such as time, skills, and assets. Our attitudes toward stewardship reflect personal values and priorities.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Responsibility, Cheerful Giving, Right Attitude

LESSON FORTY-TWO: BE STEWARDS OF GOD’S CREATION

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How does my daily lifestyle reflect care for God’s creation?
2. What practical steps can I take to better care for the environment?
3. How can I use my influence to encourage responsible stewardship in my family or community?

TEXT: GENESIS 1:26

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS ARE CALLED TO FAITHFULLY CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION AS AN EXPRESSION OF WORSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, AND LOVE FOR OTHERS.

INTRODUCTION: Kingdom citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. Stewardship includes every aspect of life—our time, talents, relationships, finances, skills, opportunities, and the care of God’s creation. Our attitudes toward stewardship reveal our values, priorities, and reverence for God. In **Genesis 1:26**, God entrusted humanity with dominion over the earth. Dominion does not mean exploitation or careless consumption; it means wise care, faithful management, and responsible oversight of what belongs to God. As Kingdom citizens, we are called to protect, preserve, and use God’s creation in ways that honor Him and benefit future generations. Being stewards of God’s creation means protecting and preserving the environment, using resources responsibly, reflecting God’s character through wise living and caring for future generations and communities.

1. GOD ENTRUSTED HUMANITY WITH THE CARE OF CREATION. (v. 26)

God created the earth and everything in it before placing mankind in a position of responsibility over it. We are caretakers of God’s creation, not careless consumers of it. The earth belongs to God, and He has entrusted humanity with the responsibility to manage it wisely. *Psalm 24:1 states, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”.* This verse highlights God’s total ownership over creation, including land, seas, animals, plants, and humanity. Because He is the Creator and Sustainer of all life, Kingdom

citizens should understand that environmental stewardship is spiritual stewardship. In what ways do caring for creation reflect love for God and others? Caring for creation reflects respect for the Creator. When people misuse natural resources, pollute the environment, or waste what God has provided, it affects communities, future generations, and the balance of creation itself. Some examples of environmental stewardship include conserving water and avoiding waste, properly disposing of trash and reducing pollution, caring for animals and natural habitats and avoiding greed-driven overconsumption. It can also include planting and maintaining healthy environments in communities. These actions demonstrate gratitude for God's provision and concern for others who share the earth's resources. By doing so, Kingdom Citizens appreciate creation as a gift from God, avoid wastefulness and careless living, and teach future generations to value and protect God's creation.

2. STEWARDSHIP INCLUDES WISE USE OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES. (v. 26)

God gave humanity dominion over the earth so that resources could be used responsibly and productively. Kingdom citizens should use God's resources wisely, recognizing that misuse harms both people and creation. The resources of the earth—water, land, food, energy, forests, and minerals—are blessings from God meant to sustain life. Faithful stewardship means using these resources responsibly rather than selfishly or wastefully. ***“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’” (v. 26)*** ***“So that he may rule over”*** denotes dominion power, but also dominion responsibility. When resources are abused through greed or neglect, people suffer. Pollution contaminates water supplies, wastefulness contributes to shortages, and exploitation damages communities and ecosystems. Kingdom citizens should lead by example in responsible living. We must be about avoiding excessive consumption and supporting clean and healthy community environments. We must also be about sharing resources with those in need and using energy and materials responsibly. Faithful stewardship reflects an understanding that God's blessings are to be managed with wisdom and compassion.

3. CARING FOR CREATION REFLECTS GOD'S CHARACTER. (v. 26)

Humanity was created in God's image, meaning our actions should reflect His nature and values. Responsible stewardship demonstrates God's love, order, wisdom, and compassion. God's creation reveals beauty, balance, and purpose. As Kingdom citizens, we honor God when we care for the world He created. Stewardship is not only about protecting nature—it is about loving people, preserving resources, and living responsibly. Neglecting stewardship can contribute to suffering, poverty, unhealthy living conditions, and injustice. But faithful stewardship blesses communities and demonstrates Kingdom values. Reflecting God's character through stewardship means keeping neighborhoods and public spaces clean, helping communities recover from environmental damage, teaching children respect for creation, and supporting efforts that preserve healthy ecosystems. It also means living with gratitude instead of materialism. **What changes can you make this week to become a better steward of God's resources?**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

OCTOBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN STEWARDSHIP

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. It includes all aspects of life, such as time, skills, and assets. Our attitudes toward stewardship reflect personal values and priorities.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Responsibility, Cheerful Giving, Right Attitude

LESSON FORTY-THREE: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHEERFUL GIVING

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What attitude do I usually have when giving my time, talents, or finances?
2. How does my stewardship reflect my trust in God's provision?
3. How can my giving positively impact others and glorify God?

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS WHO ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE WILL PRACTICE CHEERFUL, GENEROUS, AND FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP.

INTRODUCTION: Kingdom citizens must recognize that stewardship refers to the responsible management of all the resources and abilities that we possess. Stewardship includes every aspect of life—our time, talents, finances, skills, opportunities, and influence. Our attitudes toward stewardship reveal our values, priorities, and spiritual maturity. In **2 Corinthians 9:6–8**, Paul teaches believers about generosity and the heart behind giving. God desires His people to give willingly, joyfully, and faithfully—not out of pressure or obligation. Cheerful giving is evidence of a heart that trusts God as Provider and understands that all blessings come from Him.

1. CHEERFUL GIVING BEGINS WITH A CONDITION OF THE HEART. (vv. 6-7)

Paul uses the agricultural metaphor of sowing and reaping to illustrate generosity. Just as a farmer's harvest reflects the amount of seed sown, the blessings and spiritual rewards one receives correspond to the generosity of their giving *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* (v. 6) Paul teaches that giving should not be done grudgingly or out of necessity because *"God loveth a cheerful giver."* (v. 7) Faithful stewardship is not driven by pressure, but by love, gratitude, and trust in God. God is concerned not only with what we give, **but also with the attitude behind our giving.** Kingdom citizens understand that

generosity flows from a heart transformed by God's grace. When believers recognize how much God has given to them, they respond with willing and joyful stewardship. A selfish heart clings tightly to possessions, but a grateful heart gives freely and faithfully. Every Kingdom citizen should examine their motives for giving and serving. Give willingly rather than reluctantly and remember that stewardship is an act of worship. Examples of cheerful giving may include supporting ministry and missions, helping those in need, volunteering time and talents, encouraging others through acts of kindness, and sharing resources without expecting recognition

2. GENEROUS STEWARDSHIP PRODUCES SPIRITUAL HARVEST. (vv. 6-7)

Paul explains that whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously. The way we steward our resources reflects our faith in God's provision and produces lasting spiritual impact. Giving is like planting seeds. Faithful stewardship allows God to use our generosity to bless others, strengthen ministries, and advance His Kingdom. **What resources or abilities has God entrusted you for Kingdom work?** While this passage is not a promise of selfish prosperity, it teaches that God honors hearts that trust Him enough to give generously. Kingdom citizens recognize that stewardship is not loss—it is investment in eternal purposes. As Kingdom citizens, we must learn to trust God enough to be generous, use our resources to make a positive Kingdom impact, and view stewardship as an opportunity to bless others. **Verse 7 emphasizes the attitude behind giving. God values a willing and joyful heart rather than giving out of obligation or pressure.** True generosity is voluntary and heartfelt. Generous and cheerful stewardship can produce harvest by such things as providing food and necessities for families in need, supporting church outreach and community ministry, investing time into mentoring and discipleship, and using talents to strengthen the body of Christ. Paul reminds believers that stewardship is deeply connected to the heart. Kingdom citizens who are rooted and grounded in God's love will reflect His generosity through cheerful giving and faithful living. Cheerful stewardship means: giving with joy rather than reluctance, trusting God's provision, using resources for Kingdom purposes, and serving others with gratitude and love.

3. GOD EQUIPS FAITHFUL STEWARDS FOR EVERY GOOD WORK. (v. 8)

Paul assures believers that God is able to provide all grace so they will have what they need to abound in every good work. ***"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*** (v. 8) God supplies Kingdom citizens with the resources and abilities needed to fulfill His purposes. Stewardship is not limited to finances. God provides time, gifts, opportunities, wisdom, strength, and influence so believers can serve effectively. Kingdom citizens should never see themselves as owners, but as managers of God's blessings. When believers steward faithfully, God enables them to continue doing good works that glorify Him and benefit others. Faithful stewardship may involve: serving in ministry with consistency, using professional skills to help others, and giving encouragement to someone struggling. We must recognize every blessing as something entrusted by God. We must use our abilities and opportunities for Kingdom purposes. We must depend on God's grace rather than our own strength. **What practical step can you take this week to grow in cheerful stewardship?**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

NOVEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED BY THE GRACE OF GOD

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens understand that being rooted and grounded in God's grace means building a strong relationship with God through His Word, prayer, and supportive community. This foundation offers stability and resilience, keeping us anchored in God's love and promises.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unmerited Favor, Justified, Sufficient

LESSON FORTY-FOUR: SAVED BY GRACE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How does knowing that salvation is a gift affect my relationship with God?
2. Are there areas where I am tempted to trust in my good works rather than in Christ?
3. Who in my life needs to hear the message that salvation is by grace through faith?

TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:8-9

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE.

INTRODUCTION: The message of salvation is the heart of the Christian faith. Throughout history, people have searched for ways to gain God's acceptance through good works, religious ceremonies, moral living, or personal sacrifice. Yet the Bible teaches that salvation cannot be earned, purchased, or deserved. It is a gift that comes from God's grace alone. Grace is God's unmerited favor toward sinners. It is God giving us what we do not deserve and withholding from us what we do deserve. **Ephesians 2:8-9** stands as one of the clearest declarations in Scripture that salvation is entirely the work of God. Paul reminds believers that they are saved by grace through faith, not by their own efforts. As we examine this passage, we discover three powerful truths about being **Saved by Grace**.

1. SALVATION ORIGINATES IN GOD'S GRACE. (v. 8a)

The source of our salvation is not human goodness but divine grace. Before we ever sought God, God reached out to us. Before we loved Him, He loved us. **"For by grace are ye saved..." (v. 8a)** Grace is God's favor toward the undeserving, God's mercy toward the guilty, and God's love demonstrated through Jesus Christ. Humanity was spiritually dead in sin and unable to save itself. If salvation depended upon our efforts, no one could be saved.

God's grace took the initiative by sending His Son to die for our sins and rise again. The cross is the greatest attestation of God's grace. The ultimate demonstration of God's love and unmerited favor toward us is found in the fact that Jesus Christ willingly died on the cross for our sins. We did nothing to earn such a sacrifice, and we could never repay the price that was paid on our behalf. Yet, while we were still sinners, Christ gave His life for us. **At the cross, we see the depth of God's grace—Jesus took our place, bore our sins, and endured the punishment we deserved so that we could receive forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life.** There, God provided a way for sinners to be reconciled to Him. Every believer should live with gratitude, recognizing that salvation began with God's love and grace, not our merit or worthiness.

2. SALVATION IS RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH. (v. 8b)

Grace is God's provision; faith is our response. Faith is not merely believing facts about Jesus. It is placing complete trust and confidence in Him as Lord and Savior. Faith means trusting Christ rather than ourselves, depending on His finished work on the cross and receiving His gift of salvation. Paul emphasizes that salvation is *"not of yourselves."* It is *"...through faith..."* (v. 8b) Faith does not earn salvation; it simply receives what God has already provided through Christ. Imagine a gift being offered. The gift is purchased by someone else and freely given. The only requirement is to receive it. Likewise, salvation becomes ours when we place our faith in Jesus Christ. We must stop relying on our own righteousness and place our confidence completely in Christ and His saving work. Each Kingdom citizen must ask these personal questions, **"Do my actions reflect gratitude for the grace God has shown me? What steps can I take to grow in appreciation for God's amazing grace? How can I demonstrate humility, knowing that my salvation is entirely God's work?"** What are your answers to these pertinent questions? Because we are saved by grace, we can live with assurance, gratitude, and joy, knowing that our hope rests in God's unfailing love and not in our imperfect efforts.

3. SALVATION IS NOT EARNED BY WORKS. (v. 9)

Paul leaves no room for misunderstanding. *"Not of works, lest any man should boast."* (v. 9) Good works do not save us. They are the result of salvation, not the cause of it. No amount of church attendance, religious rituals, charitable giving or moral behavior can remove sin or earn eternal life. If salvation could be earned, people would boast about their achievements. But God designed salvation so that all glory belongs to Him alone. Good works are important, but they follow salvation. We work because we are saved, not in order to be saved. A believer's confidence rests not in personal accomplishments but in the finished work of Jesus Christ. This truth produces humility, worship, and dependence upon God. Are there areas where I am tempted to trust in my good works rather than in Christ? Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us of three foundational truths: **Salvation originates in God's grace, salvation is received through faith, and salvation is not earned by works.** The gospel is not about what we can do for God; it is about what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. Grace provides salvation, faith receives salvation, and Christ secures salvation. The cross stands forever as the greatest testimony that God loves us, has made a way for us to be saved, and offers us grace that we could never earn on our own. May we never take God's grace for granted but continually praise Him for the gift of salvation found in Jesus Christ.

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NOVEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED BY THE GRACE OF GOD

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens understand that being rooted and grounded in God's grace means building a strong relationship with God through His Word, prayer, and supportive community. This foundation offers stability and resilience, keeping us anchored in God's love and promises.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unmerited Favor, Justified, Sufficient

LESSON FORTY-FIVE: GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. In what areas of my life do I need to rely more on God's grace instead of my own strength?
2. How have past struggles helped strengthen my faith and dependence on God?
3. What practical steps can I take to remain rooted and grounded in God's grace daily?

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-9

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN GOD'S GRACE GIVES BELIEVERS CONFIDENCE, ENDURANCE, AND PEACE EVEN IN DIFFICULT SEASONS.

INTRODUCTION: Grace is one of the greatest gifts God gives to His people. It is His unearned favor, His loving kindness, and His divine help working in our lives daily. In **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**, the Apostle Paul describes a personal struggle he called a "thorn in the flesh." Though he prayed repeatedly for God to remove it, God answered him by saying, ***"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*** This passage teaches believers that God does not always remove difficulties, but He always provides enough grace to endure them. Kingdom Citizens understand that being rooted and grounded in God's grace means building a strong relationship with God through His Word, prayer, and supportive community. This foundation offers stability and resilience, keeping us anchored in God's love and promises.

1. GOD'S GRACE SUSTAINS US IN WEAKNESS. (v. 7)

Paul experienced weakness and suffering, yet God reminded him that divine grace would sustain him. Human weakness often becomes the place where God demonstrates His greatest power. Believers are not expected to rely solely on their own strength, wisdom, or abilities. God's grace gives spiritual endurance when life becomes overwhelming. **Paul's**

“thorn in the flesh” refers to a persistent difficulty or affliction that he experienced, which he describes as a “messenger of Satan” sent to keep him humble and prevent pride from arising due to the “surpassingly great revelations” he had received. **“Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.” (v. 8)** Although Paul asked God three times to remove this burden, God’s response emphasized that His grace is sufficient, and that divine power is most fully displayed in human weakness. A person facing illness may discover renewed faith and peace through prayer and dependence on God. A parent struggling financially may find strength to continue trusting God despite uncertainty. A student or worker under pressure may experience calmness and perseverance through God’s grace. **Weakness is not failure when it drives us closer to God. Am I allowing God’s grace to shape my attitude, relationships, and spiritual growth?** Divine strength is revealed most clearly when human strength is limited.

2. GOD’S GRACE TEACHES HUMILITY AND DEPENDENCE. (v. 8)

Paul’s thorn prevented him from becoming prideful because of the revelations he had received. ***Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. (v.8)*** Sometimes God allows challenges to remind believers that they must remain dependent upon Him. Grace keeps Kingdom Citizens humble and spiritually grounded. Instead of becoming self-sufficient, believers learn to trust God daily. Success in ministry, business, or education should never replace dependence on God. Difficult seasons can teach patience, compassion, and humility toward others. Believers who rely on prayer during challenges often develop deeper spiritual maturity. Grace helps believers remain humble while recognizing God as the source of every victory. **How can I encourage others who may be struggling with weakness or hardship?** Being rooted and grounded in the grace of God means trusting Him completely in every season of life. Paul’s experience teaches believers that God may not always remove hardships, but He promises sustaining grace through them all. Kingdom Citizens who remain connected to God through prayer, His Word, and fellowship will discover strength, stability, and hope through His sufficient grace.

3. GOD’S GRACE PRODUCES STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE. (v. 9)

Paul declared that he would glory in his infirmities so that the power of Christ could rest upon him. ***“Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (v. 9)*** God’s grace does more than help believers survive; it empowers them to continue serving faithfully. When believers understand that God’s grace is sufficient, they can face trials with courage and hope. A grieving person may continue encouraging others because God strengthens them daily. Someone recovering from failure or disappointment can move forward knowing God still has purpose for his or her life. **Church members can support one another through prayer, encouragement, and acts of kindness that reflect God’s grace. God’s grace provides confidence that no challenge is greater than His power.**

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KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unmerited Favor, Justified, Sufficient

LESSON FORTY-SIX: JUSTIFIED BY GRACE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Am I trusting in my good works, or am I trusting fully in Jesus Christ for my salvation?
2. Do I truly understand that salvation is a gift of grace and not something I can earn?
3. Am I living each day with gratitude for the redemption Christ purchased for me?

TEXT: ROMANS 3:20-24

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: WE ARE NOT JUSTIFIED BECAUSE WE ARE GOOD; WE ARE JUSTIFIED BECAUSE GOD IS GRACIOUS, AND CHRIST HAS REDEEMED US.

INTRODUCTION: One of the greatest questions humanity has wrestled with is: **How can a sinful person be made right with a holy God?** Many people attempt to answer this question through good works, religious rituals, personal morality, or human effort. Yet the Apostle Paul clearly teaches in **Romans 3** that no one can earn righteousness before God through keeping the law. The good news of the gospel is that God has provided a way for sinners to be declared righteous—not because of what they have done, but because of what Christ has done. This is the heart of the doctrine of **justification by grace**. Through faith in Jesus Christ, God freely grants righteousness to those who trust in Him. In this lesson, we examine three important truths about being **Justified by Grace**.

1. THE LAW REVEALS OUR SINFULNESS. (v. 20)

Paul teaches that the law was never given as a ladder by which we climb to God. Instead, the law functions like a mirror. A mirror reveals dirt on our face but cannot wash it away. Likewise, God's law reveals our sin but cannot save us from it. ***“Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” (v. 20)*** The law exposes: our disobedience, our selfish motives, and our inability to meet God's perfect standard. Every person stands guilty before God. No number of good

deeds can erase our sin. Salvation is not something we can earn through our works; it is a gift of God's grace received through faith in Jesus Christ. We do not serve, love, give, and minister in order to earn salvation—we do these things because we have already become beneficiaries of God's saving grace. People have used the term, **“I am a self made man.”** But truly, no man is a **“self made”** man; we are all **“God made”**, and we should always humbly acknowledge Him and His amazing grace. The law shows us our need for a Savior. Before we can appreciate God's grace, we must acknowledge our sinfulness. Salvation begins when we stop trusting in ourselves and recognize our need for Christ.

2. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH. (vv. 21-22)

Our good works are not the root of our salvation; they are the fruit of it. Because Christ has saved us, our hearts should be moved to serve Him and others with gratitude and love. We work not to earn God's favor, but because we have already experienced His favor.

“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested... Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.” (v. 21) The phrase ***“But now”*** marks a glorious turning point. What the law could not accomplish, God accomplished through Jesus Christ. God offers His righteousness to everyone who believes. This righteousness is not earned, not purchased, not inherited, and is received by faith. **Justification by Faith** means trusting completely in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. The ground is level at the foot of the cross. Rich or poor, educated or uneducated, religious or irreligious—all must come to God through faith in Christ. Our confidence is not in our performance but in Christ. Does your life reflect the joy, humility, and confidence that come from being justified by grace? **We are saved not by what we do for Jesus, but by what Jesus has done for us.** Because of Jesus, guilty sinners can be declared righteous, forgiven, and accepted by God. This is not merely good news—it is the greatest news ever proclaimed!

3. JUSTIFICATION IS A FREE GIFT OF GRACE. (vv. 23-24)

To be justified means: to be declared righteous before God, to be acquitted of guilt, and to stand accepted in God's sight. **“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”** (v. 23) Paul goes on to say, **“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”** (v. 24) Verse 23 reminds us that all humanity shares the same problem: **sin**. No one meets God's standard; every person has fallen short. Yet verse 24 presents God's wonderful solution: **justification by grace**. Notice Paul says we are justified **freely** by His grace. Grace is God's unmerited favor toward undeserving sinners. Our justification was purchased through the redemption found in Christ Jesus. Jesus paid the price we could never pay. Through His death and resurrection, He secured our salvation. **Grace eliminates boasting. We cannot take credit for our salvation. All praise belongs to God who saved us through Christ.** Today, if you have been trying to earn God's favor through your own efforts, turn your trust to Jesus Christ. His grace is sufficient, His redemption is complete, and His invitation remains open. Our service becomes a response of thanksgiving for the grace we have received. In other words, **we do not work for salvation; we work because of salvation.** Our lives of obedience and service are evidence that God's grace is actively working within us.

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

NOVEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED BY THE GRACE OF GOD

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens understand that being rooted and grounded in God's grace means building a strong relationship with God through His Word, prayer, and supportive community. This foundation offers stability and resilience, keeping us anchored in God's love and promises.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unmerited Favor, Justified, Sufficient

LESSON FORTY-SEVEN: BLESSED ASSURANCE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How can I become more rooted and grounded in God's grace through prayer and His Word?
2. In what ways has God renewed my strength during difficult seasons?
3. How can I encourage others to live with blessed assurance in Christ?

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13–18

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: BELIEVERS WHO ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THE GRACE OF GOD CAN LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE BECAUSE GOD'S PROMISES ARE ETERNAL, HIS POWER SUSTAINS US THROUGH TRIALS, AND OUR FAITH FIXES OUR EYES ON WHAT IS UNSEEN RATHER THAN TEMPORARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

INTRODUCTION: In a world filled with uncertainty, disappointment, and constant change, many people struggle with fear and instability. Yet believers in Christ are called to live with "*blessed assurance*" — a deep confidence that God is faithful, present, and working even in difficult seasons. In 2 Corinthians 4:13–18, the Apostle Paul reminds the church that although outward troubles may come, inwardly believers are renewed daily by the grace of God. Kingdom Citizens who are rooted and grounded in grace understand that suffering is temporary, but God's glory is eternal. Through prayer, God's Word, and supportive fellowship, believers remain anchored in hope and strengthened in faith. God's grace is dependable because God Himself is dependable. We may not always understand what He is doing, but we can always trust who He is. His grace is enough for every need, every trial, and every season of our lives.

1. GRACE GIVES CONFIDENCE TO SPEAK AND LIVE BY FAITH. (v. 13)

Paul teaches that faith is not silent. When believers are rooted in God's grace, they develop confidence in God's promises and boldly testify about His goodness. Blessed assurance

comes from knowing that our hope is not based on feelings or circumstances, but on the finished work of Christ. ***“We having the same spirit of faith... we also believe, and therefore speak.” (v. 13)*** Grace strengthens believers to continue trusting God even when situations seem difficult. Faith-filled believers speak hope, encouragement, and truth because they know God is still in control. A believer facing financial hardship continues to trust God instead of speaking defeat. A student under pressure chooses integrity and prayer instead of compromise. A church member encourages others during difficult times because they have confidence in God’s faithfulness. Rooted believers do not allow fear to silence their testimony. God’s grace gives assurance that He is working in every season. Blessed assurance is the confidence believers have in the grace and faithfulness of God.

2. GRACE SUSTAINS US THROUGH TRIALS AND DAILY RENEWAL. (v. 16)

Paul acknowledges that life includes suffering, weakness, and hardship. However, God’s grace provides inward renewal every day. Blessed assurance does not mean ***believers avoid trials; it means believers have confidence that God will sustain them through trials.***

“Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.” (v. 16)

Kingdom Citizens who remain rooted and grounded in grace understand that spiritual strength comes from maintaining a relationship with God through prayer, worship, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers. Someone grieving the loss of a loved one finds comfort through prayer and God’s promises. A caregiver who feels emotionally exhausted receives renewed strength through devotion and worship. A believer facing workplace stress remains spiritually grounded through daily time with God. God’s grace renews us internally even when life becomes difficult externally. Spiritual stability grows through consistent connection with God. Through Christ, believers are strengthened to speak in faith, endure hardships, and focus on eternal glory. **Are you focused more on temporary struggles or eternal promises?**

3. GRACE HELPS US FOCUS ON ETERNAL GLORY RATHER THAN TEMPORARY STRUGGLES. (v. 18)

Paul encourages believers to maintain an eternal perspective. Temporary troubles should not distract believers from the eternal promises of God. Blessed assurance comes from knowing that God has prepared everlasting glory for His people. ***“For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (v. 18)*** **What situations in your life challenge your confidence in God’s promises?** Being rooted and grounded in grace means remaining anchored in God’s promises instead of becoming overwhelmed by temporary disappointments. Grace shifts our focus from earthly problems to heavenly hope. A believer experiencing setbacks refuses to lose hope because he or she trusts God’s eternal plan. Families facing uncertainty continue praying together and trusting God’s direction. Christians remain faithful despite cultural pressures because they value eternal rewards more than temporary approval. Grace teaches Kingdom Citizens who are rooted and grounded in the grace of God to stand firm with blessed assurance, knowing that God’s love, strength, and promises will sustain them through every season of life.

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

NOVEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED BY THE GRACE OF GOD

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens understand that being rooted and grounded in God's grace means building a strong relationship with God through His Word, prayer, and supportive community. This foundation offers stability and resilience, keeping us anchored in God's love and promises.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Unmerited Favor, Justified, Sufficient

LESSON FORTY-EIGHT: A GRACE YOU CAN RELY ON

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Does my daily conduct reflect sincerity, integrity, and spiritual maturity?
2. How have I experienced God's sustaining grace during difficult seasons?
3. Am I helping strengthen others through encouragement, forgiveness, and support?

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-16

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: BECAUSE GOD'S GRACE IS DEPENDABLE, KINGDOM CITIZENS CAN LIVE WITH INTEGRITY, CONFIDENCE, AND HOPE, KNOWING THAT GOD'S SUSTAINING POWER WILL GUIDE THEM THROUGH EVERY SEASON OF LIFE.

INTRODUCTION: As believers continue to grow rooted and grounded in the grace of God, they discover that grace is not only God's unmerited favor but also His sustaining strength for daily living. In **2 Corinthians 1:12–16**, the Apostle Paul speaks with confidence about living honestly and faithfully through the grace of God rather than through human wisdom. Paul reminds the church that God's grace provides stability, assurance, and endurance. Kingdom Citizens understand that being rooted and grounded in God's grace means building a strong relationship with God through His Word, prayer, and supportive community. This foundation offers stability and resilience, keeping us anchored in God's love and promises. This lesson encourages believers to trust in a grace they can rely on in every circumstance. God's grace is a grace we can rely on. It is not temporary, uncertain, or dependent upon our circumstances. When life is going well, God's grace sustains us, and when life becomes difficult, His grace carries us through.

1. GOD'S GRACE PRODUCES INTEGRITY IN OUR DAILY WALK. (vv. 12-14)

Paul emphasizes that his conduct was guided by sincerity and godly honesty through the grace of God. Grace is not an excuse for careless living; instead, it empowers believers to

walk uprightly before God and others. ***“For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity...we have had our conversation in the world...by the grace of God.” (v. 12)*** In a world where dishonesty and compromise are common, believers are called to live transparently and truthfully. Whether at work, school, church, or home, God’s grace helps us make ethical decisions even when doing right is difficult. A Kingdom Citizen does not depend solely on personal strength or wisdom but trusts God’s grace to help them maintain integrity. Grace changes behavior. God’s grace strengthens believers to live sincerely. Integrity reflects spiritual maturity and rootedness in Christ.

2. GOD’S GRACE GIVES STABILITY THROUGH DIFFICULT SEASONS. (v. 15)

Paul ministered with confidence because he trusted the grace of God. Life often brings uncertainty, disappointment, and trials, yet God’s grace provides stability that keeps believers anchored. ***“And in this confidence, I was minded to come unto you before...” (v. 15)*** Being rooted and grounded means remaining spiritually firm regardless of changing circumstances. Families experience financial pressure, health concerns, grief, and unexpected change. During these moments, believers can rely on God’s grace instead of becoming overwhelmed by fear or discouragement. Examples are: a parent trusting God while raising children in difficult times, a student remaining faithful under pressure from peers, and a believer maintaining hope while waiting for answered prayer. **God’s grace sustains us when our strength feels limited.** Grace provides endurance during hardship. God’s promises remain dependable. Spiritual roots grow deeper through trials. **“A Grace You Can Rely On”** reminds believers that God’s grace is dependable in every area of life. His grace empowers integrity, strengthens endurance, and nurtures healthy relationships within the Body of Christ

3. GOD’S GRACE STRENGTHENS OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST. (v. 16)

Paul speaks about mutual encouragement and connection between believers. Grace strengthens relationships within the church community by promoting patience, forgiveness, encouragement, and unity. ***“As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing...” (v. 16)*** Paul speaks about mutual encouragement and connection between believers. Grace strengthens relationships within the church community by promoting patience, forgiveness, encouragement, and unity. A believer who is rooted and grounded in grace becomes a source of support and strength to others. Healthy spiritual communities are built when believers: pray for one another, offer encouragement during difficult times, forgive offenses, and serve with humility and compassion. Grace enables us to overlook offenses, bear one another's burdens, and serve with humility rather than seeking recognition or personal gain. It reminds us that every believer is growing in faith and is dependent upon the mercy of God. When grace governs our hearts, unity replaces division, compassion overcomes criticism, and the church becomes a living testimony of Christ's love. Grace builds unity within the Body of Christ. **Believers are called to encourage each other. A supportive community strengthens spiritual resilience.**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

DECEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED FOR THE MISSION OF CHRIST

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens know that being rooted and grounded in the mission of Christ involves a deep commitment to living according to His teachings and drawing strength from His presence. It emphasizes the importance of a personal relationship with Christ that influences every aspect of life.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Foundation, Mission, Daily Living, Benediction

LESSON FORTY-NINE: ROOTED AND GROWING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Am I merely hearing God's Word, or am I consistently obeying it?
2. Are there areas of my life where my roots in Christ need to grow deeper?
3. What practical steps can I take this week to become more spiritually grounded?

TEXT: LUKE 6:47–49

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THE MISSION OF CHRIST INVOLVES A DEEP COMMITMENT TO LIVING ACCORDING TO HIS TEACHINGS AND DRAWING STRENGTH FROM HIS PRESENCE.

INTRODUCTION: A life firmly founded on Christ reflects a personal relationship with Him that shapes every thought, decision, and action. In **Luke 6:47–49**, Jesus compares two builders. Both heard His words, but only one obeyed. The difference was not appearance, effort, or intention — it was the foundation. One house stood through the storm because it was rooted deeply on the rock; the other collapsed because it lacked a secure foundation. Jesus teaches that a strong spiritual life is not built merely on hearing truth, but on living it. Kingdom citizens are called to build their lives on Christ so they can stand firm in every season and fulfill His mission faithfully.

1. A SOLID FOUNDATION BEGINS WITH COMING TO CHRIST. (v. 47)

Every structure is only as strong as its foundation. Architects know that before a building reaches upward, it must first go downward. The same principle applies to the Christian life. God is not impressed by how high we appear to stand if we are not firmly rooted in Him. Jesus closes His Sermon on the Plain with a powerful illustration of two builders. Both built houses.

Both faced storms. The difference was not the storm, but the foundation. Jesus says, ***"Whoever comes to Me and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like."*** (v. 47) True spiritual stability begins with a relationship with Christ, not merely religious activity. The wise builder first came to Jesus before building. Being rooted and grounded means Christ becomes the center of life, identity, values, and purpose. Kingdom citizens do not build on culture, emotions, popularity, or personal wisdom; they build on Christ Himself. A rooted believer seeks intimacy with Christ daily, depends on His guidance, trusts Him in uncertainty and draws strength from His presence. Without a relationship with Christ, spiritual foundations remain shallow. Before we can stand for Christ publicly, we must first stand with Him personally. Kingdom citizens are not called to build shallow lives. They are called to dig deep, stand firm, and represent Christ faithfully in the world.

2. A SOLID FOUNDATION REQUIRES HEARING AND OBEYING GOD'S WORD. (v. 48)

Jesus emphasized not only hearing His sayings but doing them. The storm revealed the strength of the foundation. **Many people hear God's Word, but Kingdom citizens apply it.** Obedience deepens spiritual roots. Every act of faith, forgiveness, humility, prayer, and love strengthens the believer's foundation. To be grounded in Christ's mission means living according to biblical truth, allowing God's Word to shape character, choosing obedience even when difficult and remaining faithful under pressure. Jesus describes a builder who refused to settle for a shallow foundation. ***"He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock..."*** (v. 48) Building on the rock required effort. The builder had to dig through loose soil until he reached solid bedrock. Likewise, spiritual maturity requires intentional discipline. Because the house rested on the rock, when the flood came and the stream beat violently against it, it remained standing. Notice Jesus did not promise the absence of storms. Every believer experiences trials, disappointments, illness, temptation, and suffering. The difference is that those rooted in Christ possess stability when life becomes unstable. Spiritual maturity is developed through consistent obedience. Hearing the Word informs us; obeying the Word transforms us. When Kingdom citizens build on the solid rock of Christ, they can stand firm through every storm and fulfill His mission with confidence and strength.

3. A SOLID FOUNDATION ENABLES US TO STAND IN THE STORMS AND FULFILL CHRIST'S MISSION. (v. 49)

The flood came to both houses. Following Christ does not remove storms, but it gives believers stability through them. ***"But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth..."*** (v. 49) The second builder heard the same message but ignored it. His house may have looked just as attractive as the first one. Outward appearances often hide inward weakness. Without a proper foundation, collapse was inevitable. When the storm arrived, the house immediately fell, and Jesus says, **"Great was the ruin of that house."** Many people desire the blessings of God without embracing obedience to God. They want salvation without surrender, faith without commitment, and growth without discipline. Jesus warns that hearing the Word without practicing it leads to spiritual instability. A shallow faith cannot withstand deep trials. Only those rooted in Christ remain standing when life becomes difficult. People are drawn to a faith that remains standing in difficult times. **How strong is your faith?**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

DECEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED FOR THE MISSION OF CHRIST

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens know that being rooted and grounded in the mission of Christ involves a deep commitment to living according to His teachings and drawing strength from His presence. It emphasizes the importance of a personal relationship with Christ that influences every aspect of life.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Foundation, Mission, Daily Living, Benediction

LESSON FIFTY: ROOTED AND GROUNDED WITH THE SHEPHERD

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What does it personally mean to me that “*The Lord is my Shepherd*”?
2. Are there areas of my life where I struggle to trust Christ’s provision?
3. How am I intentionally listening for the Shepherd’s voice each day?

TEXT: PSALM 23:1-4

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS UNDERSTAND THAT BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN THE MISSION OF CHRIST REQUIRES A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SHEPHERD.

INTRODUCTION: Psalm 23 reveals the loving care, guidance, protection, and faithfulness of God toward His people. As believers remain connected to Christ, the Good Shepherd, they receive strength, direction, peace, and purpose for everyday living. Being rooted and grounded with the Shepherd means trusting His leadership, depending on His presence, and following His path faithfully. Psalm 23 is one of the most beloved passages in Scripture because it paints a personal picture of God’s care for His people. David describes the Lord as a Shepherd who provides, leads, restores, protects, and remains present through every season of life. For Kingdom citizens, this Psalm reminds us that our spiritual stability and effectiveness in Christ’s mission are directly connected to our relationship with the Shepherd.

1. THE SHEPHERD PROVIDES EVERYTHING NEEDED FOR SPIRITUAL STABILITY. (v. 1)

“*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*” (v. 1) A sheep completely depends upon the shepherd. David recognized that God was the source of all provision, guidance, and security.

Being rooted and grounded with the Shepherd means learning to trust Christ as our provider in every area of life: spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally. Kingdom citizens are not sustained by self-sufficiency but by dependence on Christ. The Shepherd knows what His sheep need and faithfully supplies strength, wisdom, peace, and grace. When believers remain connected to Christ, they develop confidence that He will sustain them through every circumstance. A rooted believer trusts the Shepherd to provide what is needed for life and mission. Sheep survive and thrive only when they stay near the shepherd. Likewise, believers become spiritually rooted and grounded when they remain close to Christ. In John 10:11, Jesus identified Himself as the **“Good Shepherd”** who lays down His life for the sheep. Through Him, believers are strengthened to live faithfully and carry out His mission in the world. As we stay close to the Shepherd, our lives become testimonies of His guidance, goodness, and unfailing love. **What practical steps can you take to stay more rooted and grounded in Christ this week?**

2. THE SHEPHERD LEADS AND RESTORES HIS PEOPLE. (vv. 2-3)

The Shepherd does more than provide — He leads. Sheep depend upon the shepherd’s voice for direction and safety. **“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul...” (vv. 2–3)** Kingdom citizens who are rooted in Christ allow Him to guide decisions, priorities, relationships, attitudes and purpose. The Shepherd also restores weary souls. Life’s pressures, disappointments, and struggles can leave believers spiritually drained, but Christ renews strength and gives peace. Being grounded with the shepherd requires listening to His voice through prayer, scripture, worship, and obedience. The Shepherd strengthens and restores those who follow His direction. The Shepherd never abandons His sheep. He leads, restores, protects, and remains present through every season of life. Kingdom citizens who remain rooted and grounded with the Shepherd will find strength for every challenge and confidence to carry out the mission of Christ faithfully. **What situations in your life currently require God’s restoration and peace?** Every Kingdom citizen should ask **“Am I following the Shepherd’s direction or relying on my own understanding?”**

3. THE SHEPHERD’S PRESENCE GIVES CONFIDENCE THROUGH EVERY SEASON. (v. 4)

David acknowledged that valleys and difficulties are part of life, but the presence of the Shepherd removes fear. **“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...” (v. 4)** Kingdom citizens rooted and grounded in Christ are able to endure hardship because they know they are never alone. Christ’s presence provides courage in trials, peace in uncertainty, comfort in suffering, strength in spiritual battles. The mission of Christ often involves challenges, opposition, and sacrifice. Yet believers remain steadfast because the Shepherd walks with them. The Psalm ends with assurance: **“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...”** Those who stay close to the Shepherd can live with confidence in His faithfulness. The presence of the Shepherd gives believers strength to remain faithful in every season. **In what ways does Christ’s presence give you confidence to fulfill His mission?** To be rooted and grounded with the Shepherd means: **trusting** Christ as the source of all provision, **following** His voice and direction daily, **depending** on His presence during every season of life, and **allowing** His leadership to shape our mission and lifestyle.

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

DECEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED FOR THE MISSION OF CHRIST

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens know that being rooted and grounded in the mission of Christ involves a deep commitment to living according to His teachings and drawing strength from His presence. It emphasizes the importance of a personal relationship with Christ that influences every aspect of life.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Foundation, Mission, Daily Living, Benediction

LESSON FIFTY-ONE: THE WORD MADE FLESH: GRACE AND TRUTH REVEALED

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. In what areas of my life do I need to remember that Jesus understands human struggles personally?
2. What misconceptions about God might be shaping my spiritual life?
3. How does studying Jesus help me understand the character of God more clearly?

TEXT: JOHN 1:14–18

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST CHANGES EVERYTHING. GOD IS NO LONGER DISTANT FROM HUMANITY. THROUGH JESUS, PEOPLE CAN EXPERIENCE FORGIVENESS, TRUTH, HOPE, AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

INTRODUCTION: The opening chapter of the Gospel of John reveals one of Scripture's greatest truths: God came to humanity in Jesus Christ. John calls Jesus "*the Word*"—eternal, divine, and living among us in human form. Jesus did not simply bring God's message; He revealed God Himself. John 1 makes a bold pronouncement: "**The Word became flesh.**" This powerful declaration reveals the mystery and majesty of the Incarnation—that Jesus Christ, the eternal Word who was with God and was God, stepped into human history and became one of us. Through Him, grace and truth became visible and accessible. John 1:14–18 shows the heart of the Gospel: **God came near through Jesus, and in Him grace, truth, and the Father were made known.**

1. THE WORD BECAME FLESH– GOD CAME NEAR. (v. 14)

The eternal Word took on human nature and lived among ordinary people. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only*

begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (v. 14) Jesus experienced hunger, sorrow, joy, rejection, and suffering. God was no longer distant or hidden behind rituals and laws; He entered human life personally. The word “*dwelt*” means “*tabernacled*” or “*pitched His tent.*” Just as God’s presence filled the tabernacle in the Old Testament, God’s presence now lived in Jesus. Many people struggle with feeling abandoned, misunderstood, or alone. This verse reminds believers that God understands human pain firsthand. Jesus knows what it feels like to be rejected, tired, tempted, and grieved. When someone loses a job, faces illness, or experiences family conflict, they can remember that Christ is not detached from human suffering. He walks with people through it. Kingdom citizens must embrace that God is personal, not distant. Jesus understands human struggles intimately. Believers can approach Him confidently in every situation.

2. JESUS REVEALED GRACE AND TRUTH TOGETHER. (v. 14)

Jesus perfectly balanced grace and truth. Verse 14 continues, “*...full of grace and truth.*” **Grace** is God’s undeserved favor, mercy, and love. **Truth** is God’s holiness, righteousness, and reality. **Do I tend to emphasize truth without grace, or grace without truth?** Many people lean heavily toward one side: Some emphasize truth without compassion. Others emphasize love without accountability. Jesus demonstrated both perfectly. He forgave sinners yet still called them to repentance and transformation. In modern culture, truth is often treated as offensive, while grace is sometimes mistaken for approval of everything. Families, workplaces, and churches frequently struggle with balancing honesty and compassion. For example: A parent correcting a child needs both truth and grace. A friend confronting destructive behavior must speak honestly but lovingly. Leaders must uphold standards without losing compassion for people. **How can I better reflect both grace and truth in my relationships?** Jesus teaches believers to speak truth with love and extend grace without compromising righteousness. Kingdom citizens should speak honestly but kindly, show mercy without ignoring wrongdoing and reflect Christ in relationships and decisions.

3. JESUS MAKES THE FATHER KNOWN. (vv. 17-18)

Jesus came to reveal the true nature of God. Through Christ, humanity sees these things: God’s compassion, God’s holiness, God’s justice, God’s mercy and God’s desire for relationship. People often create false ideas about God based on fear, pain, or culture. Jesus corrects those misunderstandings by showing exactly what the Father is like. ***“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son... he hath declared him.”*** (v. 18) Some people view God as harsh and unreachable because of painful life experiences or negative religious examples. Others see Him only as permissive and never just. By studying Jesus — how He treated people, forgave sinners, confronted hypocrisy, and sacrificed Himself — believers gain a clearer understanding of God’s character. Jesus welcomed the broken. He challenged pride and hypocrisy. He showed sacrificial love on the cross. This reveals a God who is both holy and compassionate. To know God better, study Jesus closely. Let Christ reshape false views about God. Reflect God’s character in daily living. **What practical steps can you take this week to live more like Christ?**

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

DECEMBER EMPHASIS: ROOTED AND GROUNDED FOR THE MISSION OF CHRIST

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens know that being rooted and grounded in the mission of Christ involves a deep commitment to living according to His teachings and drawing strength from His presence. It emphasizes the importance of a personal relationship with Christ that influences every aspect of life.

KEY WORDS/PHRASES: Foundation, Mission, Daily Living, Benediction

LESSON FIFTY-TWO: A YEAR'S END BENEDICTION

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How has my relationship with Christ grown deeper and more rooted during this season?
2. What spiritual habits will help me remain rooted and grounded in the Word of Christ in the coming year?
3. How can I better live as a Kingdom citizen who reflects the mission and teachings of Christ daily?

TEXT: NUMBERS 6:24-26

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: THOSE WHO ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST CAN MOVE INTO A NEW SEASON AND A NEW YEAR WITH CONTENTED CONFIDENCE BECAUSE GOD REMAINS PRESENT AND FAITHFUL.

INTRODUCTION: As we conclude this yearlong series on being rooted and grounded in the Word of Christ, this benediction reminds believers that spiritual stability is not built merely on knowledge, but on the sustaining presence, favor, grace, and peace of God. Kingdom citizens remain steadfast because they are connected to Christ, guided by His Word, and strengthened by His presence daily. The priestly blessing in **Numbers 6:24–26** was spoken over God's people as a declaration of divine favor and covenant relationship. At the close of a year, this passage encourages believers to reflect on God's faithfulness through every season—joys, trials, victories, and lessons learned. A benediction in the Bible was more than simply a closing prayer or a formal way to end a worship service. It was a special pronouncement of blessing, favor, protection, peace, or divine assurance spoken over God's people for a specific purpose.

1. THE LORD BLESSES AND KEEPS HIS PEOPLE. (v. 24)

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee” (v. 24) God's blessing is not limited to material

things. His greatest blessing is His continual presence, guidance, and protection. To be “kept” by God means to be guarded spiritually, emotionally, and physically according to His will. Believers who remain rooted in Christ recognize that God has preserved them through difficult seasons. Some prayers were answered immediately; others required waiting and trust. Yet through it all, God kept His people. **In what ways have you experienced God’s keeping power this year?** Reflect on moments this year when God protected or sustained you during hardship. Encourage believers to develop daily habits of prayer, Scripture reading, and obedience that keep them spiritually grounded. Kingdom citizens trust God’s keeping power even when circumstances are uncertain. A life rooted in Christ is secure because God Himself is the keeper of our souls.

2. THE LORD’S GRACE SUSTAINS US. (v. 25)

When a blessing was pronounced, it carried the weight of God's covenant and served as an encouragement for the people to live under His grace and guidance. ***“The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.” (v. 25)*** God’s shining face symbolizes His favor and loving attention toward His people. Grace is God giving strength, mercy, and love even when undeserved. Throughout the year, believers may have experienced failures, disappointments, or moments of weakness. Yet God’s grace remained sufficient. His grace restores, forgives, strengthens, and renews. Instead of carrying guilt from past mistakes into a new year, believers can accept God’s forgiveness and walk forward in faith. Show grace to others in family relationships, church ministry, workplaces, and communities. Spend intentional time in Christ’s presence because spiritual strength comes from abiding in Him. Being rooted and grounded in Christ means depending daily on His grace rather than our own strength.

3. THE LORD GIVES PEACE FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD. (v.26)

Biblical peace is more than the absence of trouble; it is inner stability that comes from trusting God. Christ-centered peace allows believers to remain grounded even during uncertainty. As one year ends and another begins, many people carry anxiety about the future. Kingdom citizens, however, can face tomorrow with confidence because Christ is present with them. ***“The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” (v. 26)*** Replace fear and worry with prayer and trust in God’s promises. Pursue peace in relationships through forgiveness, humility, and reconciliation. Maintain spiritual stability by staying connected to Christ through worship, fellowship, and service. **Are there areas in my life where I need to rely more fully on God’s grace? How can I demonstrate Christ-like peace in my relationships and daily responsibilities?** The peace of God strengthens believers to continue the mission of Christ with confidence and hope. This year-end benediction reminds believers that God’s blessings are rooted in His covenant love and abiding presence. As Kingdom citizens, we are called to remain deeply rooted and grounded in Christ, allowing His Word and presence to shape every area of our lives. God has blessed us, kept us, shown us grace, and given us peace. Therefore, we can enter a new season committed to living according to Christ’s teachings and continuing His mission with faith and confidence.

QUARTER 4: OCTOBER– NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

2026 THEME: KINGDOM CITIZENS GROWING IN GRACE, ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST (COLOSSIANS 2:6-7)

ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN STEWARDSHIP

OCTOBER 4	IT SHOULD COME FROM THE HEART
OCTOBER 11	WALK IN THE LIGHT
OCTOBER 18	BE STEWARDS OF GOD’S CREATION
OCTOBER 25	ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHEERFUL GIVING

ROOTED AND GROUNDED BY THE GRACE OF GOD

NOVEMBER 1	SAVED BY GRACE
NOVEMBER 8	GOD’S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT
NOVEMBER 15	JUSTIFIED BY GRACE
NOVEMBER 22	BLESSED ASSURANCE
NOVEMBER 29	A GRACE YOU CAN RELY ON

ROOTED AND GROUNDED FOR THE MISSION OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 6	ROOTED AND GROUNDED ON A SOLID FOUNDATION
DECEMBER 13	ROOTED AND GROUNDED WITH THE SHEPHERD
DECEMBER 20	THE WORD MADE FLESH: GRACE AND TRUTH REVEALED
DECEMBER 27	A YEAR’S END BENEDICTION