WEEK 01 · FURTHER READING & REFLECTION

TAILORED GRACE

"Saint" isn't a level you hit. It's **who God says you are** - and the only reason you're on the list is grace.

18TH OCTOBER 2026

PASTOR DARRYLL



take your time with this one...

01 A SAINT ISN'T SOMEONE WHO'S FINISHED.

When you hear the word *saint*, who comes to mind?

Perhaps someone who seems to have their life together. Someone whose faith is strong, whose decisions are always right and who rarely seems to get things wrong.

But that's not quite the picture the Bible gives us.

In 1 Corinthians 1:2, Paul writes to the church in Corinth and calls them saints. What's interesting is that this was a church with plenty of problems. Paul spends much of the letter addressing their behaviour, their relationships and the ways they weren't living as followers of Jesus.

Yet he calls them saints **before** he addresses any of it.

Why?

Because being a saint isn't a level you reach. **It's an identity you receive through Jesus.**

We're called to be holy because God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16), but that pursuit begins with what Jesus has already done for us, not with our ability to get everything right.

AS PASTOR DARRYLL REMINDED US

A SAINT ISN'T SOMEONE WHO'S ~~FINISHED.~~
IT'S SOMEONE WHO'S FOLLOWING.

READ ☐ 1 Corinthians 1:2 ☐ 1 Peter 1:15-16

02 GRACE, MADE TO MEASURE.

During the message, Pastor Darryll shared a story about buying a suit for his wedding.

There was the suit bought in a sale, which fitted well enough, and then there was the tailored suit, made specifically for him.



THE SALE SUIT

FITS EVERYONE A BIT.

THE TAILORED SUIT

FITS ONE PERSON PERFECTLY.

It was a picture of God's grace.

Grace is God's **unmerited, undeserved kindness and favour** towards us. It's not something we earn through good behaviour, religious habits or having the right background.

And it isn't one-size-fits-all.

God knows us personally. He knows our history, our struggles, our questions and the things we're still working through. His grace meets us where we are.

In 1 Corinthians 1:2, Paul describes believers as those who are *sanctified in Christ Jesus*. Notice where their holiness is found: in Christ. And in 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul says that in Him "we might become the righteousness of God."

Before holiness is about what we do, it's about who we belong to.

That doesn't mean our choices no longer matter. It means we don't have to earn our place with God before we can begin following Him.

READ ☐ 1 Corinthians 1:2 ☐ 2 Corinthians 5:21 ☐ Ephesians 2:8-10

03 YOUR PAST DOESN'T HAVE THE FINAL WORD.

If anyone had reason to struggle with their past, it was Paul.

Before encountering Jesus, Paul persecuted Christians. He approved of Stephen's death (Acts 8:1) and actively sought to imprison those who followed Christ.

Then, on the road to Damascus, everything changed. The man who once pursued Christians began pursuing Jesus.

There's an interesting detail in Philippians 3. Paul uses the same Greek verb, *diōkō*, when describing his former persecution of the church and his present determination to press on towards Christ.



DIŌKŌ διώκω

same word!

to chase · to hunt · to pursue

PHILIPPIANS 3:6

"as to zeal, **a persecutor** of the church"

PHILIPPIANS 3:12, 14

"**I press on**"

His direction had completely changed. But that didn't mean his history had disappeared.

In Philippians 3:12-14, Paul openly admits that he hasn't arrived. He's still pressing forward, learning to leave behind what could hold him back.

> **GRACE DOESN'T DISSOLVE YOUR PAST - IT RESOLVES YOUR FUTURE.**
>
> *- Pastor Darryll*

Grace doesn't pretend that our mistakes never happened. It means those mistakes no longer have to determine who we become.

Because of Jesus, there's a way forward. As we heard on Sunday, **God cares more about your next decision than your last mistake.**

READ ☐ Acts 7:54-8:1 ☐ Acts 9:1-19 ☐ Philippians 3:10-14

04 PUT DOWN THE FIG LEAVES.

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve respond to their sin by hiding. They sew fig leaves together to cover themselves, then hide from God.

It's a familiar response.

When we get things wrong, we often try to manage the situation ourselves. We make excuses, keep things quiet, convince ourselves we're fine or hope that nobody notices.

But hiding doesn't bring freedom. On Sunday we saw what happens when we live under guilt: **it fashions our life, we punish ourselves and we isolate.**



Later in the chapter, God makes garments for Adam and Eve and clothes them.

THEY MADE LEAVES.
quick fix, temporary
THEY COVERED THEMSELVES.

GOD MADE SKINS.
made to last
GOD CLOTHED THEM.



They tried to cover themselves. God provided what they couldn't make for themselves. It's a powerful picture of grace.

We don't need to hide our failures from God. We can come to Him honestly, knowing that Jesus has already made a way for us to be forgiven. 1 John 1:9 reminds us that when we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive and cleanse us.

CONFESS = HOMOLOGEŌ

to say the same thing God says

He says it's wrong - **I say it's wrong.**
He says it's paid - **I say it's paid.**
He says "saint" - **and I stop arguing.**

And as James 5:16 teaches, there's also freedom in speaking honestly with trusted believers who can pray with us.

> **GRACE DOESN'T LOWER THE BAR ON SIN. IT TAKES AWAY YOUR REASON TO HIDE IT.**
>
> *- Pastor Darryll*

READ ☐ Genesis 3:7-21 ☐ Psalm 103:8-12 ☐ 1 John 1:9 ☐ James 5:16

05 GRACE DOESN'T JUST FORGIVE. IT TEACHES.

Sometimes we think of grace only in terms of forgiveness. We make a mistake, ask God to forgive us and move on.



But Titus 2:11-12 shows us that grace does more than deal with our past. It also teaches us how to live in the present.

> **THE GRACE THAT SAVES YOU IS THE GRACE THAT TRAINS YOU.**
>
> *- Pastor Darryll*

Following Jesus doesn't mean we'll never struggle or make another mistake. Paul himself admitted that he hadn't reached perfection. The word he uses, *teleioō*, means to be complete or finished. He wasn't finished, but he was following.

But it does mean we're being changed.

Sometimes that change happens in the small, everyday decisions: choosing honesty, walking away from an argument, asking for forgiveness or responding differently to something that would once have caused us to stumble.

And we're not doing it in our own strength. Romans 8:11 reminds us that the Spirit of God lives in us.

Holiness isn't about pretending we're perfect. It's about continuing to follow Jesus and allowing His grace to shape the way we live.

READ ☐ Titus 2:11-12 ☐ Romans 8:11



YOUR TURN

QUESTIONS TO SIT WITH

You might want to spend some time with these questions during the week, write down your thoughts or talk them through with someone you trust.

01 · IDENTITY

Do you find yourself trying to earn God's approval rather than living from the grace He's already given you?

02 · THE PAST

Is there something from your past that you're still allowing to define you or hold you back?

03 · CONFESSION

What are the "fig leaves" in your life? Are there things you've been hiding rather than bringing honestly before God?

04 · MOVING FORWARD

If God's grace doesn't just forgive us but also teaches us how to live, what might that look like in your decisions this week?

05 · COMMUNITY

Who is one trusted person you could be honest and pray with this week? (James 5:16)



SOMETHING TO TAKE INTO YOUR WEEK

Spend a little time reading Philippians 3:12-14 again.

Paul doesn't claim to have everything figured out. He knows he hasn't arrived. But he keeps going because Jesus has already made him His own.

That's the invitation for us, too. We don't have to wait until we've got everything right to follow Jesus. We can receive His grace today and take the next step.

A THOUGHT TO CARRY WITH YOU

What would change if I stopped trying to earn God's acceptance and started living from the grace He's already given me?

READ ☐ Philippians 3:12-14

LET'S PRAY

Jesus, thank You for Your grace.

Thank You that I don't have to earn Your love or pretend to have everything together. Help me to see myself the way You see me and to trust what You've done for me.

Give me the courage to be honest about the things I've been hiding, to let go of what You've already forgiven and to keep moving forward.

Teach me to follow You in the everyday decisions I make, and keep shaping me to become more like You.

Amen.