

Sunday Morning Worship Summary

November 2 – “The Cruelty of a Graceless Gospel”

Main Text: Job 15

Supporting Passages: Ephesians 2:4–7 | 1 Peter 4:7–19 | Genesis 3:15 | Genesis 22 | Psalm 51:5 | Romans 8:1 | Ezekiel 36:25–27 | John 1:1, 14 | 2 Corinthians 5:21

Welcome & Announcements

The morning began with warm greetings and ministry updates:

- **Ladies’ Book Study** – Today at 4 p.m. (study sheets available)
- **Elders’ Meeting** – Wednesday @ 5:15 p.m.
- **Beanstock Community Event** – Saturday 12–8 p.m.; volunteers needed for the church booth
- **Operation Christmas Child** – Shoeboxes due Nov 16 (\$10 shipping)
- **Men’s Breakfast** – Nov 22 @ 8 a.m.
- **Church Thanksgiving Lunch** – Nov 23 after worship

Opening Prayer: Thanksgiving for God’s care and a plea that He be glorified in the day’s worship.

Worship Through Song

Hymn Introduction

“Lord, I Deserve Thy Deepest Wrath” (c. 1850s)

A rediscovered hymn reminding us that mercy and grace cannot be separated.

Pastor Patrick read from **Ephesians 2:4-7**, rejoicing that *“by grace you have been saved.”*

Response Song

“Washed in the Blood of the Lamb” — celebrating redemption through Christ’s sacrifice.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Gratitude for God's steadfast love and a petition to reflect His grace toward others.

Scripture Reading & Fellowship

1 Peter 4:7–19 – A call to love earnestly, serve faithfully, and glorify God in suffering. Following the reading, the church shared a time of greeting — *“a foretaste of the great rejoicing we have to look forward to.”*

Sermon – “The Cruelty of a Graceless Gospel”

Preacher: Pastor Patrick Bottoms

Main Idea: *A gospel without grace is no gospel at all.*

1 | Context

Eliphaz's second speech (Job 15) exposes a *graceless religion*—a worldview where people only get what they deserve.

Job, though suffering, still clings to a hope rooted in God's grace.

2 | Defining Grace

“The free, undeserved goodness and favor of God.” — *Matthew Henry*

“Grace is glory begun, and glory is grace perfected.” — *Jonathan Edwards*

Without grace, counsel becomes cruelty.

3 | Eliphaz's Six Accusations (Job 15:1–16)

1. **Empty** – Job's words are “windy knowledge.”
2. **Dangerous** – They undermine the fear of God.
3. **Self-justifying** – “Your own mouth condemns you.”
4. **Arrogant** – “Were you the first man born?”
5. **Hurtful** – “You despise the comforts of God.”
6. **Unrealistic** – “No man can be pure.”

Absent in every charge: any hint of divine grace.

4 | Graceless Logic

Eliphaz's theology offers judgment without hope.
He cannot conceive of **redemptive suffering**, only retribution.

5 | Shadows of Grace

- **Genesis 3:15** – Promise of a Redeemer.
- **Genesis 22** – God provides a substitute for Isaac.
Grace has always been at the heart of God's plan.

6 | Fate of the Wicked (Job 15:17–35)

Eliphaz wrongly paints Job as the wicked man, equating suffering with sin.
Tradition replaces revelation; condemnation replaces compassion.

7 | The True Gospel

We begin under condemnation (*Psalms 51:5*), but **grace intervenes** (*Ephesians 2:4-7*).

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.” — Romans 8:1
Christ bears our guilt and embodies God's grace.

8 | Living in Grace

- Lead conversations with grace.
- Minister with compassion, not accusation.
- Use Scripture, prayer, and fellowship to keep hearts soft.
- Reflect both justice and mercy.

9 | Closing Exhortation

Grace isn't cheap—it cost the blood of Christ.
We hold it forward “*with trembling hands*,” never exploiting it, but rejoicing in its fullness.

“If grace doesn't exist, then Christ failed—and my Christ never failed.”

Closing Prayer

A prayer of gratitude for God's complete grace and a plea to mirror it in every word and deed:

"You didn't hold back any grace; You gave Your Son fully and completely. May we hold forward that same grace so the world may taste and see that You are good."

Invitation & Response

The congregation was invited to pray or come forward for counsel. Members were reminded that grace is extended through the body of Christ as believers pray for one another.

Closing Song & Benediction

Song: "*Victory in Jesus*" — celebrating the triumph believers share through Christ.

Benediction:

"May you quiet your soul like a weaned child with its mother, and know that the Lord will be exalted among the nations."

Summary Statement

The November 2 service proclaimed that **grace is the heartbeat of the gospel**. Through song, Scripture, and sermon, the church was reminded that *a graceless faith wounds, but grace received and extended heals*. Believers were challenged to live as **carriers of grace** in every word and relationship.