

Date: 02.09.2020

Time: 7.30pm

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:22-24

Outline: Grace Alone: Preached

a) Introduction

1. Revealing

2. Creative

3. Saving

Grace Alone: Preached

- **Introduction**

We've seen God's grace in this study together – His common grace shown to all and His saving grace that is a special grace given to allow repentance and trust in Christ. We've seen that God is good not because we are good, but because He is – in His goodness, He committed Himself to us to forgive our sins. The church is a picture of God's grace. The way we know, receive and appreciate God's grace is through the preaching of God's Word.

More than instruction: Preaching is more than teaching. It's more than the passing of data to the congregation. Preaching is a proclamation, a declaration of what God has done for sinners. Someone who is called to preach doesn't just explain, but they proclaim God's Word, His purpose and glorious acts.

More than techniques: Faithful, biblical, God-honouring preaching is more than being a good speaker. A good preacher doesn't have to be an expert at speaking in public.

More than cultural: Some think that preaching is something of the past; they want shorter and shorter sermons. Biblical preaching is not a cultural call. Preaching is biblical. When a man faithfully preaches, God is speaking through him. A sermon is God speaking. The more we appreciate God's Word, the more we will appreciate biblical preaching. God does not speak through visions and dreams, but through the written word.

1) Revealing

God's person: God reveals His character to people through preaching. Preaching reveals the truth as it is in Jesus. Preaching proclaims the attributes of God – that He is unchangeable, immutable, wise

and good. How can we know who He is unless He tells us? God reveals Himself through creation, but in His Word, we see that He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, desires all to be saved.

God's acts: God tells us how and why He created the world in His Word. The only way to know God's works is to read the Bible. God's love is revealed through preaching – we learn that while we were still enemies, Christ died for us. We learn of the grace of God in action and that changes people.

God's will: The proclamation of God's Word reveals His will. Our consciences can mislead us – we feel guilty when we shouldn't, we feel fine when we should feel guilty. We need to know what's right and what's wrong. We need to know how to be saved and how to receive forgiveness. God reveals what He wants from us – repentance, to believe and receive His grace. We learn that salvation is by grace and not by works. A faithful preacher speaks what God says through His Word.

God's Son: The Son is revealed through preaching. We can know Jesus and see His works and will in the Bible. Christ is what we need, not signs or more wisdom. The Bible is the revelation and proclamation of Christ. The message of the Bible is that Jesus saves sinners – God calls and equips preachers so that people can hear this message.

2) Creative

God's way: God spoke and things happened. He made man with His hands, but the rest of creation He spoke into being. God speaks and things are created.

God's people: God calls His people to Himself and He speaks to them through His Word. We are God's because He's spoken to us, perhaps through a sermon. God's Word creates His people.

God's plan: When Jesus performed miracles, often all He did was speak. What He wills comes to pass. God builds His church through the preaching of His Word. As God speaks, what He wills comes to pass.

God's demands: We don't create the faith needed within us to trust God – this comes from hearing the words of Christ. He persuades us of our sin and our need for forgiveness. He speaks and creates a new heart in us. He creates the faith He demands in us. Preaching is a means of grace – it's His means to lavish His grace on us.

3) Saving

Declares us righteous: God's Word brings life (think of the dry bones coming to life in Ezekiel). We are justified and made right with God because God declares "forgiven". We're not righteous because we act in a righteous way, but because God declares us to be righteous.

Defeats our enemies: The history of man has been a constant battle between the devil and God's people. It's a battlefield that we're in and a battle with words. That is how Jesus defeated the devil, through speaking the written Word. We fight with the Bible; it's the sword we need to defeat our enemies. The kingdom of the devil is destroyed by faithful preaching.

Directs us: We are sanctified through the Word being preached. The Word will equip, change and make us more like Christ. We contemplate Christ through His Word being preached and read. Preaching is more than a good speech, it is a divine speech. You need to pray for your minister that he will never preach what he thinks right, but that he will preach what God says.