



Advent 1 HOPE

in-person: 3 December 2023

on-line: 10 December 2023

The key word we looked at was: **Charis – Grace – Gift**

Some grace passages:

- Ephesians 2:8
- Romans 11:6
- 2 Corinthians 12:8-9

God says

- my **gift**
- my **grace**
- my **charis**

is sufficient for you

Definition | Description

Grace: God is going to do something for me that I do not deserve and cannot do for myself or cannot earn

The Newsboys, in their song *Real Good Thing*, sang

When we don't get what we deserve... That's a real good thing

When we get what we don't deserve... That's a real good thing

- God has **forgiven me** in a way that I don't deserve and cannot earn
- he **loves me** in a way that I don't deserve and can't earn
- he's **present to me** in a way that I don't deserve and I could never earn

The plot of Christmas

- Jesus is present to us in a way that we don't deserve and can't earn

Misconceptions | Misunderstandings of Grace

- Grace means low standards
- You or someone you know is ineligible for the gift
- We prefer earning the gift
- If God is so good, why are things so hard

Mary sings in **Luke 1:52-53**

*He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.*

Focusing our lives on what we could earn leaves us hungry

Building our lives around material gain leaves us hungry

- What does it mean for us to be filled up?
- What does it mean for our souls to be satiated?
- What are we really looking for?

We expect to find our self-worth and well-being from things that could never deliver it

Wake up to the reality that Jesus's presence is what is ultimately sufficient to bring self-worth and well-being

Jesus's presence really is up to the task of seeing us through whatever trouble we may face

How are you practicing slowing... waiting... this advent season to be aware of Jesus' presence?