

## Products of Grace (2 Samuel 7)

Southern Hills Baptist Church

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### Introduction:

- As a church we desire to serve God well. It can be very easy to put plans into place, feel confident in those plans, and then begin to think, "We are going to do big things for God."
- What we need to realize is that *it is not us that is going to go out and do big things for God, it is God who is going to graciously do big things in, through, and for us, we are products of grace.*

### Context: Covenants

- Covenant: An enduring agreement, which defines a relationship between two parties involving a solemn, binding obligation specified on the part of at least one of the parties toward the other. (Daniel Lane)
- God's covenants reveal a great deal to us about who God is. We get unique glimpses at the character of God in these interactions, which is where our focus will be tonight.

### Context: David's Life in 2 Samuel 7 (vs. 1)

- David is entering a new chapter in his life in 2 Samuel 7. His life up to this point could be described as, "full of conflict." There were always people interested in killing David. If it wasn't the giant Goliath, it was his own king, Saul, or other nations, or even his own family at times.
- In 2 Samuel 7 we see all of this change, as he finally experiences peace and is no longer responding to emergency after emergency.

### David's Desire: Do Big Things for God (vs. 2-3)

- As David takes stock of his life and sees how blessed he is to be at peace in a large, lovely home, he decides the Ark of the Covenant, which represented the presence of God, should have the same honor.
- **Application:** Have you ever counted your blessing and been motivated to serve God? This is good, but we can easily find ourselves in a place where we lose focus and begin to desire to "pay God back" and become self-focused in our efforts, bearing the weight of this work, forgetting that the grace that brought us here is still what is empowering us in these moments of service.

### God's Reminder: We Are Products of His Grace (vs. 4-17)

- God responds to David's plan to build Him a house by asking, "You want to build a house for me?" God then begins to remind David that it is not God who needs to be served by David, it is David who needs to be served and empowered by God (cf. Acts 17:24-28).
- God illustrates this through His past grace towards David, in that David once followed smelly, dumb sheep, and now led Israel, the nation of God's people!
- God further cements this with promises of future grace in David's life as He promises an eternal dynasty for David's line that will culminate in the Messiah.
- **Application:** As we are reminded that it is not God who needs to be served by us, but us who needs to be served by God (1 Cor 15:10)...
  - May we never forget that we too are products of grace, every single one of us.
  - May we never trust in our own plans more than the grace of God.
  - May our imaginations never be more captivated by the strategies we seek to employ for God, than the grace that enables them.
  - May we always be quick to redirect all glory and praise back to God, for it is God who is at work in us to will and do His good pleasure.
  - May we never strive to do big things for God, but rather let us remember that God will graciously do great things in, through, and for us.

### David's Response: Finding Identity in God's Grace (vs. 18-29)

- **Application:** David responds to God's message of grace by finding his identity in this it. David ends with a response that shows much of what characterizes someone who has found their identity in God's grace.
  - Prayer - Grace draws us to God in prayer b/c without grace we could never rightly dream of approaching a holy God.
  - Humility - God's grace should leave us asking, "Why me?" when we are blessed, as we understand we don't deserve any of God's blessings. We must never think too highly of ourselves, knowing that we are products of God's grace.
  - Worship - So much as we are saturated by God's grace we should respond in worship, which means we should be in praise all the time.