

Living by God's Grace Acts 24:1-10

Introduction

"I'll do anything to . . ." You fill in the blank.

Do you have your price? How far will you go?

Are you living by grace or by the flesh? Contrast Tertullus and Paul.

I. Don't follow the world to accomplish your purposes.

A. You will be enticed by what works.

1. God does not allow you to let the end justify the means.

2. The path of least resistance is comfortable but may not be right.

B. By neglecting the truth you will be blinded.

1. Without Christ you are in darkness. [Eph. 4:17-19]

2. Your experience is limited; Christ's revelation is complete.

C. By not walking with Christ you will be led astray.

1. Remember Joshua and the Gibeonites (& many other such cases).

2. You are called to walk by the Spirit. [Gal. 5:25]

II. Don't seek you way by flattery or embellishment of truth.

A. Don't trust your own wisdom to accomplish what is right.

1. Your wisdom is limited; you are not omniscient.

2. Trusting your own wisdom alone is to act arrogantly.

B. By using your own devices you are distrusting God.

1. You are not smarter than God.

2. God's ways are above your ways. [Isaiah 55:8-9]

C. These devices do not build true friendship.

1. They make people leery of one another.

2. They destroy the future of relationships.

III. Use the truth to accomplish God's purposes.

A. Serve the God of Truth.

1. He cannot lie. [Titus 1:2]

2. He knows all truth.

B. Conform to His purpose.

1. You know what you want. Is it what God wants?

2. This attitude gives you freedom to serve Him.

C. Be willing for negative consequences.

1. They are ultimately for your good. [Rom. 8:28]

2. Let the Lord of glory do what He pleases.

Conclusion

God calls you into a relationship of friendship and trust.

Know Him & be satisfied with Him rather than questioning Him.

Plead that He be exalted.

Psalms 33C, 11, 20B