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Daily Devotional, Tuesday, September 5, 2017 - Living in God's Grace

SEPTEMBER 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Philippians 1:1-11

Since all of Paul's letters begin with an expression of God's grace to us, we may be tempted to think that it is simply a customary word of greeting. But in reality, God's grace is our foundation, our covering, and the sphere in which we live as believers in Christ.

Grace is commonly defined as God's unmerited and undeserved favor. According to Ephesians 2:8, it's the means by which we are saved through faith. And Romans 5:2 says that by our faith, we have "obtained our introduction ... into this grace in which we stand." In other words, we are continual recipients of an abundance of grace throughout life and into eternity.

Just as our salvation never ends, so God's grace never ceases to do its work in our life. That's why Paul could confidently say, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6). We never have to fear that we will lose our salvation, because God is the one who keeps us and promises to complete us when Christ returns. Furthermore, Paul says we have been "filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ [and glorifies] God" (v. 11).

Sometimes it's difficult to see righteousness in ourselves, because we know how weak and flawed we are. But if we've been saved, then Christ lives in us and we in Him (John

15:4). He is our righteousness, and He's actively producing His fruit in our life as we abide in Him. This process, known as sanctification, is God's grace working to align our behavior with Christ's righteousness. So let's stand firm in His grace and trust Him to complete us.

LAST UPDATED ON SEPTEMBER 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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